

Do you think the 'No Child Left Behind' education law should

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The federal government can no longer threaten to withhold funding as a means to force states to use test scores to evaluate the performance of teachers. The measure *also* would end federal efforts to tie test scores to teacher evaluations.

To complicate matters, a nascent conservative wing of the House GOP was on the brink of ousting former Speaker John Boehner, a key Kline ally and former Education Committee chair.

It's nearly a decade overdue, but the U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to vote later today on a bill to replace the No Child Left Behind law.

"The idea that we would pass a major piece of legislation about education and, in effect, shovel money into states and say, "Do with it what you want", and not have some accountability for how that money is spent, I think, is appalling", Warren said.

"Now, more than ever, individual states must assert their significant but underutilized authority to reject continued federal intrusion in what should be local education policy".

The bill passed Wednesday "retains the annual testing requirements in math and reading", reports the Times. But previous attempts to reauthorize the law have gotten caught in a broader debate over the federal role in public education. States would *also* still be held accountable for closing achievement gaps between low-and high- income students.

Neal McCluskey of the libertarian Cato Institute cautioned that the federal education secretary could still wield too much influence when it comes to monitoring accountability plans for schools. Lawmakers and the public had only two days to read the massive measure prior to the vote.

The reauthorization bill passed the House Wednesday. Officials called the compromise now in play an improvement over the House bill - and a version passed by the Senate. Quick Senate action and a signature from President Obama are expected.

No Child Left Behind, and its waiver process, ushered in by President George W. Bush, put much of the policy-making power, including goal-setting and punishments for under-performing schools, in the hands of the federal government.

In a statement, Gov. Jack Markell said the move was, "long overdue" and the current legislation made it increasingly burdensome for states, "specifically the mandate to negotiate waivers from the unrealistic goal of 100 percent student proficiency".

"Unfortunately, outdated *No Child Left Behind* policies have allowed far too many of our children to continue to fall behind", Esty said.

Many critics of the Common Core Learning Standards are in support of ESSA, since it bars the Education Department from mandating or offering incentives to states for adoption of any particular set of standards, including the Common Core. In those plans, states are required to assure the secretary that the state has adopted challenging academic standards, but they aren't required to submit the standards for review by federal authorities.

States still have to test students in math and reading in Grades 3 through 8 and then one year in high school. Fortunately, the Every Student Succeeds Act includes a number of other programs that will support teachers and students, including a new \$250 million program that recognizes the importance of high-quality early childhood education, funding for audits of testing regimes to reduce overtesting, a new program for evidence-based interventions modeled after the Obama administration's Investing in Innovation program, and a pilot program for improving funding equity in districts. The legislation would encourage states to set limits on the total amount of time students spend taking tests.