

A-PLUS Act

The Academic Partnerships Lead Us to Success Act of 2007

A declaration of intent to allow for states to assume autonomy and accountability to parents and the general public.

Introduced by Representative Hoekstra

PURPOSE

A-PLUS provides the State and their local communities with maximum freedom and flexibility to determine how to improve academic achievement and implement education reforms. The bill frees the State from the federal requirements often tied to federal education funding and allows it to implement innovative initiatives developed to meet the unique needs of its particular students.

A-PLUS reduces the regulatory burdens associated with federal financial support of education programs so that local educators and administrators can focus on educating rather than filling out paperwork and complying with federal bureaucratic mandates.

A-PLUS ensures that States are accountable to parents, schools and the public for advancing the academic achievement of all students, especially disadvantaged children, but does so through local accountability plans rather than uniform federal mandates.

SUMMARY

Each State would have the option to submit to the Secretary of Education a declaration of intent, which would authorize the participating State to assume full responsibility for the educational needs of its students.

Through the declaration of intent, a participating State could combine funds from certain federal education programs to be administered at the state level into one funding stream. A participating State would be freed from the requirements of each federal program, allowing the State to use the federal funds on state-driven initiatives to advance its educational priorities.

A State electing not to submit a declaration of intent would be required to comply with the individual federal program mandates as established under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

PROTECTIONS

States will be held accountable by the Secretary of Education to demonstrate transparent accounting measures and that they fully comply with federal civil rights laws.

A-PLUS requires participating States to submit annual reports on student progress and use of funds to parents and the general public to demonstrate how they are narrowing achievement gaps.