



Background on Common Core and the Every Child Achieves Act

Under the Every Child Achieves Act (ECAA), states will continue to be free to determine whether to adopt the Common Core, without any interference from the federal government. The ECAA affirms that states determine what challenging academic standards they will adopt. In addition, the bill explicitly states that the federal government may not mandate or incentivize states to adopt or maintain any particular set of standards, including the Common Core. [Senate HELP Committee, 7/15]

- **Affirms that the federal government cannot require states to adopt the Common Core.** The ECAA affirms that the federal government, including the Secretary of Education, cannot mandate or incentivize states to adopt or maintain any particular set of standards, including the Common Core. [Senate HELP Committee, 7/15]
- **Strengthens existing federal law.** The ECAA will strengthen existing federal law that prohibits the federal government from requiring states to adopt a specific set of standards or assessments. Under the ECAA, states will be free to determine whether to adopt the Common Core or any other academic standards, without any interference from the federal government. [Senate HELP Committee, 7/15]
- **Maintains the requirement that states adopt challenging standards.** The ECAA maintains the requirement that states adopt challenging state academic standards in reading, math, and science, and that these standards align with entrance standards at public institutions of higher education, relevant career and technical standards, and relevant early learning guidelines. However, the federal government is prohibited from requiring or incentivizing states to adopt a certain set of academic standards, assessments, or curriculum. [Senate HELP Committee, 7/15]
- **Maintains the prohibitions that already exist in federal law.** There are already several prohibitions in federal law to limit the role of the federal government with respect to the approval of state standards and assessments, control of curriculum, control over educational materials, and the creation of a national test. ESEA also explicitly prohibits the federal government from mandating or controlling a state, school district, or school's curriculum and the ECAA will maintain these prohibitions. [Senate HELP Committee, 7/15; CRS, [9/2/14](#)]