

Senate Takes Break From ESEA/NCLB Lobbying Efforts Will Renew in 2008

The top two lawmakers on the Senate Education Committee said Friday they are putting off consideration of a new No Child Left Behind law until next year.

Senators Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., have decided that there's not enough time this year to complete work on the legislation, which has not yet been formally introduced.

The five-year-old law, up for a scheduled rewrite, requires math and reading tests in grades three through eight, and once in high school. Schools that miss testing benchmarks face increasingly stiff sanctions. The law, originally passed in 2001, is among President Bush's top domestic policy priorities.

Kennedy, the panel's chairman, had previously said he wanted a bill before the Senate this year. He now is aiming, however, to bring a bill up for consideration early next year, said his spokeswoman, Melissa Wagoner.

However, it may be even more difficult to pass a rewritten No Child bill next year because it is a presidential election year. It is harder to get the bipartisan consensus needed to pass major legislation against the backdrop of an intense presidential campaign.

House lawmakers have not decided whether to keep trying to bring a bill to the floor in what little time is left in this calendar year. They, too, say time is running out.

Lawmakers in both parties - along with the Bush administration - are pushing for important revisions to the law. If the law isn't revised by Congress, the existing law stands. There is broad agreement that the law should be changed to encourage schools to measure individual student progress over time instead of using snapshot comparisons of certain grade levels.

There is consensus, as well, that the law should be changed so that schools that miss progress goals by a little don't face the same consequences as schools that miss them by a lot. Deep divisions remain over some proposed changes, including merit pay for teachers and whether schools should be judged based on test scores in subjects other than reading and math.



MUSD Board Member Marcella Calderon and MTA President Dianne GarciaStevens discuss educational objectives.

bargaining up-

The next date for negotiations is Thursday, November 15. Bargaining Chairperson Terry SalasOrtiz (CCE) says she won't settle until the team is convinced it is the best possible settlement.

The District has begun to work with an Business Division Consultant Steve Hodges.

Revenue and Expense
Open Hearing

Tuesday, November 27
3:30 p.m.

La Merced Intermediate



The MTA Office Will Be Closed

Thursday & Friday, November 22-23

The office will close at 4 p.m. Wednesday, November 21