

**EDUCATION & LABOR COMMITTEE**

**Congressman George Miller, Chairman**

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**Chairman Kildee Statement at Subcommittee Hearing on the  
“ESEA Reauthorization: Addressing the Needs of Diverse Students”**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *Below are the prepared remarks of U.S. Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI), chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, for a subcommittee hearing on the “ESEA Reauthorization: Addressing the Needs of Diverse Students”*

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I want to welcome everyone to today’s hearing entitled, “ESEA Reauthorization: Addressing the Needs of Diverse Students.”

The timing of this hearing is critically important - as we continue to review the Administration’s blueprint for ESEA reauthorization and work as a Committee to reform our nation’s primary K-12 education law. I hope today’s discussion brings us one step closer to that goal.

I also want to thank our witnesses for taking the time out of their busy schedules to inform this process. We cannot do our jobs well without input from educators, advocates and researchers who are working hard to help all children succeed.

Like many of my colleagues, I am pleased that we are embarking on another bipartisan reauthorization. I have participated in five reauthorizations of ESEA during my time in Congress, and strongly believe this next reauthorization is long overdue.

While the No Child Left Behind Act shed light on the inequalities in our education system, it unfortunately did not do enough to close the achievement gap for diverse students. The federal government has a responsibility before all others to ensure equal opportunity. This must be a top priority for future steps in education reform.

Just as our country grows increasingly diverse, we must ensure that our education system adapts to varying student needs. By strengthening current programs for diverse students and investing in innovative strategies for closing the achievement gap, we have an opportunity to change the future course for millions of students.

I hope we begin with our accountability system, adopting an approach that rewards growth and progress so we can better focus our resources on the districts and schools that need help moving students forward.

We must also explore ways to eliminate the system's inequalities, encouraging a more equitable distribution of resources, expanding access to rigorous curriculum in high-need communities, and providing incentives to improve the distribution of effective teachers.

As we continue to explore these ideas and the many others we will hear in the weeks and months to come, I hope we never lose sight of the opportunity we have before us. We must prepare to do what is right for all students, even if it requires a lot of work and significant change.

Today, we will hear recommendations from a panel of educators, advocates, and a researcher working to close the achievement gap for diverse students. These panelists will help us better understand the challenges facing low-income and minority students, English Language Learners, Students with Disabilities, Native American students and homeless students.

Given the importance of today's topic, I know our panel will give us a lot to think about as we work across the aisle and Capitol to improve our education system.

I look forward to their testimony, and now yield five minutes to my distinguished colleague and Ranking Member Castle from Delaware.