



No Child Left Behind Act

A YIP Capstone Project
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Historical Context

- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) passed under the Johnson administration
 - Created the Title I provision, which intentionally funds professional development in schools attended by low income families
- In 1983, the “Nation at Risk” educational report was released.
 - Outlined key concerns in America falling behind in education at an international scope.
 - Emphasized the way in which declining educational quality made the nation less competitive globally.
- ESEA began a pattern of increasing federal influence in public education, and the Nation at Risk report created new concern over the competitiveness of American education. These events contextualize the creation of No Child Left behind, an act meant to revitalize American education and increase the federal government’s role.





Key Dates & People

President George W. Bush: President whose administration passed the NCLB act. Bush played a strong role in defining American education as “competitive”.

1965: Passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

2001: Bipartisan support and passage of NCLB in Congress

2002: Signing of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) into law

2015: Passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)



Provisions of NCLB

- Mandated annual state testing in reading and math from grades 3 to 8
 - Results from state testing had to be broken down by race, class, and disability, as well as publicly reported.
- *Initially* required that states bring 100% of students to “proficiency” on tests by the 2013 academic year
- States must define adequate yearly progress, or **AYP**. **These are annual achievement targets set by the state for schools.** Consequences follow each year a school does not meet AYP.
 - 2 years missed: Students are allowed to transfer to nearby schools with better performance.
 - 3 years missed: States may **shut the school down, turn it into a charter school, or take it over.**
- Mandated the hiring of highly qualified teachers – generally meaning that all hired teachers must have a bachelors and certification in the subject they instruct.
 - In theory, these highly qualified teachers were meant to be equally spread across poor and wealthy school districts. This aspect was difficult to enforce.



NCLB's Benefits

- **School choice**

- NCLB sanctions offered families options in place of their failing school. Students could be transferred to a higher performing school within their district, or charter schools in the area.

- **Teacher qualifications**

- Before the passage of NCLB, teachers were deemed qualified with experience, and on occasion, a license. NCLB set dramatically higher standards, leading to the average teacher obtaining a substantial degree *before* reaching the classroom.

- **Organized Reporting**

- Prior to NCLB, provisions for score reports were up to individual districts. NCLB mandated the most comprehensive breakdown of scores across many different demographics. Additionally, while reasons for such have been disputed, general trends of improvement have been seen in test scores from underserved communities.

NCLB's Drawbacks



- **Standardized Testing**

- State tests became heavily relied on as a measure of progress
- Play a role in the narrowing of K-12 curriculums – only math and reading are tested, and therefore, become subjects with the largest focus.
 - This aspect especially hurt English Language Learners, as there was more of a focus on test preparation in comparison to communicative skills.

- **Funding**

- Funding that was promised under Title I and NCLB have not been fulfilled– The charter for Title I was promised to be \$25 billion by 2007. By 2015, the year in which NCLB was switched out, the charter was only at \$14.5 billion.

- **“Punishment and Reward”**

- NCLB's funding operated under a “punishment and reward” system. Low performing schools were met with Title I funding being taken away, creating a loop that made such schools lose resources they *already* lacked in.

NCLB & Charter Schools

- NCLB's passage led to the rise of charter schools in low income areas - this is due to the fact that one sanction for failing schools was being shut down and made into a charter school.
- **Charter schools have the ability to benefit or hurt the low income areas they serve.** *Whether they are an advantage or consequence of NCLB is widely left to interpretation.*
 - Charter schools offer low income families **school choice**, operate on independent curriculums, and typically reflect **higher performance** on standardized tests.
 - Charter schools typically operate under **less influence from the state**- this can lead to mismanaged, poorly operating institutions. Such schools also carry a reputation of a **higher use of disciplinary action**. This can be harmful considering that they mostly serve black students- a demographic that is already *most* likely to receive *unwarranted* disciplinary action in educational settings.



A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features two overlapping circles, one light blue and one light orange, set against a background with a vertical gradient from green at the top to orange at the bottom. A black eight-pointed star is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the blue circle. The text 'Partisan Support' is written in a large, bold, red serif font, centered within the overlapping area of the circles.

Partisan Support

- At its time of passage, NCLB was met with overwhelming bipartisan support. It was passed with a 381-41 vote, demonstrating support in legislature across the board.
- The decade following NCLB's passage allowed the consequences of the act to become overwhelmingly clear. This weakened its preexisting bipartisan support.
 - This trend is demonstrated by the 2013 renewal of NCLB being supported solely by Republicans in the house.

NCLB's Revisions



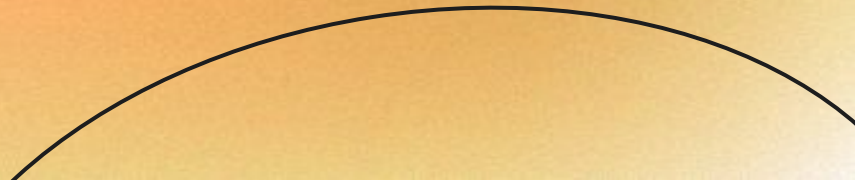


- An ambitious target of 100% proficiency in standardized testing across states was set for the 2013 school year. By 2010, 38% of schools were failing to meet proficiency standards – this made it clear that states were not on track to fulfill NCLB's target.
 - The Obama administration responded by allowing states to waive certain provisions of NCLB, including 2013's proficiency target. **42 states have become such "waiver states"**.
 - Waiver states were mandated to set Common Core standards or consult higher educational institutions to build academic standards. States also had to identify 15% of their schools as "focus schools" – ones that were struggling most.
 - Besides the implementation of waivers, NCLB has matured without any updates from Congress – this became a key critique of the act.
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Every Student Succeeds Act



The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) passed in 2015 as a replacement to No Child Left Behind.

- ESSA allowed states to individually adopt their own systems of accountability and sanctions, rather than having the nation follow the same system.
 - Does not mandate the labelling and reporting of a state's lowest performing schools, or "focus schools".
 - Measures school performance beyond test scores, such as considering growth, English learner progress, and graduation rate.
 - Ultimately brings back local power to schools. Funding is passed from districts to schools, rather than coming directly from the state.
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**Thank
You!**



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