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**Date:** Thu, 9/15/2011 10:32:51 PM

**Subject:** Senate Republican ESEA Bills

**Attachments:** How to fix No Child Left Behind Two-Pager.pdf

Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments Act of 2011 one-pager.pdf

Teacher and Principal Improvement Act of 2011 one pager.pdf

Empowering Local Educational Decision Making Act of 2011 one pager.pdf

Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act 2011 one pager.pdf

State Innovation Pilot Act of 2011 one pager.pdf

Senators Alexander (TN); Richard Burr (NC); Johnny Isakson (GA); and Mark Kirk (IL) have introduced four ESEA reauthorization bills. Senator Alexander is also expected to introduce a bill "clarifying" the Department of Education's waiver authority. And we expect Sen. McCain to introduce a SES bill that would reduce the set aside to 10% and give states more authority in how the funds could be spent.

I've attached summaries of the four bills released by the Senators which focus on Teacher effectiveness, charter schools, innovation, and accountability. The proposals contain many elements of the Administration's ESEA blueprint including:

- requiring states/schools to adopt college & career ready standards;

- focus interventions on the 5% lowest performing schools;

- allow states to decide how to best intervene in the rest of the 95% of schools.;

- "Highly Qualified Teacher" requirement under current law would be replaced with a requirement that states

develop teacher evaluation systems.

We do not expect any of these bills to move very fast, must less pass out of the Senate. If anything, it is an additional indicator that the ESEA reauthorization process is breaking down. No democrats signed onto the Senate bills and the House is still introducing piecemeal reauthorization bills that don't match with what the Senate is proposing.

Top takeaways: The reform packages begin charting out a middle ground for reauthorization. They would eliminate "adequate yearly progress," hand accountability decisions back to the states, and advance highly effective teacher reforms. But more importantly, they preserve a federal role for education by continuing to direct funds to high need students and asking states to take action with the lowest of the low performing schools.

--John