

## Member Districts

Albuquerque
Anchorage
Arlington, TX
Atlanta
Austin
Baltimore
Birmingham
Boston
Bridgeport
Broward County
Buffalo
Charleston County
Charlotte-Mecklenburg
Cincinnati

Cincinnati **Clark County** Cleveland Columbus Dallas Dayton Denver **Des Moines** Detroit **Duval County** El Paso Fort Worth Fresno **Guilford County** Hillsborough County Honolulu Houston Indianapolis Jackson Jefferson County, KY

Milwaukee
Minneapolis
Nashville
New Orleans
New York City
Newark
Norfolk
Oakland
Oklahoma City
Omaha
Orange County, FL
Palm Beach County
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Portland

Kansas City Long Beach

Los Angeles Miami-Dade County

Orange County, FI
Palm Beach County
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Portland
Providence
Richmond
Rochester
Sacramento
San Antonio
San Diego
San Francisco
Santa Ana
Seattle
Shelby County
St. Louis
St. Paul
Toledo
Washington, D.C.
Wichita

## Council of the Great City Schools®

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 702, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 393-2427 (202) 393-2400 (fax) www.cgcs.org

December 1, 2015

The Honorable John Kline Chairman Education and Workforce Committee U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Scott Ranking Member Education and Workforce Committee U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Lamar Alexander Chairman Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray Ranking Member Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kline, Chairman Alexander, Congressman Scott, and Senator Murray:

The Council of the Great City Schools, the coalition of the nation's largest central city school districts, writes to express support for the pending conference agreement on the Every Student Succeeds Act, albeit with reservations.

The conference agreement will override the inconsistent and arbitrary waiver regime that now dominates the implementation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). School districts should now benefit from the longer-term framework for ESEA that this reauthorization provides, as long as States do not overregulate the new 2015 amendments.

The Great City Schools proposed nearly fifty recommendations to the managers of the conference committee. Some were adopted in whole, some were adopted in part, and some were not adopted at all. The final conference agreement, however, includes a number of unnecessary provisions and a few troubling ones that school districts will find difficult to implement.

Nonetheless, the Council recognizes that the pending Every Student Succeeds Act represents the most practical opportunity for Congress to replace the NCLB Act, and we recommend favorable action in both House and Senate.

Sincerely,

Michael Casserly Executive Director