



National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.

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NASDSE STATEMENT ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S RELEASE OF 'A BLUEPRINT FOR REFORM' FOR THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

Bill East, Executive Director of the National Association of State Directors of Special Education, released the following statement on **A Blueprint for Reform**, the Obama Administration's proposal for reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA):

"NASDSE applauds the Administration for releasing a *Blueprint* for reauthorizing the ESEA that will help get the ball rolling on the long-overdue reauthorization of this important legislation. We are glad that the *Blueprint* recognizes the importance of ESEA working together with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to ensure that students with disabilities are held to the same high standards as their peers without disabilities.

"However, it is unclear from the *Blueprint* exactly what the expectations for students with disabilities will be and so we will wait for further clarification when more details become available. For example, it is not clear what is meant by the statement that 'districts and schools (will) implement ...locally determined curricula' and how this would differ from ensuring that students with disabilities have access to the core curriculum that is encouraged elsewhere in the *Blueprint*. In addition, while we are pleased that the Administration is supportive of the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), we want to encourage the Administration and Congress to incorporate these principles into the law and make them available for *all* students, not just students with disabilities.

"We look forward to working with the Administration and Congress on the reauthorization of the ESEA to ensure that these two critical laws – ESEA and IDEA – can work more smoothly together so that students with disabilities can continue to make progress and achieve excellent outcomes in both K-12 programs and their post-K-12 school and careers."

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