

July 18, 2013

Teaching and Learning

Movement on ESEA Reauthorization – Student Success Act

There has been movement in the House on the new Student Success Act. For those of you who want all of the details on this first step you can visit: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CRPT-113hrpt150/pdf/CRPT-113hrpt150-pt1.pdf>. This links you to the 997 page committee report. The House of Representatives is expected to examine the reauthorization of ESEA with H.R. t, the Student Success Act by this Thursday, July 18th. The bill was reported out of the Education and Workforce Committee. The ESEA bill, (which was written by Rep. John Kline, R-Minn., the chairman of the House Education Committee) garnered only GOP support in committee. The new legislative devolves much to the state and local levels, eliminates a number of federal requirements, repeals the Highly Qualified Teacher requirement, consolidates existing K-12 program into a new Local Academic Flexibility Grant and limits the authority of the Secretary of Education to influence state decisions on the Common Core.

As reported in Ed Week, "I think we will have success in getting the [bill] across the floor because of the reform nature of this bill," House Majority Leader, Rep. Eric Cantor, R-VA said. Kline, meanwhile, noted that the bill eliminates seventy "soda straw programs" and reduces the federal footprint. Nationally, many districts are already nervous about the potential impact of the legislation on their bottom line. The bill would freeze in place the funding levels set by sequestration—a series of across-the-board cuts to nearly every federal program put in place to help trim the federal budget. Remember this is a first step in a long and tedious process and many of the current mandates can (and probably will) change.

Next Generation Assessment Updates

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) on July 17th released the final grade- and subject-specific performance level descriptors (PLDs) in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. Performance levels, sometimes referred to as "achievement levels," are the broad categories used to report student performance on an assessment, and the PLDs further describe what that performance means. PARCC's [Educator Leader Cadre \(ELC\)](#) members, spanning K-12 through higher education, will engage in virtual professional development throughout the summer around how to use the PLDs to prepare for the assessments in 2014-15 and ongoing Common Core State Standards (CCSS) implementation. All materials used will be released to the field via the [PARCC ELC Portal](#) at the end of September so look for those resources as reported on their website.

Scoring Guides for the **Smarter Balanced Practice Assessment** are out!
http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Practice_Test/resources.html#scoringGuides

For more information on this topic, please contact

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