ESEA Reauthorization: *NCLB and the Blueprint*

Based on information from:

A Blueprint for Reform

July 2010

Core Policies to Maintain in ESEA Reauthorization

Disaggregation and focus on improving performance for all groups of students

Focus on equity

Standards-based reform and accountability

NCLB & Blueprint: Accountability

NCLB Blueprint

"Race to the bottom" for state standards



States adopt college- and career-ready standards.

Focus on proficiency; schools making progress can still be "failing"



Differentiation of schools based on student growth and school progress.

Many ways to "fail," no recognition for success



Real rewards for high-poverty schools, districts and states showing real progress, especially in serving underserved populations and closing achievement gaps.

Exclusive focus on tests, narrowing of curriculum



Develop and support the use of better assessments.

Look beyond assessments to determine what a school needs, including attendance, conditions for learning, course completion, to paint a fuller picture of a school.

Allow use of additional subjects.

Additional resources for developing a well-rounded curriculum

NCLB & Blueprint: Accountability

NCLB Blueprint More local flexibility around how best to serve schools; **Mandated SES and choice** no mandated SES or choice. Targets more limited portion of **Over-identifies schools** schools for significant intervention. Allowing persistently lowperforming schools Meaningful change in persistently low-performing schools. to avoid real change **Punitive/labels** Meaningful investment in low-performing schools. without support All consequences focused Holding every level of the system at the school level responsible for improvement and support.

NCLB & Blueprint: Teachers and Leaders

NCLB Blueprint

Not focused enough on building the profession and teacher voice



Utilize surveys of teachers (around working conditions, professional development & support), and surveys of conditions for learning that include teacher perspective.

No acknowledgement or support of teacher collaboration



Invest in expanded learning time programs that provide more time for educators to plan and collaborate.

Equitable distribution requirements not meaningful



Greater focus on getting great teachers where they are needed most.

Ignored need for better school leaders



Invest in preparing and improving better leaders.

NCLB & Blueprint: Broad Principles

NCLBBlueprint

Ignored important factors like conditions for learning



Make accountability about more than test scores for most schools.

Fund development of measurement systems around conditions for learning.

Narrow vision of school's role



Greater opportunities and structures for positive adult-student relationships.

Funding for providing comprehensive services so that students are safe, healthy, able to focus on learning.

No acknowledgement that equitable funding matters



Encourage funding equity.