

## **Elementary and Secondary Education Act**

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is a United States federal statute enacted on April 11, 1965 as a part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's *War on Poverty*. It is the most far-reaching federal legislation affecting education ever passed by Congress. Its purpose is to fund primary and secondary education. It also:

- Emphasizes equal access to education and establishes high standards and accountability, and
- Aims to shorten the achievement gaps between students by providing each child with fair and equal opportunities to achieve an exceptional education.

The funds are authorized for professional development, instructional materials, for resources to support educational programs, and for parental involvement promotion. The act was originally authorized through 1970, however, the government has reauthorized the act every five years since its enactment. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, was such an enactment named and proposed by President George W. Bush.

## **No Child Left Behind**

The purpose of this 681 page law is to have 100 percent of students achieve high academic standards by 2013 – 2014. The NCLB act requires that schools and districts make adequate yearly progress toward that end.

The NCLB law also requires:

- Highly qualified teachers in every classroom
- School choice for students in underperforming or unsafe schools
- Supplemental educational services for low-achieving students from low-income families who attend consistently underperforming schools

NCLB gives parents the right to ask the following questions:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction,
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree and,
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Districts may be required to change or enhance:

- Hiring practices
- Professional development offerings
- Curricular offerings
- School safety measures

*Look for more information on these web sites:*

<http://www.nclb.gov/>

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/deputy/nclb/nclb> home.htm