

Cheat Sheet: Comparing ESEA Reauthorization Proposals July 2013

	No Child Left Behind Act of 2001	Obama Administration ESEA Flexibility (Waivers)	Strengthening America's Schools Act of 2013 (Harkin)	Every Child Ready for College or Career Act (Alexander)	Student Success Act (Kline)	Student Success Act Substitute (Miller)
Standards and Assessments	- States adopt reading, math, and science standards, but they do not have to be "college- and career-ready" standards. - States test reading and math annually in grades 3-8 and once in high school. States test science once in grades 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. - Assessments are summative and only test grade-level content.	- States adopt and demonstrate that they have college- and career-ready standards in reading and math. Science standards remain in place from NCLB. - Standards must be approved by the state's higher education system to ensure they align with college and career readiness or common to a number of states (i.e. Common Core). - NCLB testing schedule remains, but states must develop and administer college- and career-ready reading and math assessments by 2014-15. - Does not specifically address adaptive testing.	- States adopt college- and career-ready standards in reading and math by 2015, college- and career-ready science standards and early learning guidelines (birth-5) in all domains of development. K-3rd grade standards must include domains beyond academic subject areas. - Does not require higher education to approve standards or states to adopt Common Core. - Reading and math tested annually in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Science tested once by grade span. Tests align with college- and career-ready standards in 2015-16. - States may give multiple tests. Tests can be computer-adaptive but must identify the grade level at which students perform.	- States adopt "challenging" reading, math, and science standards aligned to college and career readiness. Early learning standards not required. - Does not require Common Core adoption. The Department of Education is explicitly prevented from exercising any direction or control over states' standards. - Reading and math tested annually in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Science tested once by grade span. - Does not specifically address adaptive testing or a timeline for implementation of college- and career-ready standards and assessments.	- States adopt reading, math, and science standards within 2 years – no requirement for college- and career-ready standards or for early learning standards. - Does not require Common Core adoption. The Department of Education is explicitly prevented from specifying, defining, or prescribing states' standards and from encouraging or coercing participation in Common Core. - Reading and math tested annually in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Science tested once by grade span. - States may give multiple tests. Tests can be computer-adaptive and include content outside a student's grade level.	- States adopt college- and career-ready standards in reading, math, & science by 2013-14, plus early learning standards in all domains of development for preschoolers. - College- and career-ready standards must be approved by a state's higher education system or be common to a number of states (i.e. Common Core). - Reading and math tested annually in grades 3-8 and in grade 11 or 12. Science tested once by grade span. Tests align with college- and career-ready standards in 2014-15. - States may give multiple tests. Tests can be computer-adaptive as long as they measure grade-level student proficiency.
Accountability	- Schools must make adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward performance targets, with goal of 100% proficiency in math and reading by 2014. - Achievement targets must be set for racial and ethnic subgroups, low-income students, students with disabilities, and English language learners. Subgroup performance is not reported if there are too few students to be statistically valid. - Targets include student proficiency in reading and math and another indicator (high school graduation and attendance, typically). - Safe harbor is the only provision for measuring school progress or student growth. - States develop accountability systems that consider whether schools meet their performance targets and identify schools for improvement based on making or failing to make AYP for a number of years.	- States have school performance targets. They can design their own, cut the number of non-proficient students in half by 2017, or reach 100% proficiency by 2020. - Targets must be set for racial and ethnic subgroups, low-income students, students with disabilities, and English language learners. Subgroups can be combined into "super-subgroups" for accountability, but not for reporting. - Targets must include student proficiency in reading and math. - States must measure individual student growth in reading and math, using an approved model. - States develop accountability systems that consider growth, proficiency, and graduation rates by 2012-13 and identify 3 school categories: priority, focus, and reward schools. - Achievement targets do not have to align with how schools are identified as priority or focus schools.	- Schools must have ambitious performance targets – either established in their waivers or approved by the Department using 2014-15 baseline data. - Targets must be set for racial and ethnic subgroups, low-income students, students with disabilities, and English language learners. State n-sizes must not exceed 15 students – no "super-subgroups" for reporting or federal accountability. - Targets include proficiency, growth, graduation rates (not including GEDs), and student progress toward English language proficiency. - States must measure individual student growth, using either a prescribed definition or an approved model. - States develop accountability systems that consider growth, proficiency, and graduation rates by 2015-16 and identify 3 school categories: priority, focus, and those that miss targets for 2 years.	