



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Recommendations for Improving ESEA State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson

Helping to ensure that every child graduates college- and career-ready is a top priority for California. Congress should act soon to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to help California and other states achieve their goals. In order to comprehensively address California's needs, we recommend that a reauthorized ESEA:

- **Create the next generation accountability system that better supports student learning** and measures school success across a broader range of indicators through such means as a continuous progress index.
- **Design and implement improved assessments** that more appropriately measure student progress and learning.
- **Respect and support the role of states** in setting priorities for improving schools and student achievement and responding to the needs of their students, schools, teachers, and communities.
- **Prioritize the preparation and development of effective teachers and leaders** for all schools and communities, recognize the professionalism of teaching, and focus as much on improving educator expertise as on evaluating them.
- **Provide students access to supports** that remove barriers to learning and engage them in learning (e.g. expanded learning opportunities, investments in service-learning, community school models, health services, and preschool).
- **Elevate STEM and digital learning** as key components of a successful education system.
- **Expand literacy supports** for children and their parents to foster school success and improve employment opportunities.
- **Ensure equitable and adequate resources** for federal education programs in order to support effective state implementation of such programs.