

No Child Left Behind

Updated July 31, 2015

Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on No Child Left Behind

2007

2011

July 8, 2015

July 16, 2015

No Child Left Behind Act 'Expires'

No Child Left Behind was nominally set to expire on September 30, 2007, with a goal of rewriting and reauthorizing the bill. The law remained in-effect due to a provision that the law would continue in its original form if Congress didn't act after the 'expiration date.' The original expiration date made the initial bill appear cheaper in CBO scoring.

Obama Administration Begins Waiver Program

Without a clear path towards replacement or revision of the law, and with the law's original 2014 deadline for proficiency in reading and math looming, the Obama Administration offered to waive the proficiency deadline and other requirements for states which overhaul low-performing schools and enact more stringent teacher evaluation systems.

Student Success Act

The House passed a NCLB replacement bill which would eliminate federal mandates for educational standards and poor performing schools, allow schools and parents to opt out of standardized testing, and change the funding formula to have money follow individual low-income students rather than stay at schools with the most low-income students. The bill passed with no Democratic support.

Every Child Achieves Act of 2015

The Senate passed a bipartisan bill put together by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA), which would maintain annual standardized tests and funding for low-income schools while reducing the Education Department's oversight and regulatory authority over state programs designed to improve educational outcomes for low-income and minority students.

Potential Actions in 114th Congress

- Now that the House and Senate have passed different versions of a NCLB rewrite, a conference committee chaired by Rep. John Kline (R-MN) will begin negotiating a compromise bill in September
- · Obama has threatened to veto the House bill due to the changes it would make to distribution of funding
- Democrats and the Obama administration want an accountability measure that both bills currently lack, in order to ensure that states will be able to define and help struggling schools and students