



COMMISSION ON  
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND  
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE  
[www.nclbcommission.org](http://www.nclbcommission.org)

## Glossary of No Child Left Behind Terms

**NCLB** – No Child Left Behind Act. It became a law in January 2002.

**ESEA** – The Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This is the first formal effort by the Federal government to support K-12 education reform. It was passed in 1965. NCLB, and its predecessor law, IASA, amended this Act. NCLB was the 2001 reauthorization of the ESEA.

**IASA** – the Improving America’s Schools Act. This is the 1994 reauthorization of the ESEA. Coupled with the Goal 2000 Act, these were the first Federal education laws which required States to develop systems of standards and aligned assessments.

**AYP** – Adequate Yearly Progress – The corner stone of NCLB’s accountability system. Each State must develop a definition of AYP to hold schools and school districts accountable for increasing academic performance and closing the achievement gap.

**HQT** – Highly Qualified Teacher – NCLB’s requirements on teacher quality.

**DoE, ED** – U.S. Department of Education.

**SEA** – State Educational Agency – Typically the fiduciary agent at the State level in an NCLB program. Depending on a particular State’s constitutional structure can be a State agency or the Office of the Governor.

**LEA** – Local Educational Agency – Often referred to as a “school district”. Typically the fiduciary agent at the school district level in an NCLB program.

**Title I** – the largest program under ESEA. This program, which is technically only Part A of Title I, includes all of NCLB’s accountability requirements. Title I provides funds to schools to assist in the education of disadvantaged children.

**LEP** – limited English proficient. One of the terms used to refer to children who are not proficient in the English language.

**ELL** – English language learners. One of the terms used to refer to children who are not proficient in the English language.

**SES** – Supplemental Educational Services – Requirements under NCLB which provide additional tutoring to children whose schools have not made AYP for 3 consecutive years. This tutoring is provided by entities that parents select from a list of approved providers developed by the State.

**HOUSSE** – High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation – the option which veteran teachers have to demonstrate their subject matter knowledge to meet the HQT requirements.

**SPED** – Special Education

**IHE** – Institution of Higher Education (College or University).