

# South Carolina School Boards Association

## Legislative Advocacy Conference



Deborah Rigsby  
December 7, 2014

# Education Laws Awaiting Reauthorization

- Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA/No Child Left Behind)
- Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act
- Secure Rural Schools & Communities Self-Determination Act

# South Carolina Congressional Delegation

- Senator Lindsey Graham – Budget & Appropriations Committees
- Senator Tim Scott – Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) and Commerce Committees
- Rep. Mark Sanford -- Committee on Homeland Security (School Safety / Emergency Preparedness)
- Rep. Joe Wilson – Education and the Workforce (ESEA, IDEA, school nutrition, etc.)
- Rep. Jeff Duncan -- Natural Resources (Secure Rural Schools funding)
- Rep. Trey Gowdy – Oversight and Government
- Rep. Mick Mulvaney

# South Carolina Congressional Delegation (cont')

- Rep. James Clyburn – Assistant Democratic Leader
- Rep. Tom Rice – Budget Committee

# Education Funding

- Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations bill may not be finalized until next year, although the federal fiscal year began October 1, 2014.
- The current Continuing Resolution (CR) maintains government operations until December 11.
- House and Senate leaders are drafting a subsequent funding bill; but, the length of any new bill is at question.

# Education Funding

- Key concerns include sustaining investments in Title I grants for disadvantaged students and in the *Individuals With Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA).
- Title I grants support student achievement efforts at roughly 90 percent of the 14,000 school districts across the nation (\$14.4 billion). **South Carolina receives about \$215 million. 574 South Carolina schools are designated as Title I schools.**
- IDEA state grants help fund educational services for approximately 6.5 million students with disabilities (\$11.4 billion). Federal share of funding is less than 16 percent in FY2014. **South Carolina receives approximately \$175 million to help fund special education services to more than 88,000 students.**

# Sequestration – Urge Congress to Stop Further Cuts

- ✘ Defined as the “automatic, across-the-board cancellation of budgetary resources.”
- ✘ Legislated through the Budget Control Act of 2011 and slated to resume across-the-board cuts to education and other domestic programs in Fiscal Year 2016, unless Congress intervenes.
- ✘ Imposed more than a \$2.5 billion reduction to education programs in FY2013. Most of the cuts were restored in FY2014 funding because of the Bipartisan Budget Act.

# E-Rate

- Foundation of the Administration's ConnectED proposal to:
  - Provide professional development for educators
  - Make Content and devices available at same cost as traditional textbooks
  - Connect 99 percent of America's students to the internet through high-speed broadband and high-speed wireless within 5 years



# E-Rate (cont.)

- Modernized program will provide \$2.25B to high need schools and libraries to reduce costs and increase access
- NSBA submitted comments on Proposed Rulemaking to support broadband, streamlined administrative requirements and improved affordability.
- NSBA is working on a new campaign to address the future funding needs of E-rate with a broad based group of educational and private sector organizations and companies.

## Newsroom

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# NSBA Urges Approval of Vital FCC Proposal in Support of E-rate Program Modernization ✓

December 5, 2014

Alexandria, VA (Dec. 5, 2014) – The **National School Boards Association (NSBA)** applauds the efforts of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Wheeler to infuse \$1.5 billion into the E-rate program, and is placing its support on-record in advance of a December 11 Open Meeting in which a second FCC Report and Order on modernizing the E-rate program will undergo consideration.

"We fully support FCC Chairman Wheeler in his timely and important action to increase our nation's investment in the E-rate program," said Thomas J. Gentzel, executive director, National School Boards Association (NSBA). "It is essential that America's public schoolchildren gain the high-speed Internet access required to inform and support 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning."

If adopted, the proposed FCC action will give millions of school-age children – particularly those in rural and remote communities – long-awaited access to high-speed Internet connections. Students, community members, and thousands of schools and libraries stand to benefit, with at least 10 million of America's neediest student gaining access to WiFi in 2015.

"This proposed new investment in E-rate can elevate America's productivity and competitiveness," said Lucy Gettman, Deputy Associate Executive Director for NSBA's Office of Federal Advocacy and Public Policy. "Closing the school and library connectivity gap and preparing students for success in today's global economy supports teachers, students, and communities and empowers career and college readiness."

