

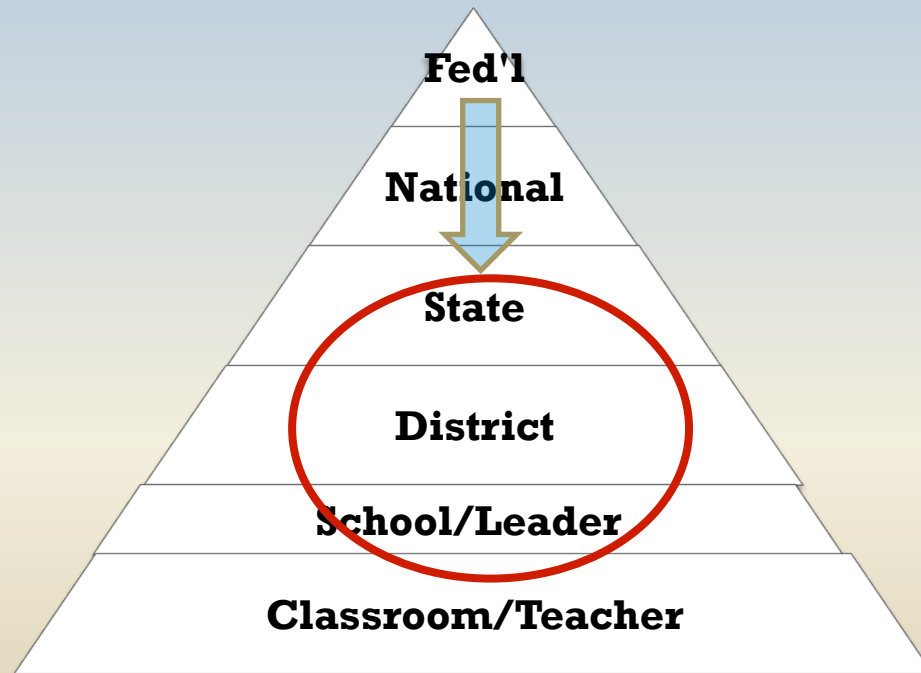
Beyond No Child Left Behind: Implications for the passage of a new ESEA

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Devolution is the name of the game!

- K-12



Key Questions

- ❑ **What kind of federal-state roles and relationship** will promote excellence and equity in college and career ready teaching and learning for all students consistent? Can we find balance and avoid the pendulum swinging too far?
- ❑ **What new theory of action is appropriate** in the *federal role* to raise the ceiling without destroying the floor as we move from No Child Left Behind to Every Child Achieves?
- ❑ **What are the opportunities and risks inherent in devolution of authority** from federal to *state/local levels*, and what will it take for this shift to promote excellence and equity nationwide rather than backsliding and gap widening?

Shifting Theories of Action

- **NCLB set a top-down floor** for standards-based reforms, but also set (in reality or perception) a ceiling on state/local innovation. **Theory of action was focus on outcomes and fidelity to the law.**
- **Initial shift toward state leadership** included Common Core, followed by federal incentives (RTT), ESEA waivers. Flipping federalism *toward* tight-loose.
- Both chambers of Congress have passed ESEA reauthorization bills that shift away from federal and towards state/local control. **But whether a complete, balanced *theory of action* emerges that can promote *excellence and equity* remains an open question.** We had flexibility prior to NCLB, so what is the new theory of action?

Leaders will lead and laggards will lag

RISKS

- CCR Standards
- Next Gen Assessments
- New Accountability Models
- Educator Evaluation

OPPORTUNITIES

- Personalization
- Deeper Learning
- Non-Academic Cognitive
- Addressing Poverty

Possible Levers for Reform

- **Data transparency** – The current big bet, and big positive from NCLB, but is it sufficient nationwide?
- **Guardrails** – Current focus has been on assessment and accountability, but are we loosening in the right way? To the right degree?
- **Investment** – Some focus on greater equity in funding, but new investments not likely. How does this impact CCR goals?
- **Enforcement** – Express limits on USED authority and enforcement across multiple areas, removing backstop. Creating innovation?
- **Continuous Improvement** – Opposite of compliance might not be flexibility, but innovation, evaluation, and continuous improvement. Big focus on evidence in ESEA bills, but can we create learning systems?

Positive Signs

- **Stakeholder engagement** – Data transparency calls for state/local advocacy efforts and enhanced media role.
- **Technical assistance** – Devolution reinforces need for national structure and more TA to build capacity for state/local improvement.
- **Incentives** – Will there be opportunities to help leaders lead?
- **R&D** – Can we organize and disseminate evidence to drive good choices and continuous improvement? How do we spread what works?
- **Leading state/district strategy** – Can efforts in leading places be coordinated to lead nationwide change without leaving more behind?