



United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries



Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

(the law currently called No Child Left Behind)

As Congress reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries asks Congress to:

- **Address public school inequality** by allocating federal resources for equity and pressing states to close opportunity gaps.
- **Allocate Title I funds to support schools serving children in poverty through a fair formula, not a competition.** Poor children should not lose federal support because their state loses a funding competition.
- **Reduce reliance on standardized tests** and test only in ways that improve instruction, measure real performance, and encourage exploration, imagination, and critical thinking.
- **Support and improve, rather than punishing, the public schools in America's poorest communities.**
- **Address issues outside school that affect school achievement** such as racial segregation, concentrated poverty, and the need for pre-school that helps children before they fall behind.
- **Reject market-based, technocratic policies and improve public education as the bedrock of our society and public schools as the anchors of communities.** As a people called to love our neighbors as ourselves, we must insist that Congress balances the needs of each particular child and family with the need to ensure a strong public system that secures the rights and addresses the needs of all children.

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