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TEACH FOR AMERICA STATEMENT ON ESEA REAUTHORIZATION

New York, NY (January 12, 2015) — Teach For America today released the following statement on ESEA reauthorization:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), better known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), is long overdue for Congressional reauthorization, and we owe it to our students, teachers, and families to ensure our nation's education policy is updated and strengthened. Our country, and our children, deserve an ESEA law that ensures equitable funding and high standards for all, and enables high-quality teaching from early learning to ensuring college readiness.

Elisa Villanueva Beard, co-CEO of Teach For America, said, *"As an organization that prepares thousands of teachers each year to teach in high-need schools, and has helped prepare tens of thousands of teachers over the last two decades, we have seen first-hand the importance of a state annual testing requirement, as it provides us with one critical measure to help ensure that our students are learning and our teachers are providing high-quality instruction."*

We support maintaining the annual testing requirement in order to ensure there is yearly transparency for all of our nation's students and that all students' achievement growth is tracked in a comparable manner, providing critical information for educators, parents, and teacher preparation programs. In addition, in order to ensure successful academic outcomes of low-income, minority, special needs, English-language learners, and other subgroups that have historically achieved at lower levels, public data must continue to be disaggregated by subgroup to provide necessary transparency.

In combination with other important laws that serve to improve education for diverse groups of students, ESEA must play a vital role in creating an education system that brings us closer to the day when all students, including those growing up in poverty, get an excellent education. We urge members of Congress to work together in a bipartisan manner to help ensure that all children, regardless of race, national origin, or income, have the ability to succeed, and that all teachers have the resources and the professional development to help them do so.

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About Teach For America

Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding college graduates and professionals to make an initial two-year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity. Today, 10,600 corps members are teaching in 50 urban and rural regions across the country while more than 37,000 alumni work across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).