

## **BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2007 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

### **Federal Education Spending**

Congress needs to restore the massive funding cuts made in FY2006 and continued in FY2007 and begin to increase the federal investment in public education to fully fund the implementation of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at authorized levels.

We hope that Congress will increase FY2008 spending levels for NCLB in a range of 10%, including \$1 billion more for Title I Disadvantaged Students, \$300 million more for Title II Teacher Quality, and \$67 million more for Title III English Language Learners.

We urge the Congress to increase spending for IDEA by 10%, or \$1 billion, to ensure continuity of services for students with disabilities and to prevent local reductions in funding for non-disable students. To this end, we encourage the passage of a bill, H.R. 821, requiring the mandatory full funding of IDEA.

### **Technology in Schools**

The Congress needs to continue support for the Universal Service Fund Program (E-Rate) which provides schools and libraries with affordable access (discounts) to networking and telecommunications technologies. We support a simple extension of the E-Rate discounts in the upcoming Telecommunications Act reauthorization and a permanent exemption from the bureaucratic Anti-Deficiency Act reauthorization which has delayed E-Rate payments to school districts in the past.

### **Medicaid Reimbursement**

Congress should actively oppose, and block through legislation, the \$615 million cuts to school-based Medicaid reimbursements for eligible low income, disabled school children again being promulgated by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). These cuts to medically-needy school children will shift federal financial responsibilities to local school budgets, as well as have a chilling effect on access to quality health services for school children.

### **No Child Left Behind Reauthorization**

Congress is urged to complete the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act in 2007 making common sense, reasonable changes to improve the law and preserve its focus on improving the education and achievement of all students. Specific recommendations on the reauthorization of NCLB are attached.

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The School Board of Broward County, Florida

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# **Recommendations for the Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind by The School Board of Broward County, Florida**

## **1. Standards**

Develop national educational standards in reading, mathematics and science, and require states to align their assessment systems to the new national standards with common definitions of proficiency.

## **2. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – Growth Models**

The basic AYP system should be expanded to include gain score approaches (growth models) that take into consideration the progress students make from year to year when calculating AYP.

## **3. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – Subgroup Subject Areas**

Determine AYP on the performance of the same subgroup, in the same subject over consecutive years, thus keeping the school at only one year of no AYP.

## **4. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – Duplicating Subgroups**

When determining AYP, students identified in multiple subgroups should be represented in the count for each subgroup as an equal fraction totaling one student.

## **5. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – Subgroup (N or Cell) Size**

Student subgroup size should be calculated as a combination of a minimum number and a percent (e.g. at least 30 or 15% of the student population up to 100 students).

## **6. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – Subgroup Achievement**

Schools should be identified as meeting AYP even when one or more subgroup fails to make AYP, so long as the total number of students in the subgroup missing AYP does not exceed 10 percent of the total number of students counted for that indicator.

## **7. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – Test Participation**

The specific requirement for 95% student test participation should be adjusted to a range of 90% to 95%

## **8. Supplemental Educational Services (SES) – Districts as Providers**

School districts should not be denied the opportunity to provide SES solely because they did not make AYP or are in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring status. Private providers cannot meet the demand for services.

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<b>9. Supplemental Educational Services (SES) – Provider Qualifications</b>
States should be required to consult with school districts in developing criteria for SES providers to qualify for, and maintain, active status as SES providers.
<b>10. Supplemental Educational Services (SES) – Student Eligibility</b>
SES should only be offered to low achieving students, within specific subgroups that fail to make AYP in the same subject, for two or more years.
<b>11. NCLB Funding – Adequate Appropriations</b>
In order for school districts to meet NCLB student achievement goals, Congress should increase the NCLB appropriations to cover all required services, inclusive of the 20% set aside.
<b>12. NCLB Funding – Unused Set Aside Funds</b>
States should establish a date, no later than December 15, to permit school districts to spend the portion of the 20% set aside for Choice and SES that are not needed for services, following appropriate parent notification.
<b>13. NCLB Funding – Cost to Administer Set Aside Programs</b>
School districts should be permitted to charge SES administrative costs to the 20% set aside, up to a 5% cap.
<b>14. Highly Qualified Teachers</b>
Special education teachers of multiple core academic subjects, who have a bachelor’s degree and full state certification, should be considered highly qualified.
<b>15. Assessment – ESE Students</b>
The allowable percentage of ESE students tested on alternate standards should be increased from 1% to 2%, and the IEP team should determine whether an alternative assessment, based on alternate or modified achievement standards, is needed.
<b>16. Assessment – ELL Students</b>
Allow a three-year (school year) window for students with limited English proficiency, who are new to US schools, before requiring their scores to count on state assessments if not in their native language.
<b>17. Choice – Limitations</b>
Provide students in a school identified for improvement the opportunity to transfer to a school not identified for improvement within the district, subject to state and local health and safety codes, and building and class size capacity limits.

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**18. Choice – Eligibility**

School Choice should only be offered to low achieving students, within specific subgroups, that fail to make AYP in the same subject for two or more years.

**19. General Provisions - Armed Forces Recruitment**

Eliminate this provision since it is not germane to the main purpose of NCLB.

**20. General Provisions - School Prayer**

Eliminate this provision since it is not germane to the main purpose of NCLB.

**21. General Provisions - Boy Scouts Access**

Eliminate this provision since it is not germane to the main purpose of NCLB.

**22. General Provisions - Sex Education**

Eliminate this provision since it is not germane to the main purpose of NCLB.