NSBA is steadfast in its support for the ConnectED initiative and recently launched "Leading

★ Who Can I Contact With Questions?

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# ESEA Reauthorization

- Most Comprehensive Federal Law Supporting Public Education
- Supplements State and Local K-12 Programs
- Enacted in 1965; last reauthorized in January 2002
- Was scheduled for reauthorization in 2008
- Extended via Congressional Appropriations Process

# NSBA Position on Current Law

- ✘ Inaccurate and unfair assessment of students, schools and school districts, further eroding the public's confidence in the nation's public schools
- ✘ Unintended Consequences Imposed Implementation problems
- ✘ Schools and School Districts were mislabeled/Subject to ineffective Sanctions
- ✘ Overemphasis on Standardized/Invalid/Unreliable assessments

# ESEA Reauthorization

- House and Senate bills await further action. H.R. 5 was passed by the House in July 2013. S. 1094 has not received Senate floor consideration.
- Provisions reflecting NSBA's local governance position were included in H.R. 5.
- NSBA's recommendations to improve ESEA include:
  - Elimination of "adequate yearly progress" (AYP) requirements and sanctions.
  - Continued reporting of data disaggregated by demographic group.
  - Use of multiple sources of evidence to evaluate schools, such as academic outcomes, improvement efforts, availability of resources, and periodic on-site reviews by qualified teams.

# IDEA

- Next reauthorization expected 2015
- Established IDEA Working Group to identify priority issues
- Conducted survey to assess alignment between attorneys and school board members in July 2013
- Senate HELP Committee conducted investigation of inappropriate use of Restraint & Seclusion
- Strategic actions needed on part of local school districts

*Local Educational Agency, Governance,  
Flexibility, and Efficiency Act*





# S. 2451

- Introduced by Sen. James Inhofe (R-Oklahoma)
- A key element of NSBA's efforts to push-back against federal intrusion in local school operations.
- A companion bill, H.R. 1386, was introduced earlier this session in the House of Representatives.

# The Problem

1. The Department of Education has established significant and detailed program initiatives that, in the absence of federal legislation or on the basis of very general language, has

- Compromised local school board governance
- Limited the flexibility that school districts need to meet local, state, and federal goals
- Imposed unnecessary costs, administrative burdens and negative consequences in the classroom

2. Rules etc. not adequately responsive

# Examples of the Problem

- State Race to the Top grants
- Grant priorities
- Local Race to the Top grants
- NCLB waiver conditions
- Lack of rationale/ verification
- Comments by BLOG
- Guidance documents

# NSBA Bill: Three Key Provisions

**In the absence of specific federal legislation, NSBA's bill:**

1. Prohibits ED from taking unilateral action that conflicts with key local governance functions
2. Makes ED more responsive to local governance/operational needs in developing its regulations/grant requirements
3. Requires ED to report annually to Congress regarding local governance concerns with its requirements

# School Nutrition

- NSBA worked closely with Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD) in negotiating revised language to:
  - Make permanent USDA temporary easing of meat and grain requirements, allowing schools more flexibility in serving meats and grains calorie maximums (H.R. 3663)
  - Give school districts flexibility in some of the mandates by permitting them to opt out of current regulations that incur a net cost for competitive foods, school breakfast, and paid meal prices