- States do not need to establish performance targets for schools. - Achievement data are reported for racial and ethnic subgroups, low-income students, students with disabilities, and English language learners – no "super-subgroups" for reporting. - Reported data must include student proficiency, the percent of students tested, and graduation rates, but does not specify an n-size for reporting. - States may choose to measure student growth, but it is not required or defined. Further, the Department cannot "specify, prescribe, or define" any measure used to establish accountability systems – including sufficient growth, proficiency, college and career readiness, and graduation rates. - States develop school rating systems for accountability purposes, including proficiency, achievement gaps, and graduation rates. No specific categories of schools are required.	- States do not need to establish performance targets for schools. - Achievement data are reported for racial and ethnic subgroups, low-income students, students with disabilities, and English language learners – no "super-subgroups" for reporting. - Reported achievement data must include student proficiency, the percent of students tested, graduation rates, and student progress toward English language proficiency, but does not specify an n-size for reporting. - States may choose to measure student growth, but it is not required or defined. States must report the 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and can also use an extended-year adjusted cohort rate. - States develop school rating systems for accountability purposes, including proficiency and achievement gaps, within two years. No specific categories of schools are	- Schools must have performance targets – either to cut the number of non-proficient students in half in 6 years or to reach 100% proficiency within an approved timeframe. - Targets must be set for racial and ethnic subgroups, low-income students, students with disabilities, and English language learners. State n-sizes must not exceed 15 students – no "super-subgroups" for reporting or federal accountability. - Targets include proficiency, growth, and graduation rates. - States must measure individual student growth and set growth targets. Sufficient growth defined: maintaining proficiency or reaching proficiency within 3 years or by the end of grade span, whichever is sooner. - States develop accountability systems that consider growth, proficiency, and grad rates by 2013-14 and identify 3 school categories: persistently low-achieving, those that miss targets for 2 years, and reward.

School Improvement						
Teachers and Principals						
School Improvement	- Sanctions begin for schools after two consecutive years of missing AYP in the same subject. - School improvement activities are prescribed based on the number of years a school misses its targets: school choice, tutoring, corrective action, planning for restructuring, and implementing restructuring. - Restructuring requires the most substantial changes in school governance and structure. Districts choose a school reform strategy from a prescribed menu of options, but can design "other" restructuring models.	- States must intervene to improve the bottom 15% of schools, in a way that aligns with certain "turnaround principles." - Priority schools in the bottom 5% adopt and implement comprehensive turnaround strategies. These schools have low achievement, student growth, and graduation rates. Any of the four prescribed School Improvement Grant (SIG) strategies could be used, but are not required: transformation, turnaround, restart, or school closure. - The next 10% of schools – focus schools – must also adopt a reform strategy, based on the turnaround principles and the schools' particular needs. These schools have large achievement gaps or struggling subgroups, including low graduation rates.	- The lowest 5% of Title I schools (based on achievement, growth, or a graduation rate below 60%) are priority schools. Districts choose a 3-year turnaround strategy: whole school reform, transformation, turnaround, restart, or closure. States can design their own strategies. If a school is re-identified, it must use a restart or closure model, or face a state takeover. 10% of Title I schools with the largest achievement and graduation rate gaps are focus schools. Districts implement a data-driven correction plan. After six years, a school becomes a priority school. - Title I schools failing to meet targets for 2 years implement a locally-designed improvement plan. After 3 years without progress, the school implements a state-designed strategy.	- States identify an unspecified percentage of Title I schools for improvement based on their performance on state assessments, graduation rates, and other factors, as determined by the state. - Districts develop a plan to improve these schools and must offer their students the option to transfer to another public school. - No requirement to implement certain strategies for improvement or to identify any set number of schools.	- States identify an unspecified percentage of Title I schools for improvement based on their performance on state assessments, achievement gaps, and other factors, as determined by the state. - Districts develop a plan to improve these schools, and competitive funding is provided to help districts offer students the option to transfer to another public school or access tutoring services. - No requirement to implement certain strategies for improvement or to identify any set number of schools. - Includes a provision to clarify nothing in the bill supersedes parent trigger laws and similar measures at the state level.	- States identify an unspecified percentage of Title I schools (based on achievement, growth, or a graduation rate below 60%) as persistently low-achieving. After 3 years without meeting improvement targets, a school could face closure, state takeover, or replacement. - Title I schools failing to meet targets for 2 years are identified as needing improvement. After 3 years without meeting improvement targets, the school could implement a turnaround plan with an external provider. - All identified schools identify an improvement team, create an improvement plan that addresses student engagement, educator effectiveness, academic learning, and student advancement, and set improvement targets.
