

# What's Happening in Washington?

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## Emerging Issues in Education Reform

**CEC ANNUAL  
CONVENTION & EXPO  
APRIL 23, 2010**

# Today We Will Discuss...

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- **ESEA Reauthorization & Emerging Education Reforms**
  - Timeline
  - Administration's Blueprint
  - Controversial Issues Facing Reauthorization
  - CEC's ESEA Guiding Principles
    - ✦ Issues in Focus: Common Core Standards, Differentiated Compensation Systems & Charter Schools
  - Other Legislative Issues in ESEA Reauthorization
    - ✦ Restraint and Seclusion Legislation
    - ✦ Early Childhood Education

# ESEA Reauthorization Timeline

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- Amendments to ESEA
  - Now Known as NCLB
  - Pass Congress with Bipartisan Support and Signed into law by President Bush

2001

- Reauthorization Process Gets Underway but Controversial Issues Remain Unresolved and Process is Delayed

2007

- President Obama Takes Office, Pledges to Overhaul ESEA/NCLB

2008

# ESEA Reauthorization Timeline (cont.)

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- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Passes; Includes Many Administration Education Reform Initiatives

February  
2009

- Obama Administration Releases ESEA Reauthorization Blueprint

March 2010

- U.S. House of Representatives & U.S. Senate Education Committees Hold Hearings on ESEA Reauthorization
- CEC Submits Recommendations to Capitol Hill

March/April  
2010

# ESEA Reauthorization Timeline (cont.)

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**"We will work with Congress on a bipartisan basis to reauthorize ESEA this year. We owe it to our children and our country to act now."**

**- Arne Duncan U.S. Secretary of Education**

## Challenges:

- ❖ Post healthcare adversarial political climate
- ❖ Shortened legislative calendar due to 2010 elections
- ❖ Competing legislative priorities



# Administration's ESEA Blueprint

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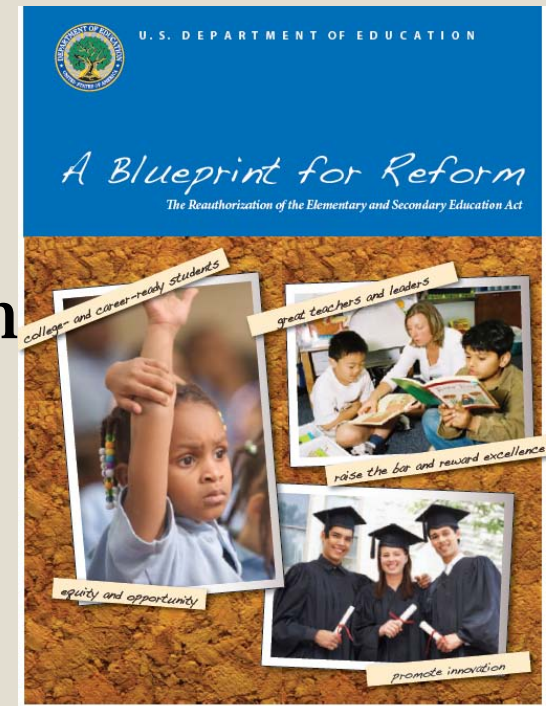
## SPRING 2010



# Obama Administration Blueprint for ESEA Reauthorization

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- March 2010: Administration releases *A Blueprint for Reform: The Reauthorization of ESEA*
- Echoes reforms implemented through ARRA; Administration's FY 2011 budget request



# Obama Administration Blueprint for ESEA Reauthorization (cont.)

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- **Proposes sweeping overhaul of ESEA:**
  - **New goals**
    - ✦ All students will graduate ready for college by 2020
  - **New reforms**
    - ✦ Raise standards
    - ✦ Reward excellence and growth
    - ✦ Increase local control and flexibility while maintaining the focus on equity and closing achievement gaps
  - **Eliminates some mandates in NCLB**
    - ✦ 100% proficiency by 2014
  - **Retains elements of NCLB**
    - ✦ disaggregation of data for subgroups

# Obama Administration Blueprint for ESEA Reauthorization (cont.)

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**College- and  
Career-Ready  
Students**



**Great Teachers  
and Great  
Leaders**



**Meeting the  
Needs of Diverse  
Learners**



**A Complete  
Education**



**Successful, Safe  
and Healthy  
Students**



**Fostering  
Innovation and  
Excellence**

# Obama Administration Blueprint for ESEA Reauthorization (cont.)

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## Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners

- Increase support for **inclusion** and **improved outcomes** of students with disabilities.
- Help ensure teachers and leaders are better **prepared to meet needs** of diverse learners
- **Assessments** accurately and appropriately measure student performance
- Universally designed **curricula** and **instructional supports** to address student needs.

