

News Release

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Evers statement on ESEA reauthorization

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers issued the following statement on reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was signed into law today as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

“Bipartisan action to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act could not come at a better time for Wisconsin and the nation. The No Child Left Behind Act was long overdue for a refresh, and I am pleased that Congress and the president could work together to provide a strong framework going forward.

“States, school districts, and educators have been advancing locally designed policies to best serve their students for the past few years. In Wisconsin, we worked with policymakers to design a rigorous accountability system that puts information about schools into the hands of educators and parents, allowing them to make informed decisions. Having a federal law that supports efforts like ours, while maintaining flexibility, is key.

“Reauthorization also provides an opportune time to discuss the issue of equity in our schools. Allowing states to explore different methods, centered on their needs, to tackle achievement gaps will ensure that all students graduate ready for college and career.

“Now that this is law, we will work with stakeholders during a period of adjustment to make implementation work for Wisconsin students, educators, and families. We plan to take full advantage of these positive changes to improve student learning while giving local schools more flexibility and authority.”

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_120.pdf.