



# FACT SHEET

## EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

### **REDUCING THE FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION**

#### **THE PROBLEM:**

The federal government plays an important role in ensuring states and school districts provide a quality education to all children, including the disadvantaged or those with disabilities. However, decades of increased federal spending, intervention, and regulation has failed to improve schools' ability to prepare students for life. Teachers and administrators are bogged down with burdensome, outdated mandates. Budgetary shortfalls and strict regulations have made it difficult for schools to prioritize funding streams for the most effective initiatives. Parents are rightly frustrated with the state of their children's underperforming public schools.

#### **THE SOLUTION:**

Lawmakers and bureaucrats in the nation's capital will never have the same integral understanding of the diverse needs of students in cities like New Orleans, Indianapolis, or Tampa Bay as the teachers, administrators, and parents who spend time with them every day. The Student Success Act and the Encouraging Innovation and Effective Teachers Act will reduce the size and scope of the federal role in education and put more control back in the hands of state and local leaders who know our children best.

#### **THE STUDENT SUCCESS ACT AND THE ENCOURAGING INNOVATION AND EFFECTIVE TEACHERS ACT**

- ✓ Prioritizes state and local decision-making by scrapping the federally dictated accountability and school improvement system, instead requiring states to develop and implement individual systems that are more closely aligned with local priorities.
- ✓ Repeals federal funding requirements that arbitrarily restrict state and local policy makers' ability to set their own budget priorities.
- ✓ Consolidates most federal K-12 education programs - many of which have conflicting eligibility and reporting requirements - into one flexible grant that states and school districts can apply toward local priorities.
- ✓ Reins in the secretary of education by prohibiting the secretary from coercing states into adopting specific academic standards and imposing extraneous conditions on state and school districts in exchange for a waiver of K-12 education law. Additionally, removes the secretary's authority to add new requirements to federal programs and sets specific procedures the secretary must follow when issuing federal regulations or conducting peer review processes for grant applications.
- ✓ Grants school districts the freedom to distribute federal funds based on the needs of their own student populations, giving superintendents and principals the freedom to use federal funding for groups such as English learners, migrant students, and Native Americans to support a better classroom experience for those populations.