



JOINT HILL BRIEFING. ESEA

Kelly Pollitt, NAESP
Noelle Ellerson, AASA

Reauthorization

- Going on four years of reauthorizing effort ,
- House and Senate taking very different approaches
- Senate: How comprehensive? How many amendments? Pointing to introduced bills?
- House: Piecemeal. What is the piece? What is the meal?

Reauthorization

Senate

- Ever moving timeline.....from Easter to Memorial Day to July 4th to.....August? September?
- Question of how comprehensive or bipartisan the bill will be, as well as what amendments there will be and how much agreement the amendments have .
- Top Level Talks

Reauthorization

- 2011 Who's Who of ESEA Reauthorization
 - Administration
 - Big Eight: Reps. Kline, Miller, Hunter, Kildee; Sens. Harkin, Enzi, Bingaman, Alexander
 - Previous architects of NCLB
 - House R's
 - Senate Chairman Harkin
 - Education Organizations
 - Foundations & think tanks they fund

Key Issues in Reauthorization

- Mandated Standardization v. Focus on Poverty
- Formula v. Competitive
- Punitive Accountability v. Incentivizing Accountability
- Assessment: One-Time v. Growth
- Overly Prescriptive v. Flexibility
- Charters: More v. Less
- Assessing Special Learners
- Early Childhood Education
- Health/Wellness/Total Child
- Turnaround Models/School Improvement

Waivers v. Regulatory Relief

- 80% of LEAs labeled as failing for 2011-12 school year
- AASA/NSBA call to action for targeted, specific regulatory relief
- More than 1,000 signatures from all 50 states
- Secretary Duncan interest in quid-pro-quo approach to providing relief through conditional waivers

Waivers v. Regulatory Relief

- LEAs should not have to adopt policy priorities (think Race to the Top or turnaround models), especially unfunded priorities, to get relief from a broken law
- Regulations got us in to the mess, regulations (well, reversing them) can get us out
- If the policies the administration wants were popular with policy makers or practitioners, they would be more widely adopted and implemented already.
- Using waivers to force these priorities is not good policy

Waivers vs. Regulatory Relief

- Urge your Representatives and Senators to, in the absence of complete reauthorization, support targeted regulatory relief.
 - Suggested options? Suspension of sanctions. This would freeze AMO/AYP at 2010-11 school year levels.
 - This maintains accountability, is not a blanket waiver, and provides LEAs with the relief they need while we wait for Congress to pass a bill 4 years past-due.