



For Immediate Release – Dec. 10, 2015

ANNAPOLIS, MD – The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all 24 local boards of education, is pleased that President Obama has signed a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, known as the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (S.1177). This legislation is the long awaited and overdue update to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

MABE believes the new federal education law strikes a balance between defining federal goals for student learning and providing states and local boards more flexibility in key areas such as testing and accountability. The new law continues to require challenging academic standards and annual statewide assessments for elementary, middle and high school students in mathematics, reading or language arts, and science.

MABE President Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Warner I. Sumpter stated, “The Every Student Succeeds Act is a great improvement over the No Child Left Behind Act. Now local boards can move forward to spend federal dollars in ways that make sense for Maryland, our communities, and most importantly our students.”

Under the new law, Maryland must develop a new plan for increasing the achievement of low-income students and submit the plan to the U.S. Department of Education in order to receive Title I funding. However, an improvement over prior law is the requirement that local boards of education must be directly involved in developing the plan; and that the U.S. Secretary of Education is not directly involved in the review and approval of the plan.

MABE is especially pleased that the new law empowers the state and local boards to adopt strategies to improve low-performing schools; and eliminates the prescriptive sanctions and interventions mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act. Importantly, the new law does not include a provision for Title I portability that would have allowed students the option to transfer to private schools with Title I funds.

MABE extends a special thanks to U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski for her advocacy and leadership in support of legislation that makes sense for Maryland. Senator Mikulski fought for a reauthorization of ESEA which not only strengthens the ability of Maryland’s local boards of education to optimize federal resources to support student learning, but also protects against a \$40 million cut in essential Title I funding.

On behalf of Maryland’s 24 local boards of education, MABE thanks our congressional delegation for supporting the Every Student Succeeds Act and looks forward to future federal, state and local collaboration in the best interest of Maryland’s students.

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Founded in 1957, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to serving and supporting boards of education in Maryland. MABE is a leading advocate for public education in the state. All 24 Maryland boards of education are members of MABE.

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