

### **ESEA Now! Board Resolutions: Your Help Needed**

NSBA is requesting that local school boards pass board resolutions to urge Congress to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Act (also known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB)) without delay. But we need your help! The goal of the campaign is to let Congress know how important it is to reauthorize ESEA this session of Congress.

Many thanks to Derby Public Schools in Derby, Kansas and Catskill Central School District Board of Education in Catskill, New York for submitting their board resolutions. Congratulations to them and the other school districts that have [passed resolutions!](#) How can your school board participate? Quite easily! You can read up on our full ESEA Now! Campaign on the campaign [website](#) and take a peek at a [draft resolution](#) that your local boards can use as a model. You can also read the recent press surrounding the campaign and learn about other [recommended activities](#) in which you can participate. Once your district has passed its resolution, please send a copy to your members of Congress and to Kathleen Branch, Director of National Advocacy Services, 1680 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 or [kbranch@nsba.org](mailto:kbranch@nsba.org).

### **Public Comment Open for Race to the Top District Criteria**

The U.S Department of Education released draft criteria this week for a new Race to the Top (RTTT) district competition today with nearly \$400 million that will go directly to eligible school districts. NSBA is reviewing the proposed criteria and will be submitting comments addressing our area of concerns in order to make sure that the program is effective for local school districts. The Department is receiving public comment through June 8.

The concept of the program is to provide RTTT funds directly to local school districts in a manner aligned with the basic reform principles the U.S. Department of Education has focused on. This is a modest program that might be attractive to some school districts, given that the number of grant awards is between 15 and 20 and the maximum grant amount is \$20 million each based on the number of participating students. The program is open to all school districts, not just those located in states that have been awarded RTTT grants. Applications will be available in July and grants awarded in December.

More information on the program and public comment [here](#).

### **Universal Design for Learning Webinar: Growing Momentum in States and Districts**

The Universal Design for Learning: Growing Momentum in States and Districts was held on May 15. An archive recording of the webinar, as well as the written report, *UDL: Initiatives on the Move*, are available for access/download [here](#).

Have an excellent holiday weekend!

Sincerely, Kathleen Branch & NSBA's Advocacy Team

Kathleen Branch

Director, National Advocacy Services

Office of Federal Advocacy and Public Policy

National School Boards Association

(703)838-6735 \* [kbranch@nsba.org](mailto:kbranch@nsba.org)