	- All teachers are required to be "highly qualified" by 2005-06. Highly qualified teachers must have a bachelor's degree, full state certification or licensure, and subject matter competence. - Low-income and minority children cannot be taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers. - Title II funds can be used for professional development, class-size reduction, and improving teacher quality.	- Eliminates "highly qualified teacher" improvement plans. - States must create educator evaluation systems that consider multiple measures of effectiveness including student growth, incorporate at least three performance levels, provide meaningful feedback for improvement, and are used for personnel decisions. The process is state-led, but allows for local variation as long as state guidelines are met. - Teacher effectiveness measures can be used to verify teachers are distributed equitably in Title I and non-Title I schools or measures from current law could be used. - No provisions for new programs related to principal and teacher recruitment, selection, preparation, placement, and retention.	- Maintains "highly qualified teacher" requirement. States must create educator evaluation systems by 2015-16 that consider student achievement and growth, classroom observations, and other factors. They must include several performance levels, provide meaningful feedback for improvement, and provide for training of evaluators. Evaluations do not have to be used for personnel decisions. - Evaluation data used to measure equity in the distribution of effective educators. - States can use Title II formula funds to develop teacher & principal preparation academies authorized directly by the state, instead of traditional accreditors. 2 competitive programs would recruit and train effective principals for low-income schools and teachers for high-needs subjects at high-needs schools. - Teacher Incentive Fund permanently authorized. Grants can be awarded to districts or states, directly or in partnership with a nonprofit.	- Eliminates "highly qualified teacher" requirement. States are not required to develop educator evaluation systems, but may use Title II funds to do so. - States may also use Title II funds (directly or through a subgrant to a nonprofit or for-profit organization) to reform certification, licensing, or tenure systems; establish or expand alternative routes to teaching; improve recruitment and retention; develop performance-based pay or other teacher incentive programs; and provide professional development. - Teacher Incentive Fund permanently authorized. Grants can be awarded to districts or state education agencies, directly or in partnership with a nonprofit or for-profit.	- Eliminates "highly qualified teacher" requirement. States are not required to develop educator evaluation systems, but may use Title II funds to do so. - Consolidates Teacher Incentive Fund, Teacher Quality Partnership Grants, and other programs into a flexible block grant. States can use these funds to develop teacher & principal preparation academies authorized directly by the state, instead of traditional accreditors. - The flexible grant also supports districts (alone or with higher education, nonprofits, and/or for-profit partners) to implement or improve alternative routes to teaching, career ladders, selection and retention of effective teachers, performance-based pay systems, induction and mentoring programs, and professional development.	- Maintains, but tweaks, the "qualified teacher" requirement. States must create educator evaluation systems within 3 years that consider student achievement and growth, classroom observations, and other factors. They must include 3 performance levels, provide meaningful feedback for improvement, provide for training of evaluators, and be used for personnel decisions. - Evaluation data used to measure equity in the distribution of effective educators. Districts set goals for improving equity, and if unmet, Title II funding is first set-aside, then withheld. - States must link educator preparation data to effectiveness data within 3 years. - States set-aside 2% of Title II formula funds for programs to improve the recruitment and training of effective principals. - Teacher and Leader Incentive Fund permanently authorized. Grants can be awarded to districts or states, directly or in partnership with a nonprofit.

