

[Forum on Educational Accountability](http://www.edaccountability.org)

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Keep Working for NCLB Reform!

The efforts of the signers of the *Joint Organizational Statement on No Child Left Behind* are having a major impact!

Education Committee members in the House and Senate are paying close attention to many of our recommendations. But some supporters of the current law are working to block fundamental reform. In August, while Congress is on recess, we must reach out to members of Congress to educate and persuade them to support the ideas in the *Joint Statement*. Now is the time to counter those who claim the current law is the only way to do "accountability." Let's keep up the momentum and pressure we've worked so hard to build.

Members of Congress are at home in August -- talk to them about NCLB reform now!

Have your members and constituents tell their Representatives and Senators to rely on the [Joint Organizational Statement on NCLB](#) to guide their votes on reauthorization of NCLB. For more detail, they should consult the [Forum on Educational Accountability](#) recommendations.

Find your Representative's contact information at www.house.gov and your Senators' at www.senate.gov. Focus your message on these key changes needed in the law:

- * **Assess academic progress using multiple sources of evidence across all core subjects** to encourage a strong and equitable curriculum for all students. Every child deserves a complete, high-quality education. Academic achievement should be assessed using multiple forms of evidence, not just standardized tests in two subjects.
- * **Create a balanced accountability system that combines assessment data with holding states and localities responsible for making the systemic changes that improve student learning.** All Title I schools should implement improvement plans. Provide additional, targeted assistance to enable low-performing schools to educate all children well.
- * **End arbitrary "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) requirements, which researchers agree cannot be met by 2014.** Expect Title I schools to post learning gains based on rates of student improvement attained by effective schools serving similar children. Allow growth measures that track the progress of the same students from year to year.
- * **Build school capacity by promoting high-quality professional development and family involvement and support.** Schools improve when local educators are empowered and families are engaged.
- * **Reduce the amount of mandated testing.** Testing every child every year is not necessary for accountability purposes.

* **Support research, development and dissemination of high-quality assessments** for English language learners and students with disabilities, including tools to be used by and professional development for teachers.

* **Fully fund Title I so all eligible students can benefit.** Title I alone cannot solve the funding gap, but it can make a big difference if it is fully funded. Provide additional resources to meet professional development, assessment, parental involvement and school improvement needs.

For a copy of the Joint Statement and the reports and recommendations of the Forum on Educational Accountability, go to www.edaccountability.org.

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