# Obama Administration Blueprint for ESEA Reauthorization (cont.)

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## A Complete Education

- College Pathways and Accelerated Learning:
  - **Access to gifted and talented education** programs at elementary and middle school levels
  - College-level work through AP, IB, dual enrollment programs
  - Focus on high schools with low graduation rates

# Controversial Issues

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## **FACING REAUTHORIZATION**

# Controversial Issues: Administration's Blueprint

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- Administration's blueprint includes many controversial issues, such as:
  - Rewarding excellence of teachers and administrators based – in part – on student growth
  - Supporting common standards
  - Supporting common assessments for consortia of states
  - Expansion of Race to the Top program (focus on ed reforms)

# Controversial Issues: Administration's Blueprint

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- Expanding charter schools
- Supporting turnaround models which remove school personnel and leadership from persistently low-performing schools
- Program consolidations (38 programs into 11 funding streams)
- Greater emphasis on competitive grant programs

# Controversial Issues: Assessments

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- Overemphasis on testing vs. teaching and learning
- Narrowing of the curriculum
- Growth models
- Multiple forms of assessment
- Less frequent testing
- “n” size
- Alternate assessments based on alternate/modified achievement standards

# Controversial Issues: Accountability

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- Assessments measure achievement for **all**
- Sanctions – no evidence of success
- “Proficiency” by 2014???
- Adequate Yearly Progress “AYP”
- Performance on assessments of children with disabilities ... same impact on accountability as the performance of other children??
- IEP as a measure of accountability

# Controversial Issues: School Wide Approaches

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- **Response to Intervention**
- **Early Intervening Services**
- **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports**
- **Universal Design for Learning**

# CEC's Guiding Principles

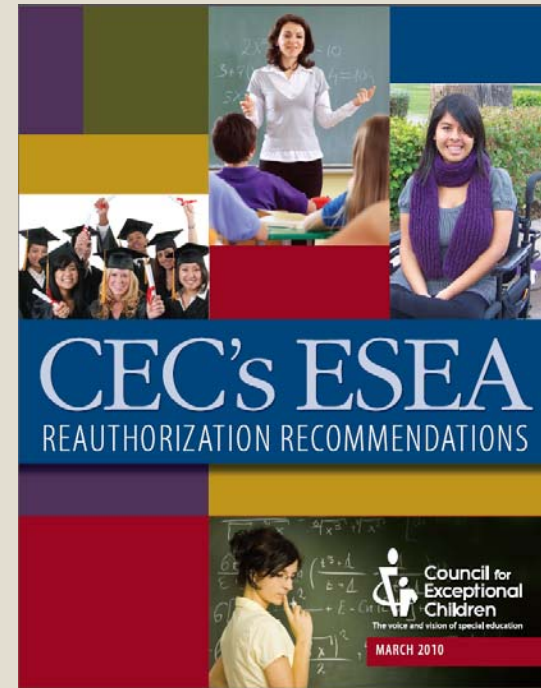
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## **ESEA REAUTHORIZATION**

# CEC's ESEA Guiding Principles

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*ESEA must support requirements for high standards and learner performance that are intended to foster high quality teaching and learning, equality of educational opportunity to learn, and improved achievement for children with disabilities and/or gifts and talents through:*



# CEC's ESEA Guiding Principles (cont.)

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- supporting a well prepared successful educational workforce;
- meaningful systems that encourage collaborative and supportive measurement, evaluation and reward of professional performance;



# CEC's ESEA Guiding Principles (cont.)

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- strengthening assessment and accountability for **all** children;
- meeting the unique needs of gifted learners;
- improving outcomes for **all** children through the collaboration of all educators;

