

**The Federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)**

(Adopted 2006; amended 2009, 2010)

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2002, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 was signed into law as the most recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), and applies to all public schools and school systems; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports the goals of NCLB of raising student achievement; all students attaining proficiency; closing the achievement gaps; and ensuring that each child has highly qualified teachers; and

WHEREAS, NCLB's accountability, testing, and reporting requirements impose significant costs on state and local education agencies and federal funding has not been sufficient to meet the costs of implementing the law; and

WHEREAS, MABE continues to support the NCLB emphasis on accountability for improving the performance of all students and schools; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's local school systems have had successful operational experience in implementing NCLB since its enactment; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) has developed legislation to reform NCLB in anticipation of the scheduled reauthorization of ESEA, of which NCLB is a major component; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration are considering reauthorizing ESEA consistent with the education policy initiatives contained in the Race to the Top grant program and the U.S. Department of Education's *Blueprint for Reform*; and

WHEREAS, the *Blueprint for Reform* identifies the Administration's intent to "redefine the federal role in education: shifting from a focus merely on compliance to allowing state and local innovation to flourish, rewarding success, and fostering supportive and collaborative relationships with states, districts, and nonprofit partners"; and

WHEREAS, a few major private foundations are exerting unprecedented influence on the Administration's Race to the Top grant program and its *Blueprint for Reform* of ESEA as vehicles to promote initiatives such as charter schools, pay for performance, and national curriculum and assessments; and

WHEREAS, the role of private foundations, unaccountable to the public, in the development of federal education policy is generating confusion and frustration among state and local school systems due to the lack of a coherent federal education policy that supports state efforts to ensure strong and vibrant public schools that meet the needs of all students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MABE urges Congress and the Administration to develop a coherent federal education policy and reauthorize ESEA in a manner that supports the work of states and local boards of education which bear the major responsibility and accountability for the success of public education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President, Secretary of Education, the Maryland Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the Maryland General Assembly, local government officials, the State Board of Education, and the State Superintendent of Schools.