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Comparative Education

### No Child Left Behind/Every Student Succeeds Act

The No Child Left Behind Act was the renewal of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, which was the original large scale education reform act. No Child Left Behind mainly changed Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which was the provision of the original education reform act that provided federal funding to schools with impoverished students. However, other changes were that the act also affected federal funding in general, including a large increase in federal funding. The main change is in the form of annual testing: to receive federal funding, schools must have annual tests in place. In addition, schools that regularly drop in performance will face restructuring.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act, grades 3 through 8 and at least one year in highschool would be tested for meeting standards set by the state. Schools that fall behind the state standards and aren't making progress for 2 years must develop a plan to meet standards, and students are given the option to go to different schools. If there still is no progress, then schools must offer free tutoring to struggling students. After a fourth consecutive year of no progress, schools must partially restructure, replacing staff, bringing new curriculum, or increasing class times. After five consecutive years, plans begin for the school to be completely restructured. After six years of consecutive lack of progress, then the school is completely restructured, becoming a charter school,

becoming a private school, being directly controlled by the department of education of the state that the school is in, or being closed.

The results of the reforms have been positive. According to the independent Center on Education Policy in their report (Answering the Question That Matters Most: Has Student Achievement Increased Since No Child Left Behind? Washington: Center on Education Policy, June 2007) support that there was more growth in performance following the enactment of reforms.

In 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act was the new renewal of Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The main changes were to make federal control of various No Child Left Behind reforms controlled by state governments, giving them more flexibility to help struggling schools as they see fit. It also gave states more freedom to decide what will be tested as standards.

The No Child Left Behind Act carries many of its ideas from Functionalist perspectives. It sets high standards for students, and tries to get as many students as possible to be as educated as possible. This is also balanced by spending a lot of resources to reform underperforming schools, but the overall goal of increasing the amount of students with higher scores is functionalist.