

PAFPC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
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1. Changes occurred in January due to the November elections:
Miller (D - CA) becomes Chairman, House Education and Labor Committee
McKeon (R - CA) becomes Ranking Minority Member
Platts (R - PA) remains on the Committee
Altimire (D - PA) and Sestak (D - PA) newly elected are appointed the Committee
Kennedy (D - MA) becomes Chairman, Senate HELP Committee
Enzi (R - WY) becomes Ranking Minority Member

These elected officials will lead in the reauthorization of NCLB, and it will be different from the previous reauthorization.

2. Stated issues with reauthorization of NCLB will be: Increased funding; current formula particularly school improvement funding; accountability - growth models, n size, same subgroup for AYP purposes; federal intrusion; School Choice/Supplementary Education Services; and Restructuring. Issues added as a result of Bush's 2008 proposal High School Reform and Scholarships.

3. In early February the House passed a 57.5 Billion Education Continuing Resolution(CR) for funding adding 125 million to the Title I targeted grants and 125 million to the Title I School Improvement Set Aside (A first under NCLB) On February 15, 2007 the Senate approved the CR. The CR was necessary because the previous Congress left without approving the 2007 Education budget. And the increase in 2007 Title I funding will help in negotiations with the 2008 Education budget.

4. Bush proposes a flat 2008 Education budget at 56 billion which is 1.5 billion lower than 2007 CR. Bushes continues with the same strategies as he used in previous years - shifting funds from current programs to fund his priorities. Even Start, Education Technology and Tech Prep, Safe and Drug free Schools and 41 smaller grants are decreased. IDEA state grants are flat funded. He proposes a 1.2 billion dollar high school testing and interventions through expansion of NCLB's AYP testing requirement by directing 1.2 billion to the high schools via the Title targeted grants. He also proposes the 250 million scholarship funds for low income and ties it to SES.

5. The Bush proposed budget is just that. It provides the Democratic controlled Congress something to work with and something to change. And it will.