



NCLB Commission News Alert

July 19, 2007

ALERT: Commission Recommendations Prominent in Senate Bill Introduced Yesterday by Senators Lieberman, Landrieu, and Coleman

- Co-Chair Governor Roy Barnes participated in a press conference on Capitol Hill yesterday in support of Commission recommendations contained in the *All Students Can Achieve* bill introduced by Senators Lieberman (I-CT), Landrieu (D-LA) and Coleman (R-MN). The bill embraces many of the Commission's key recommendations including longitudinal data systems that will allow the use of growth models in measuring student achievement and teacher effectiveness, the implementation of model national standards and measures to improve high school graduation rates, among others. New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein and D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee also participated in the press conference announcing the bill. [View](#) Governor Barnes' remarks. [Click here](#) for a summary of the *All Students Can Achieve* bill.
- The Commission also released its issue brief on June 27, 2007, on teacher effectiveness that explains how teacher effectiveness measures can improve student achievement, target professional development opportunities for teachers more efficiently, and use the same rich data systems that are necessary for incorporating the use of growth models into measuring student achievement. [Click here](#) to view the teacher effectiveness brief.

Building Support for an Improved NCLB

Commissioners are actively working to build support for an improved NCLB and make education of America's children a top priority for the nation.

- Commission Co-Chairmen Secretary Tommy G. Thompson and Governor Roy E. Barnes highlighted the Commission's efforts to take a deep and intensive look at NCLB and to provide recommendations on how the law might be improved during reauthorization in their feature article in *The Aspen Idea* (Summer 2007), a biannual magazine produced by The Aspen Institute. [Read the article](#) .
- Co-Chairman Secretary Tommy Thompson joined U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and Bill Gates, Sr., co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, for a discussion of how to improve K-12 education to better address the needs of poor and disadvantaged students and to enhance the nation's global competitiveness. The panel, moderated by David Gergen, of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, was held at the Aspen Idea's Festival in Aspen, Colorado on July 5, 2007.
- Commissioner James Pughsley recently presented in Williamsburg, Virginia at the 61st Annual Southern Legislative Conference whose membership includes state legislators from 16 southern states. Dr. Pughsley pushed for more urgency in accelerating progress

in closing persistent achievement gaps. [Click here](#) to view his power point presentation.

- Commissioner Andrea Messina, chairman of the Charlotte County Public School Board in Florida, was the keynote speaker at the annual joint Conference of the Florida School Boards Association and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents on June 14, 2007. Commissioner Messina shared the Commission's recommendations and discussed issues regarding the reauthorization of NCLB. [View](#) the press release.
- Commissioner Mike Ortiz, President of California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California, was interviewed to discuss his views on how NCLB is affecting California's schools and his involvement with the Commission on No Child Left Behind. His interview was published in the California School Board Association's (CSBA) summer edition and can be viewed by [clicking here](#).
- In June, Commissioners Judy Heumann and Ed Sontag co-authored an article which was published in TASH Connections documenting their work with the Commission and how the Commission's recommendations are aimed at improving education for all students, including students with disabilities. To read the full article, [click here](#).
- The National League of Cities sought input from the Commission as they examined "Federal Education Policy: Implications for School Districts and Cities" during their Education Policy Advisors' Network (EPAN) meeting in June 2007. Commission Director Gary Huggins joined in a panel discussion by Michael Casserly, executive director of the Council of Great City Schools, to share insights on key issues and prospects for NCLB reauthorization, as well as the Commission's work in building support for key recommendations for improving NCLB.
- The General Electric Foundation welcomed Commission insights during a June 2007 roundtable on education reform and college readiness standards. Huggins highlighted recommendations on model national standards, high school and graduation accountability, and teacher effectiveness.
- The Commission issued a statement in response to the Forum on Educational Accountability's (FEA) call for the use of multiple measures, including teacher observations, classroom assessments, essays, laboratory work, presentations and portfolios in school accountability decisions. The Commission argued that such an approach would significantly weaken NCLB. Without consistent, objective measures to determine what students have learned, there is no way to know which schools are succeeding and which need extra help or whether all students are being held to the same high expectations. [View](#) the Commission's statement on the FEA recommendations and [other statements](#) on NCLB topics.
- Commission Clips:

Education Week. "Opting Out of Highly Qualified Teachers." July 19, 2007. (<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/thisweekineducation/>).

Times-Picayune (New Orleans). "Landrieu Urges Altering School Program; Teachers Would Be Rewarded for Results." July 19, 2007. (www.timespicayune.com).

Education Week. "The Latest News on the Reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act." July 18, 2007. (<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/NCLB-ActII/>).

Mail Tribune. "Schools, Union Reach Verbal Agreement; Annual Salary Increases Among Conditions Awaiting the Signature of Union Members." July 15, 2007. (www.mailtribune.com).

The Washington Post. "From Barack Obama, Two Dangerous Words." July 11, 2007. (www.washingtonpost.com).

Upstagemagazine.com. "Storytelling Arts, A Not-For-Profit In the Service of Teaching and Learning, Names Jaymie Reeber Kosa as Executive Director." July 1, 2007. (www.upstagemagazine.com).

El Diario (NY). "Editorial: Advancing No Child Left Behind." June 13, 2007. (www.eldiariony.com).

The Journal News. "State, Federal Test Results Differ." June 10, 2007. (www.thejournalnews.com).

St. Cloud Times. "Test Standards Vary from State to State." June 8, 2007. (www.sctimes.com).

USA Today. "Data Suggests States Satisfy No Child Law by Expecting Less of Students." June 6, 2007. (www.usatoday.com).

Harvard Political Review. "No Law Left Behind." Spring 2007. (<http://hprsite.squarespace.com>).

Education Week. "Making Policy Work: The Lesson From Medicine." May 22, 2007. (www.edweek.org).

Savannah Morning News. "No Child Commissioners Urge Change in Direction." May 17, 2007. (www.savannahnow.com).

Education Week. "NCLB Rules on Quality Fall Short." May 14, 2007. (www.edweek.org).

Looking In-Depth at the Recommendations: Ensuring that NCLB Supports Highly Qualified Effective Teachers

The Commission continues to inform public discussion on how essential effective teachers are to the progress and growth of all students through an improved NCLB.

- Read our research brief titled, "[Focus on Teacher Effectiveness to Improve Student Achievement and Enhance Teacher Support](#)" to learn how the Commission's recommendations address teacher effectiveness based on improvements in student achievement.
- Read current documents about the Commission's recommendations on how HQET can ensure improved teacher quality and support academic growth for all students, including [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#), [Teacher and Principal Recommendations: Effective Teachers for All Students, Effective Principals for All Communities](#), and [Myths and Facts on HQET](#).
- Learn how the Commission's accountability recommendations support incorporating effectiveness measures in teacher quality determinations. Read our [Accountability](#)

[Recommendations.](#)

- On May 11, 2007, the Commission released a [statement](#) in response to the U.S. House of Representative's hearing on improving teacher quality.

Continuing the Dialogue

Your feedback is important as we continue to build partnerships and support for our recommendations. If you are interested in providing your input and comments on the Commission's recommendations for the reauthorization of NCLB, please click here: [submit comments](#) .

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