In May of 2010, I wrote a column for the Voice regarding passage of the update to NCLB. Originally this legislation was known as ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) and passed into law in 1965. I know, not many of our colleagues remember that! Can you even recall who was president then? The legislation was to be updated every five years. In 2001, the act was reauthorized and became known as NCLB (No Child Left Behind). Who was president then? I know, only some of our colleagues remember that!

Well, finally, the act has been reauthorized again! This time, the act is known as ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act).

I wrote in 2010: “The events in Washington, DC do affect us and our schools each day. As a principal, it is important for us to be aware of what is happening and how these events will affect our students, teachers and us!” This is still true today.

Now the next question is: How are the changes in the act going to affect us and our schools. There is a fact sheet at the Education Dept website: https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-congress-acts-fix-no-child-left-behind

In what I have read, the act gives more authority to states (DPI) and local education agencies (school boards) and takes authority away from the US Department of Education. My reading of reports indicated that the act will affect every aspect of public schooling when it takes effect during the 2017-18 school year: accountability, testing, teacher quality, research, regulation, funding, early-childhood education and student groups that lag behind their peers.

It is my belief that not all the rules and procedures have been developed at this point and we will see more coming out piecemeal over the next several months (years?). Sometimes, one has to be careful what one wishes for!

A delegation of the NDAESP Board will be attending the NAESP Leadership Conference in March. I am sure we will get a briefing of what the NAESP leadership sees happening with the new legislation and be asked to speak with our senators and congressman regarding the legislation.

As I said in one of my earlier columns: The fun continues!