ESEA REAUTHORIZATION MUST INCLUDE STRONG MEASURES OF ACCOUNTABILITY

- Congress must pass ESEA legislation that requires states to establish accountability systems that set performance, growth, and graduation targets for all students to ensure that they are college and career ready. Without this type of language, many students could fall further behind their peers, diminishing their chances of attending college.
- Assessments that trigger interventions are an integral part of accountability and ensuring equity and access for students of color.
- While LULAC opposes high stakes testing, it also opposes completely eliminating all requirements for summative or formative assessments that are critical to assessing the performance of students and schools.
- LULAC opposes language that would have the effect of reallocating Title-I funds from high-need schools to lower-need schools through “portability” language.

HEA REAUTHORIZATION

- Any Higher Education Act reauthorization must include strong reforms that increase support and resources for post-traditional students – students at community colleges, part-time students, students who rely on financial aid, etc. Congress must also support strong accountability measures by the Department of Education on for-profit colleges and universities. LULAC also supports making DREAMERs eligible for financial aid resources.
- LULAC supports language similar to Rep. Polis and Castro’s Investing IN States To Achieve Tuition Equity (IN-STATE) for Dreamers Act of 2014 which seeks to incentivize states to provide in-state tuition for DREAMERs.

MONITOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION’S ISSUANCE OF ESEA WAIVERS

- The U.S. Department of Education has granted waivers to states which exempt states from specific accountability requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. These waivers allow states to develop and implement their own plans to monitor student progress and achievement. However, a report by the Campaign for High School Equity (CHSE) has shown that waivers provide less accountability for the educational success of underserved students, including Latino students. Read the report here: www.lulac.org/policy.
- Congress must express concern to the U.S. Department of Education regarding this policy. Congress must monitor the implementation of waivers and finds ways to incentivize states to use data models to keep track of how Latino students are performing. Moreover, effective action plans that help improve the academic performance of struggling students should be developed.

EXPAND STEM EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR LATINO STUDENTS

- Expanding STEM opportunities for underserved students is of vital importance to LULAC and our country as we look to provide our youth with skills that can translate into the comprehensive program for science, technology, education and math (STEM) into the workplace. Read LULAC’s latest report on STEM education here: www.lulac.org/stem.
- Providing resources to help students gain the technological skills needed in this high-tech economy will ensure that Latino students are successful in the 21st century. Support expansion and modernization of programs like E-Rate.

COLLECT BETTER DATA TO BETTER SUPPORT SCHOOLS FOR ALL STUDENTS

- LULAC supports legislation like H.R. 5343, the “All Students Count Act”, introduced in the 113th Congress, that would require states report data that better reflects U.S. demographics by using the U.S. Census race and ethnicity categories and provide cross-tabulations by gender and disability. Current data practices mask the struggles of underserved students, particularly boys and girls of color, by aggregating data.