Teacher Empowerment

The Every Student Succeeds Act ensures that teachers’ voices are part of decision-making at the federal, state, and local levels—a major improvement over No Child Left Behind’s one-size-fits-all approach to educating students.

KEY PROVISIONS

- **Moves decision-making** to the people who know the names of the students they educate while maintaining supports that ensure zip codes do not determine the quality of education.
- Incentivizes supports and interventions that are tailored to local needs while preserving the historic federal role in protecting the most vulnerable: children in poverty, students with disabilities, and English-language learners.
- Calls for committees of practitioners where teachers and paraeducators (with recent classroom experience), parents, and community members can work together to improve their local schools.
- Offers grants that could be used to support initiatives to increase diversity in the teaching workforce.
- Makes resources available to states that could be used to develop or strengthen teacher induction and mentoring programs.
- Provides a definition of professional development embedded in research based on standards developed by teachers—for example, Learning Forward’s Standards for Professional Learning.
- Allows district funds to be used to enhance collaboration and teacher-led professional development aligned with students’ learning needs.
- Prohibits the federal government from mandating teacher evaluations or defining teacher effectiveness.
- Expands the reach of collective bargaining to cover:
  - Targeted school supports and improvements in Title I.
  - Professional development, pay based on professional growth, the Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program (formerly called TIF), and all other provisions of contracts impacted by Title II.
  - Community schools in Title IV.
- Requires consultation with organizations representing educators in multiple places, ensuring that teachers and their local unions have a say in decision-making.