

## Every Student Succeeds Act

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### **The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA/S. 1177)**

- A comprehensive bipartisan reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind (ESEA/NCLB) has been a long been a key priority for PTAs across the country.
- PTAs have been consistently advocating for improvements to the law that prioritize family engagement, provide educational equity for all children and prepare every child for long-term success.

### **Family Engagement Provisions in ESSA**

- The ESSA maintains the one percent set-aside in Title I for school districts to conduct effective family engagement strategies and activities. The bill also includes language from an amendment by Senators Chris Coons (D-DE), Jack Reed (D-RI) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) that encourages school districts to invest more in family engagement.
- The bill includes the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) program. This is an improved version of the Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs) that is in current law. The revamped SFEC program will provide states and districts the capacity to support effective implementation of policies and activities that improve student achievement.
- National PTA, and PTAs across the country vigorously advocated for these provisions to be included in the final bill. We are extremely pleased that through this bill state and districts will be provided resources and have the capacity to support effective implementation of family engagement policies and activities.

### **Other**

- ESSA requires to states to develop a state-driven accountability system that use multiple measures of student growth and achievement.
- States are still required to annually test students in math and reading in grades 3 – 8 and once in grades 10 -12.
- The bill includes grants to support student health and safety, effective use of technology and ensure well-rounded educational opportunities.
- A priority of Senator Mikulski is the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program. The program is included in Title IV of the bill. The goal of the initiative is to promote evidence-based research, demonstration projects, innovative strategies, and activities designed to build and enhance the ability of elementary schools and secondary schools to identify gifted and talented students and meet their special educational needs.
- The House passed the ESSA last Wednesday, December 2 with a bipartisan vote of 359 to 64.
- The Senate is expected to vote on the bill on Tuesday.