

**Weekly Update  
January 13, 2012**

**Announcements**

**NASSP News**

**Reminder: New NASSP Digital Principal Award Applications Are Due Tuesday, January 17!**

The **Digital Principal Award** is an opportunity to honor principals who exhibit bold, creative leadership in their drive to harness the potential of new technologies to further learning goals. The award also allows us to showcase models of leadership that encourage the use of technology in instruction and for principals' own professional use.

NASSP will honor three NASSP member principals in schools that cover any subset of grades K—12.

Learn more and apply here, or encourage an outstanding “digital principal” you know to apply (**deadline is this Tuesday January 17!**): <http://www.nassp.org/awards-and-recognition/digital-principal-award>

**New Legislation**

**ESEA:** Last Friday, House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline (R-MN) released his final two ESEA bills: one on accountability and the other on teacher quality. Kline also provided these fact sheets on the bills, but please be sure to read more about the bills in the News section below.

**Part 1: Ten Years Later, A Better Way Forward for K-12 Schools**

**Part 2: Ten Years Later, A Better Way Forward for K-12 Schools**

**Part 3: Ten Years Later, A Better Way Forward for K-12 Schools**

**News**

**NASSP, Other Education Organizations Weigh in With Initial Review of House ESEA bills on Accountability, Teacher Quality**

NASSP has formulated an initial summary and analysis of the over 500 combined pages of legislation in House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline's (R-MN) two bills on accountability and teacher quality for ESEA reauthorization. NASSP's initial analysis of the two bills is the following: “Though both bills call for some provisions in alignment with NASSP advocacy agenda including the elimination of the school turnaround models; comprehensive residency, induction, mentoring, and

professional development programs for school leaders; and the consideration of student growth and multiple measures in teacher evaluations; we have numerous initial concerns about many other provisions. Also seemingly absent from the bills are any specific mention of middle and high schools or of a federal literacy program such as the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy program that NASSP feels is invaluable in preparing students for college- and career-readiness.

Further, the inclusion in these bills of two bills we continue to oppose (HR 2445 and HR 1891) makes it difficult for us to conceptualize a means to support these bills unless language from these prior bills is removed.” Go [here](#) to read the rest of this blog entry which includes a summary of the bills.

Also read about initial reactions from other education groups [here](#).

### **Race to the Top Report**

On Tuesday, the Department of Education released “state-specific reports profiling first-year progress on comprehensive education reform under Race to the Top.” The states profiled were the 12 states that received funding in 2010 in the competition’s first two phases: Delaware, D.C., Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island and Tennessee. Said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, "Race to the Top states have made tremendous strides in this first year... These twelve states have acted with courage and commitment in taking on ambitious education reform. Their year one work has helped lay the foundation for long-term, statewide improvements centered on doing what's best for students." Read the press release and access the state reports [here](#).

### **Reflections on NCLB on its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Several education experts and practitioners weighed in last week on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NCLB, which was signed into law January 8, 2002, about where NCLB has taken us as an education system and where we need to go from here. Says U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, “The question today is how to build on NCLB’s success and fix its problems. Fortunately, states are leading the way. In Washington, we need to do everything we can to support their work.” Read the rest of his op-ed that appeared in the *Washington Post* here: <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2012/01/after-10-years-it%E2%80%99s-time-for-a-new-nclb/>. Read others’ reflections, including those of members of Congress and educators, [here](#).

### **Research**

#### **Graduation Rate Accountability in State Waiver Applications**

NASSP coalition partner the Alliance for Excellent Education has recently released a paper analyzing how graduation rates are incorporated into the accountability indexes being proposed by states as a part of their waiver applications. Below, please find a link

to the paper along with a brief description of the analysis. “Waving away graduation rate accountability”: <http://www.all4ed.org/files/WaivingAwayAccountability.pdf>

## **Resources**

### **AEI Education Event on What the Election Year Will Mean for Education Policy**

The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) is hosting a forum on February 1: *Education 2012: What the Election Year Will Mean for Education Policy*. For details and to RSVP (you can also access a video recording if you are not in the Washington, DC area to attend): <http://www.aei.org/events/2012/02/01/education-2012-what-the-election-year-will-mean-for-education-policy/>

### **Summer Jobs for Low-Income Youth**

Under Summer Jobs+, the federal government and private sector are committed to creating nearly 180,000 employment opportunities for low-income youth in the summer of 2012, with the goal of reaching 250,000 employment opportunities by the start of summer, at least 100,000 of which will be placements in paid jobs and internships. For more information, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/01/05/we-cant-wait-white-house-announces-federal-and-private-sector-commitment>.

### **NASSP Webinar on Cutting-Edge Technology to Use in the Classroom**

Want to learn more about cutting-edge technology initiatives used every day in the classroom? View this archived webinar that took place this Wednesday: Melinda Maddox discusses ALSDE's highly regarded technology initiatives. Then Craig Bates provides a principal's perspective on how these initiatives work on the ground in schools, and what impact they are having on student achievement and engagement. Access the recorded webinar and all other archived webinars [here](#).