

## No Child Left Behind and the Future

Jack Jennings  
Center on Education Policy  
at NAFEPA, April 15, 2008

## CEP and NCLB

- The Center on Education Policy is an independent national advocate for public education.
- Our purpose is to analyze objectively major school reforms.
- For six years, CEP has conducted the most comprehensive review of NCLB of any organization in the country.

## Reauthorization

- President Bush has threatened to veto any bill substantially different from NCLB.
- In the House, a draft bill was circulated and widely criticized.
- In the Senate, there is no legislation.
- A political stalemate exists.

## The Immediate Future

- NCLB will be extended through school year 2008-09 because appropriations will be provided for Title I and other programs.
- In 2009, it is unlikely that a new president and Congress will be able to amend the law in one year, so NCLB will be extended through school year 2009-10.

## The Recent History of Federal Aid

- Under our Constitution, the states have responsibility for education.
- The federal government becomes involved when national needs are not being met by the states or local school districts.
- In the last 50 years, there have been three major periods shaping federal aid to education.

## Formative Stage 1955-1965

- Concerns: baby boom, Sputnik, poverty/civil rights
- Solutions: additional funds, mostly targeted by poverty, civil rights laws



### Consolidation and Evolution 1966-1988

- Concerns: preserve the new programs, find funds, new populations of students
- Solutions: IDEA, categorical programs
- Problems: rigidity, burdensome, and ancillary (except for IDEA)



### Standards-based Reform 1988-2008

- Concerns: need to raise overall student achievement, poor and minority students lagging
- Solution: standards, assessments, consequences
- Problems: test-driven accountability with few supports, layered on traditional programs



### The Future 2010--

- After 50 years of federal aid and due to the political stalemate about extending NCLB, now is the time to think more broadly.
- This year, the Center on Education Policy is undertaking an effort to rethink the federal role in education.



### The Question

What can the federal government do effectively:

- a. to provide students with the knowledge and skills they will need,
- b. to provide every student with a good teacher, and
- c. to improve student capability to learn?



### CEP's Plan

- Foundation-funded
- Working with a balanced group of advisors
- Commissioning papers from national experts
- Public forums and internet availability
- Report in early 2009 to new President and Congress