



Colorado Association of School Boards

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Summary of Federal Issues

June 2009

CASB believes that local school boards should govern local public schools and that the federal government's role is to provide research and development to assist local school boards in providing a quality education to all students.

Local Control

- Public school systems are best governed by locally elected boards of education.
- Federal education requirements should be limited, fully funded and judiciously made.
- Nationally and internationally benchmarked standards should be voluntary.

All Students Achieve

- Federal government should not set achievement standards.
- Federal law should allow school districts, particularly rural school districts, flexibility to implement ESEA.
- AYP judgments should be based on individual student achievement over time.
- Learning progress for special education students should be determined by their individual education plans (IEP).
- Flexibility is necessary when assessing the academic progress of English language learners.
- Hold all schools supported with public funds to the same accountability standards as public schools.

Unfunded Mandates

- Federal funding is inadequate to meet the increased demands placed on school districts. Unfunded mandates are particularly harmful to schools districts at this time given the state's fiscal crisis.
- Fully fund the 40 percent federal commitment under IDEA. Stimulus dollars are not helpful in bridging this gap if the criteria for using the money at the district level are so stringent that districts cannot comply with such criteria. There must be an ability for districts to seek and be granted waivers.