Program Funding and Requirements	• Title I funds distributed to states via four formulas based on a variety of factors (including total number of eligible children in a district, concentration of eligible children in a district, and state funding of education). • Districts must demonstrate comparability of state & local funding between Title I and non-Title I schools, but can do so through salary schedules or other average measures (masking inequities in actual teacher salaries between schools). • Districts must demonstrate maintenance of effort from year to year, keeping their spending levels at a certain threshold, to receive federal funds. • States must set aside the equivalent of 20% of Title I funds to use for transportation, school choice, and tutoring for Title I schools that do not make AYP at least two consecutive years. • Title II funds cannot be less than states received in 2001 and are distributed to states based 65% on child poverty rate and 35% on total population of children.	• No changes to: Title I formulas, comparability, maintenance of effort, or supplement not supplant rules. Title I schools allowed to operate a “schoolwide” program in a school with fewer than 40% of children in poverty if they are identified as a priority or focus school. • 20% set-aside is eliminated. States can combine these funds with other specific Title I program funds to implement school improvement strategies in priority and focus schools. SIG funds can be used in any priority school. • No changes to Title II funding. • Waivers valid for two years, with the possibility of renewal prior to the 2014-15 school year.	• Maintains Title I formulas but changes funding from districts to schools by lowering the threshold of students in poverty for high schools only from 75 to 50 percent and approving a feeder model. • Closes the “comparability loophole” in Title I funding: Districts ensure state and local funding, including actual teachers’ salaries, is the comparable across Title I and non-Title I schools. • Keeps maintenance of effort in place. • 20% set-aside eliminated within Title I. States can combine these funds with other Title I funds to implement school improvement strategies in priority, focus, and other identified Title I schools. • Hold harmless provision from 2001 removed from Title II state grant funding. Title II can be used to reduce class sizes, but only in PreK-3rd grade classrooms, and at least 20% must go toward professional development in priority schools. Title II can fund joint professional development for school teachers and early childhood educators. • Permanently authorizes: Race to the Top, Investing in Innovation (i3), Promise Neighborhoods, and an Advanced Research Projects Agency – Education (ARPA-ED). • State Title I plans must be reviewed and approved by the Department of Education every four years – or any time a state makes significant changes to its standards, assessments, or accountability system. The approval process would involve a peer review.	• Maintains Title I funding formulas, but states could elect to allocate Title I funds by the number of eligible children per district (Title I portability). Funds could follow the child to any public school. • Does not change comparability requirements. • Eliminates maintenance of effort, but maintains “supplement not supplant” rules that specify federal funds cannot replace state and local funds. • 20% set-aside is eliminated. States can combine these funds with other specific Title I program funds to implement school improvement strategies. • Hold harmless provision from 2001 removed from Title II state grant funding, and formula updated to increase emphasis on states’ level of poverty (80% weight). • Does not authorize any of the Obama administration’s education programs (Race to the Top, i3, Promise Neighborhoods, or School Improvement Grants [SIG]). • Relies on assurances from states to ensure implementation of high-quality and rigorous standards, assessments, and accountability systems rather than evidence of state plans or policy. • Prohibits the Secretary from requiring states or districts to meet external conditions in exchange for receiving a waiver from the law.	• Maintains Title I funding formulas, but states could elect to allocate Title I funds by the number of eligible children per district (Title I portability). Funds could follow the child to any public school. Any Title I school can operate a “schoolwide” program. • Funding for English language learners, migratory children, students in correctional institutions, and rural schools rolled into Title I, and districts have flexibility to use funds among all programs in the consolidated Title I. • Does not change comparability requirements. • Eliminates maintenance of effort, but maintains “supplement not supplant” rules that specify federal funds cannot replace state and local funds. • 20% set-aside is eliminated, but states must set-aside 7% for school improvement and 3% for districts to offer school choice and tutoring. • Hold harmless provision from 2001 removed from Title II state grant funding, and formula updated to decrease emphasis on states’ and districts’ level of poverty (50% weight). The update goes into effect once the Secretary of Education finds it will not reduce funding for low-income schools. Only 10% of Title II funds can go toward class-size reduction. • Does not authorize any of the Obama administration’s education programs (Race to the Top, i3, Promise Neighborhoods, or School Improvement Grants [SIG]). • Prohibits the Secretary from requiring states or districts to meet external conditions in exchange for receiving a waiver from the law.	• No significant changes to Title I funding formulas. • Closes the “comparability loophole” in Title I funding: Districts ensure state and local funding, including actual teachers’ salaries, is comparable across Title I and non-Title I schools. • Keeps maintenance of effort in place. • 20% set-aside eliminated within Title I. States can combine these funds with other Title I funds to implement school improvement strategies in persistently low-achieving and other identified Title I schools. • Hold harmless provision from 2001 removed from Title II state grant funding, but a new hold harmless based on 2013 funding levels is added. States can reserve up to 10%, rather than 5%, of Title II grant funds. Title II can be used to reduce class sizes, but only in K-3rd grade classrooms. Title II can fund joint professional development for school teachers and early childhood educators. • Does not authorize all of the Obama administration’s education programs (Race to the Top, i3, and Promise Neighborhoods). Creates an Advanced Research Projects Agency – Education (ARPA-ED).
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For more information, contact Anne Hyslop (hyslop@newamerica.net or @afhyslop) and these additional resources from New America’s Education Policy Program

ESEA Reauthorization: <http://edmoney.newamerica.net/taxonomy/term/1753>

ESEA Flexibility: <http://edmoney.newamerica.net/taxonomy/term/2047>