



Unified Association of Conejo Teachers

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TODAY: CALL AND EMAIL YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND SIGN THE PETITION FOR THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY ACT (ESEA, FORMERLY KNOWN AS NCLB)

Both the House and Senate are in a serious effort to rewrite the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)/so-called No Child Left Behind last amended in 2002. This means **the time for each and every one of us to act and shape the outcome is now**. This reauthorization of ESEA is an opportunity to set a new vision of shared responsibility for a public education system that promotes opportunity, equity and excellence for all students — a system where students and teachers can focus on learning over testing. **This law will impact every aspect of our classrooms, our students, and our teaching. Your input is needed now.**

While the draft bill eliminates the AYP system that led to obsession over testing and in inaccurate labeling and punishment of schools and lifts some of the sanctions, there are still big problems with the draft bill. The draft bill:

- Eliminates the focus on quality of teaching, providing no guidance on terms such as “effectiveness” and the requirement for highly qualified has been eliminated. This undermines teaching as a profession and sets the stage for more programs like Teach for America.
- Repeals current maintenance of effort language allowing states to reduce their own funding for education.
- Allows portability of Title I funds without guarantees that services are provided. This is, in effect, a voucher.
- Freezes federal funding at Fiscal year 2015 for the next 6 years. This impacts Title I, SPED and other Title funding.
- Increases funding for charter schools without adequate accountability, transparency and equity requirements.
- Instead of focusing on improving schools, it allows an unlimited number of schools to be defined as in need of assistance and allows students to be transported out.
- Still requires annual, federally-mandated standardized testing and assessment driven by accountability based on one test, rather than learning.

Sign the pledge at <http://educationvotes.nea.org/eseapetition/>

Email your representatives at <http://capwiz.com/nea/issues/alert/?alertid=64033911>

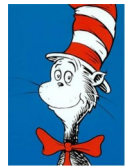
Call your representatives at 886-331-7233. Talking points follow.

UACT scholarship information is available on the UACT website. Forms are due 4 PM, March 13, 2015.

JOB SHARES

Job Share proposals for 2015-16 are due March 1. If you are looking for a job share partner, Kristin Cook, our office manager, is keeping a list of prospective partners. Contact her at uactsec@aol.com or 805-497-8220.

MARCH 2 IS READ ACROSS AMERICA.



We are looking for readers for 15 minute shifts and two people to serve as a host at each city library from 4 to 5:30. Please contact Kristin at 805-497-8220 to sign up for a time.

BARGAINING UPDATE

Fifteen UACT leaders attending the school board meeting on Feb. 17 to show support for the bargaining team as the board was discussing the budget.

Members of the Organizing team will be coming to school sites to present information. Please be sure to attend these meetings so that you can learn the latest updates.

Please wear red on Feb. 25, Mar. 5 & 19 to support your bargaining team.

Tell Congress a new federal education bill must mean more opportunity and learning for students

Since adopted 12 years ago, No Child Left Behind has made no significant progress in closing achievement and opportunity gaps for students. Instead, it has perpetuated a system that delivers unequal opportunities and uneven quality to America's children making it impossible for educators to do what is most important: instill a love of learning in their students.

Call Congress Today 866-331-7233. Tell them to pass a new ESEA bill that provides opportunity for all students.

As educators, we have a chance to set a new vision for a public education system that promotes opportunity and excellence for ALL students.

- Create more opportunity for all students to receive a quality education, no matter their zip code.
- Reduce the amount of mandated standardized testing, and allow more time for students to learn and more time for teachers to teach
- Ensure every student has a qualified educator who is empowered to lead.

Join us in the fight to give every child access to a great public education. Call Congress today: 866-331-7233



Tell Congress a new Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) must mean opportunity for all, and time to learn

Since adopted 12 years ago, No Child Left Behind has made no significant progress in closing achievement and opportunity gaps for students. Instead, it has perpetuated a system that delivers unequal opportunities and uneven quality to America's children making it impossible for educators to do what is most important: instill a love of learning in their students.



Now is the time for educators to make their voices heard!

As educators, we have a chance to set a new vision for a public education system that promotes opportunity and excellence for ALL students.

In order for Congress to get the law right this time, we need every educator to tell members of Congress to make sure that any new federal education bill does three things:

1. Creates more opportunities for all students to receive a quality education, no matter their zip code

- Replace the one-size-fits-all, top-down approach with a new "school dashboard" of indicators to identify opportunity gaps and reveal gaps in some of the basic components of a high-quality, well-rounded education that prepares each student for college and/or a career.

2. Allows more time for students to learn and more time for teachers to teach

- Testing takes time away from learning. We must reduce the emphasis on federally-mandated standardized tests that would free up time and resources, diminish "teaching to the test," and allow educators to focus on what is most important: instilling a love of learning in their students.
- A revised ESEA should include a proven approach called "grade-span" testing which would test students in English, Math and Science once in elementary school, once in middle school and once in high school.

3. Ensures every student has a qualified educator who is empowered to lead

- We need to build a pipeline of diverse, fully qualified educators who are available to every student in every zip code, and who are prepared to teach in today's classrooms on day one.
- Educators care about their students. We must ensure they have authority to do their job and lead on behalf of their students.



**OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL
TIME TO LEARN**