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## Reauthorize NCLB This Year: The Cost of Not Reauthorizing NCLB Is Too High

While NCLB has set us on a productive course and resulted in some progress, but much remains to be done. Too many students, teachers, parents and schools are not getting the support and information they need to succeed. It has been six years since NCLB was enacted into law and we have learned much about what is working and what is not. Congress should take what we've learned and move quickly this year to reauthorize the law with needed refinements. The costs of waiting are too high for too many students, teachers, and parents across the country. The following are just some of the examples of the costs of waiting and opportunities lost.

If NCLB is not reauthorized this year, it will be a lost opportunity to ensure that **high school students graduate prepared for college and work.**

The costs of not reauthorizing NCLB are that:

- Schools will not get any additional help to address the challenge that approximately 1.2 million students fail to graduate from high school each year, more than half of whom are students of color.
- The economy will suffer more lost wages. According to an analysis by the Alliance for Excellent Education, the economy could have benefited from at least \$330 billion in additional wages from students (over their lifetimes) who should have earned their high school diplomas with the Class of 2007.
- Rates of remediation for students entering college will continue to persist and remain unaddressed. For example, forty percent of high school graduates enrolled at 4-year institutions of higher education and 63 percent of students enrolled at 2-year institutions of higher education require remedial education.

If NCLB is reauthorized, it is an opportunity to:

- Disaggregate graduation rates to make clear which groups of students in a school are not graduating so a school can target resources to help them, and bring accountability for improving graduation rates and for closing graduation rate gaps between groups of students.
- Require all states to adopt a common definition for determining graduation rates in order to bring consistency and accountability to graduation rate reporting and allow comparison of graduation rates across all 50 states.
- Ensure states align their reading, language arts, mathematics, and science standards with requirements for success in college and challenging jobs, so that students are ready to succeed upon graduation.

**If NCLB is not reauthorized this year, it will be a lost opportunity to ensure that parents, teachers, students and schools have accurate and reliable data to measure school and student progress.**

The costs of not reauthorizing NCLB are that:

- Schools will not be able to use academic growth models on a large scale, which allow for more accurate measurement of student progress over time.
- Schools will continue to feel pressure to prioritize their instruction to students “on the bubble” – or those who are closest to attaining proficiency on assessments – instead of their entire student body.
- States, districts, and school leaders will not have sufficient data to better target the \$3 billion of federal funds that are intended to be spent on professional development to support teachers in their efforts to improve student achievement.

If NCLB is reauthorized, it is an opportunity to:

- Create a more fair accountability system that measures and rewards schools that are producing growth towards proficiency.
- Help to ensure that schools that are identified as in need of improvement are truly those that are struggling.
- Empower teachers and principals with student achievement data that can help drive instruction in the classroom.
- Identify classrooms where student achievement is improving and target extra support, resources and professional development to teachers whose students are not improving academically over time.
- Improve the quality, rigor and delivery of assessments to provide more accurate measures of student achievement and growth.

**If NCLB is not reauthorized this year, it will be a lost opportunity to ensure that struggling students and schools get the support they need to improve and succeed.**

The costs of not reauthorizing NCLB are that:

- Low rates of participation in Supplemental Education Services (SES) and school choice will continue to minimize the academic assistance these tools are intended to provide for students in chronically underperforming schools.
- States and districts will lack the stimulus to improve their outreach to parents and monitoring of program effectiveness.
- Too many schools in the later stages of corrective action and restructuring (schools that need the most help) will continue to miss out on useful guidance and support in implementing significant interventions to improve performance.

If NCLB is reauthorized, it is an opportunity to:

- Provide better information to parents about the availability of SES services and the effectiveness of providers, ensuring more students can take advantage of these services.
- Improve state evaluations of SES providers to increase oversight and assure that programs result in increased student achievement.
- Ensure schools in corrective action and restructuring will benefit from selecting a comprehensive set of interventions that are designed to have systemic impact on efforts to improve performance.