# CEC's ESEA Guiding Principles (cont.)

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- developing improved strategies that create positive school reform;
- providing full funding to execute the goals and provisions of ESEA; and
- systems that are carefully coordinated and balanced between ESEA and IDEA

# Issue In Focus

## Common Core Standards



# *Issue in Focus* - Common Core Standards

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- **Effort Lead by NGA and CCSSO**
- **Response to NCLB Data**
- **Goal:** Create a set of standards states can voluntarily adopt. Participating states must adopt 100% of the common core standards, but may add up to 15% of their own standards, if desired.

# Common Core State Standards

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- How do Special Education and Gifted and Talented Education fit into “fewer, higher, and clearer” standards?
  - ✦ **CEC along with other advocacy organizations provided early input on the standards introductory statement about students with disabilities**
  - ✦ **CEC further commented during the public comment period**
- What implications will the design of these standards have on assessments and teacher effectiveness?

# Issue In Focus

## Charter Schools



# Issue in Focus: Charter Schools & Students with Exceptionalities

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- **Issue: Students with Disabilities are Under-Represented in Charter Schools**
  - CEC Solutions:
    - ✦ Require charter school applicants to provide detailed plans that include strategies to identify and serve students with disabilities and address recruitment and retention of highly qualified special education teachers and specialized instructional support personnel

# Issue in Focus: Charter Schools & Students with Exceptionalities (cont.)

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## ○ CEC Solutions (cont.):

- ✦ Monitor charter schools to ensure their enrollment of students with disabilities is comparable with the local population. Charter schools should report (1) the overall number of students with disabilities enrolled and (2) disaggregate the data by IDEA eligibility criteria
- ✦ Fund research on identifying and serving students with disabilities in the unique setting of charter schools.

# Issue in Focus: Charter Schools & Students with Exceptionalities (cont.)

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- **Issue: Ensuring Students with Disabilities Receive a Free Appropriate Public Education in the Least Restrictive Environment**
  - CEC Solution:
    - ✦ Provide technical assistance to charter schools to ensure that all students with disabilities are educated in the least restrictive environment

# Issue In Focus

## Differentiated Compensation Systems



# Issue in Focus: Differentiated Compensation Systems

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- **ISSUE: Administration has repeatedly proposed linking student performance on assessments to teacher pay**
  - CEC recommends evaluation systems include the following:
    - ✦ Funding for research
    - ✦ Well trained evaluators that have expertise specific to the position they are evaluating
    - ✦ Multiple measures of performance
    - ✦ Provide educators the opportunity to work with mentors and career coaches, participate in targeted, high quality, job embedded relevant professional development and to receive resources and support outside of the classroom as needed
    - ✦ Be subject to fair and effective dispute resolution

# Additional Legislative Issues

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## **ESEA REAUTHORIZATION**

# Preventing Harmful Restraint & Seclusion in Schools

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- CEC and its division, the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders (CCBD), worked with members of Congress to pass the *Keeping All Students Safe Act* on March 3, 2010; legislation pending in Senate
  
- *Keeping All Students Safe Act:*
  - ✦ Established minimum standards for appropriate use of R&S
    - Emergency use only
  - ✦ Prohibits R&S from being used as a planned intervention for individuals; allows classroom and school-wide safety plans
    - Not to be included on IEP
  - ✦ Authorized funding to expand professional development for all school staff

# Early Childhood Education

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- **Early Learning Challenge Grant – New Challenges!**
- **Priority in RTTT and Investing in Innovation Grants**
- **Possibility of Expansion within Title I formula**
- **Professional Development**
- **Promise Neighborhoods – coordination with special education and early intervention services**

# Agenda

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## Panel

- **Gene Wilhoit**, Executive Director, Council of Chief State School Officers
- **Matthew Springer**, Research Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Education, Vanderbilt University
- **Fred Weintraub**, Independent Monitor, Modified Consent Decree, Los Angeles, California
- **Doug Fuchs**, Nicholas Hobbs Endowed Chair in Special Education and Human Development, Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and Program Chair of CEC Convention

## Question & Answer