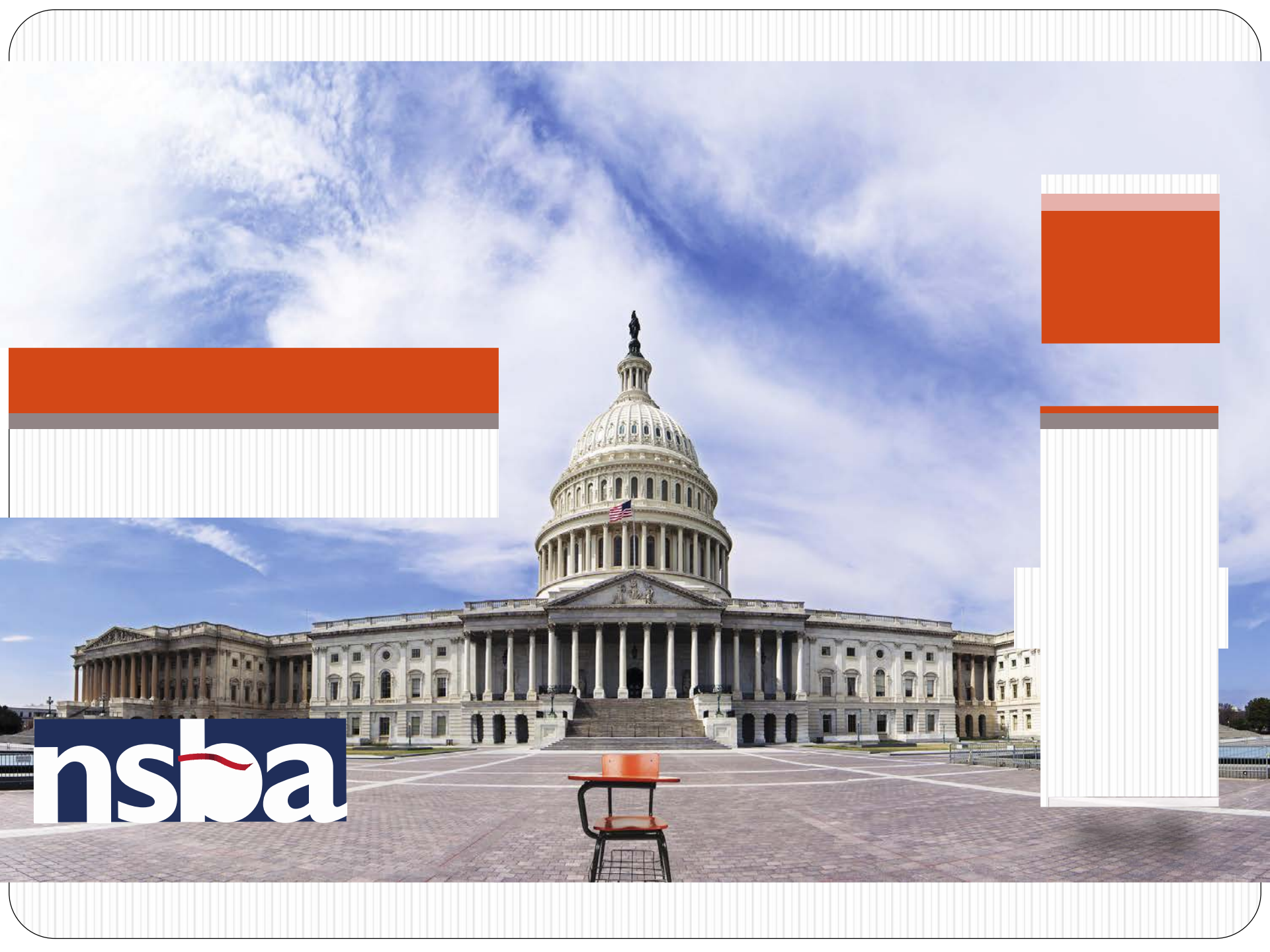
# NSBA Advocacy Institute

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**February 1-3, 2015**

**Marriott Marquis**

**Washington, D.C.**



**nsba**

# Return on Investment (ROI)

- ✘ Why is your participation critical?
  - + Setting the Congressional agenda
  - + Sequestration:
    - ✘ Represent your school district's interests in the federal budget and appropriations process
  - + If you don't represent your school districts who will?
    - + ESEA Reauthorization
    - + IDEA Reauthorization
- ✘ Decisions made will impact your district for the next several years
- ✘ Network with school board members from across the country
- ✘ Legislative, Legal & Public Advocacy



# Advocacy

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- > **Take Action**

Legislative Action Center

How to Contact Your Members of Congress

How to Contact the Media

National School Board Action Center (NSBAC)

How a Bill Becomes Law

## Take Action



Houston ISD/Dave Einsel: <http://www.houstonisd.org>

## Learn How You Can Get Involved

The education of our children must become a top priority of our nation's policymakers. In this time of shrinking budgets and increasing mandates, our leaders in Congress must understand that education is too important an investment to let slide.

You can make a difference. Members of Congress listen to their constituents back home, particularly those who have knowledge in the area they are

## Who Can I Contact With Questions?

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## Become an Advocate

Tell Congress what works in your local school district. You can make a difference for national legislation on education by joining NSBA's Federal Relations Network.

**Learn more**

# Contacts

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