

---

## NEWS

---

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NAESP'S STATEMENT ON NCLB COMMISSION REPORT**

Alexandria, VA—February 13, 2007—The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) considers the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to be one of the most important matters the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress will undertake. We read with interest the report of the NCLB Commission and found many areas of common concern.

We commend the Commission for a strong first step in the reauthorization and for exhibiting an understanding of the important and unique role that principals play in student achievement and school success.

While we applaud the Commission's recommendations that recognize professional development for principals is critical, we hope that the reauthorized ESEA will require that ongoing, high-quality professional development be provided for principals from the beginning and throughout their careers. This must be accompanied by funds dedicated specifically to such a purpose. We are pleased that the Commission's report notes that principals should have the authority to make key decisions about staffing and the use of resources in schools. Principals must receive the support they need to be effective leaders.

We also support the Commission's focus on improved accountability systems that are based on individual student progress over time. While we commend the Commission for making the improved quality of the state assessments a priority, we urge Congress to require multiple measures for assessing student achievement. Only then can we truly determine the success of a student.

But Congress has to address more than those issues raised by the Commission. Students need more than academic support. They need social supports as well as physical and mental health services to help them stay in school and meet high standards. We strongly recommend that Congress assist states in providing a system of coordinated services to help children be ready to learn. It should ensure that every public school has full-time counselors and health care personnel. Also, districts should be provided with resources to help them meet their needs for high-quality early childhood education and after-school programs.

We hope that Congress will move steadily forward in a deliberative manner to reauthorize the ESEA, in order to bring more resources and support to states, districts, and schools that will help them close the achievement gap and provide equitable educational opportunities for all students.

#####

Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals serves 30,000 elementary and middle school principals in the United States, Canada, and overseas. NAESP leads in the advocacy and support for elementary and middle-level principals and other education leaders in their commitment to all children.