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| **Teacher Empowerment** |  |

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**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**
* Protects existing **collective bargaining** and other legal rights in sections covering:
  + 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