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IMESD District Board Talking Points January 2016

Welcome back! I can't believe we are nearing the halfway point of the 15-16 school year.

Before the winter break, the big news in education was the federal reauthorization and renaming of the federal Elementary/Secondary Education Act (ESEA). In November, Congress passed a bipartisan bill to significantly change the previous No Child Left Behind Act. The resulting legislation will lessen federal involvement and accountability, and each individual state will now assume a far greater role in determining the educational outcomes for its students. This is good news for our state!

Oregon will undergo a "transition year" in 2016-17. During that time, we will determine our state's direction on several important education initiatives, including:

- Future of Common Core as our statewide curriculum
- Future of Smarter-Balanced as our statewide assessment program
- Teacher Evaluation Expectations
- Accountability for Bottom 5% schools and high schools below 67% graduation rate
- Interventions to assist ELL, special education, and other at-risk populations
- Continued emphasis on early learning, STEM and CTE

IMESD staff will be taking an active role at a state and regional level to assist ODE and our districts in the changes coming to Oregon.