



NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

NEWS RELEASE

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Statement of New York State Council of School Superintendents Executive Director Robert Reidy, Jr. on passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act by the United States House and Senate:

“The New York State Council of School Superintendents commends the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate on passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

We would like to offer a special word of gratitude to our New York House Members and Senators – Republicans and Democrats – all of whom voted in support of this important legislation. We are also thankful to our delegation for successfully fighting against proposed funding formula amendments that would have reduced federal aid to our schools.

Since 2007, the United States has been without an effective elementary and secondary education law, leaving states and local school districts under the thumb of unilateral policymaking by the United States Department of Education.

The preceding federal law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), represented an overreach into state and local education policy decisions, and operated with an untrusting eye toward educators.

We believe that passage of the ESSA will remove the current federal overreach into our classrooms. The legislation will undo NCLB and the succeeding patchwork of state-by-state U.S. Department of Education waivers, leaving in its place a law that returns

decisions of accountability, standards and innovation to the states and their local school districts. We welcome this change.

While the legislation is not a wholly perfect rendering, it offers considerable benefits to schools over the status quo. Returning authority and autonomy to the states and their local school districts will move away from a one-size-fits-all approach to education, and back to a structure that allows local decisions to be made taking into account the uniqueness of our diverse school communities. This will benefit our students the most.

The legislation now moves to the President's desk, where it is expected to be signed. We urge him to do so with haste.”

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The New York State Council of School Superintendents is a professional and advocacy organization with over a century of service to school superintendents and assistant superintendents in New York State. The Council provides more than 800 members with professional development opportunities, publications and personal support while advocating for public education and the superintendency.

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