



PAA PRIORITY POSITIONS FOR A NEW ESEA AND S. 1177

June 30, 2015

True parent empowerment

- PAA supports **inclusion of parents in school policy decisions** at the school, district, state, and national level.
- We oppose forms of school privatization such as **charter schools** ([Title V beginning p. 460 and S 316](#)), vouchers, or “portability” that take resources from the schools attended by most students and put them into private hands, with less oversight.

Limits on testing

- PAA supports [S. 1025](#) (the Tester amendment) which replaces federal annual testing mandates with **grade span testing**. This will help address the current misuse and overuse of tests which is due in large part to NCLB's testing mandates.
- We support [Isakson Title 1 #1](#) amendment specifying parents' right to **opt their children** out of any state standardized test.
- We also support the [SMART Act proposal](#) (Baldwin Title 1 Amendment #1) to encourage states to **control the number of state-mandated tests** and provide better-quality assessment information to parents.

Teaching professionalism

- PAA opposes any proposals that would fund programs that put **unprepared teachers** in classrooms, which happens most often in schools with the most challenges.
- We also oppose increasing funds to expand **adaptive technology and on-line learning**, recognizing that the teacher/student relationship is paramount to supporting quality learning.

Funding

- PAA supports an **increase** in Title 1 funding targeted to low-income children and more **equitable school funding** from the appropriate government sources (as in [Baldwin Title 1 Amendment #5](#)).
- We support increased funding for systematic and effective class size reduction programs.

Student privacy

- PAA supports parents' right to **keep their children's school data private** (the [Student Digital Privacy and Parental Rights Act](#)), although we support the [recommendations](#) of the Parents' Coalition for Student Privacy to strengthen that bill.