

No Child Left Behind, Higher Education Act, Perkins Act

July 2015

ESEA/NCLB

Legislation	Major Policy Issues	Major STEM Issues	Coalition Position	Current Status
Elementary and Secondary Education Act (AKA No Child Left Behind)	<p>Principal law governing federal role in K-12 education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets accountability and reporting requirements for states receiving federal funding • Requires states to test all students in core subjects and set goals for every demographic subgroup • Distributes over \$60 billion in federal funding to states based on population and need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Math and Science Testing</u>: Sets the federal testing requirements in math and science • <u>Priority for STEM Activities</u>: Establishes priorities for STEM-related activities across all of K-12 activities • <u>Dedicated Funding for STEM Activities</u>: Provides dedicated funding to states to support STEM-related activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student performance in math and science should be included alongside reading as key elements of federal accountability and testing requirements • The federal government should provide dedicated resources to the states to support STEM-related activities • States should have the flexibility to utilize federal funding to address a wide range of STEM purposes and should incorporate STEM stakeholder input into their plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Child Left Behind has been overdue for reauthorization since 2007 • The Department of Education has been granting individual states temporary “waivers” from current law accountability requirements since 2012. • Both the House and Senate have passed NCLB reauthorization bills • The Senate bill includes the Coalition’s key STEM recommendations • The House bill retains math and science testing but provides no funding priority for STEM activities

HEA

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Higher Education Act	<p>The principal objective of the HEA is to expand postsecondary education opportunity, particularly for low-income individuals, and to increase affordability for moderate income families as well and is a vehicle for national policies to address a range of issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising college costs • The Federal Pell Grant Program • Federal student loans and accountability for graduation rates and student career success • Student loans and personal bankruptcy • Teacher education • Campus safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Preparing the workforce:</u> HEA is a vehicle for building the STEM pipeline and bolster university capacity in STEM fields • <u>STEM Teachers:</u> HEA sets priorities for federal funding for the STEM teacher pipeline. • <u>Diversity in STEM Fields:</u> HEA provides funding to build university capacity to provide more opportunities for under-served populations to study in STEM fields. 	<p>The Coalition has not yet taken a public position on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, but was very active during the previous 2008 reauthorization on the issues mentioned here.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEA was last reauthorized in 2008 and many of its provisions expired in 2012. • There is massive public interest in policy changes that will help control and reduce college costs and improve the employability of college graduates, which is driving Congressional action. • HEA reauthorization has accomplished in an election year in the past, so action in 2016 is possible. • Probably 2nd in line behind ESEA/NCLB

Perkins

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Perkins Act	<p>The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act is the primary dedicated federal funding source for career and technical education (CTE) programs.</p> <p>The Perkins Act authorizes two formula grant programs for states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic state grants are provided to state CTE boards, and are then distributed to local educational agencies and postsecondary institutions to support a number of secondary and postsecondary CTE activities. • Tech Prep grants, which have not been funded since 2010, are used to support consortia of local agencies and postsecondary institutions for the development and operation of programs during the last two years of high school. 	<p><u>Aligning CTE and Workforce Education Programs with the Needs of the Economy</u>: The Perkins Act is seen by many as a dated set of policies that are not sufficiently aligned around supporting the modern technical economy, especially around STEM careers.</p>	<p>The Coalition has taken a public position in support of broadly defined efforts to better align Perkins funding with workforce needs. Further work is needed to refine the Coalition’s position as the legislative prospects for Perkins improve in late 2015 and 2016.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Perkins Act was last authorized by Congress in 2006. • Authorization for the Perkins Act expired at the end of fiscal year (FY) 2012, but Congress has temporarily extended the program through FY 2013 under the General Education Provisions Act. • Probably 3rd in line behind HEA.