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AAP Priorities for ESEA Reauthorization

The AAP School Division and its members strongly support the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Members of the AAP School Division are the nation's leading developers of educational materials, technology-based curricula, and assessments. The instructional programs, services, and assessments developed by AAP members play a critically important role in federal education programs.

AAP members believe ESEA plays an essential role in helping *all* students attain academic proficiency and in closing achievement gaps. **We urge reauthorization to be considered as a national priority and to be completed this year.** AAP has six reauthorization priorities:

1. **Instructional Materials Access & Opportunity:** Textbooks and other instructional materials (IM) are the primary learning tools in the classroom. Unfortunately, many students lack the materials they need to learn, and less than 1% of education funding is spent on IM. Every child in a school not making sufficient academic progress should be provided with up-to-date IM. In addition, state and district report cards should provide information on adequacy and availability of IM.
2. **Comprehensive Reading Program.** AAP supports the Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Act, which has been introduced in the House and Senate (S. 2740 and HR 4037). The legislation is a comprehensive, pre-K-12 bill that features writing and reading and offers alignment from early childhood across all grade levels with support for state literacy plans and money to districts for their self-defined literacy needs.
3. **Expand Math & Science Programs:** New investments must be made in math and science if the U.S. is to remain competitive. AAP recommends authorization of the math intervention programs with funding for literacy instruction as part of professional development programs and instructional materials
4. **Strengthened & Expanded Assessment Systems for Improved Teaching and Learning:** Annual assessments provide teachers and parents with the information they need to make sound decisions regarding the education of students. AAP recommends:
 - Continued funding to update state testing systems, improve assessment for special needs and ELL students, and integrate data systems to enable reporting growth toward attaining standards.
 - Authorize formative and diagnostic assessments for federal funding.
 - Fund expanded state and district data systems to enable teachers to use formative and summative assessment information to focus instruction.
5. **Leverage Technology:** Target investment in technology to build educator capacity, differentiate instruction, assess student performance, and target interventions.
6. **Teacher Quality:** We believe one of the best ways to improve teacher quality is to train teachers and teaching candidates how to use and integrate instructional materials, assessments, and data.

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