

## **S.893 A-PLUS comparison to H.R.1539 A-PLUS**

- 1. Purposes:** The stated purposes are essentially the same. They include references to “boosting,” “improving,” and “advancing” academic achievement. Neither bill describes its fundamental purpose as closing achievement gaps.

### **S.893**

#### **2. Definitions:**

- a. Since S.893 uses “Performance Agreements” instead of H.R. 1539’s “Declaration of Intent,” there is no definition of “Declaration of Intent.”
- b. S.893 has no definition of the term “Accountability,” it retains the definition under current NCLB law. This is the heart of the matter.

### **H.R.1539**

- a. H.R.1539 departs from NCLB’s definition, instead defining it this way:  
“The term ‘accountability’ means that public schools are answerable to parents and other taxpayers for the use of public funds and shall report student progress to them regularly.”

#### **3. Accountability System:**

- a. S.893 requires an accountability system that is either the current AYP or another measure of individual student achievement: progress over time or individual student comparison assessment.

- a. H.R.1539 requires the State to describe the State’s own accountability system for maintaining direct accountability to parents and other citizens of the State.

#### **4. Reporting:**

- a. S.893 requires the State to report annually to *the Secretary, parents, and the general public* a disaggregated description of how the State has used Federal funds to improve academic achievement, *narrow achievement gap*, and improve educational opportunities for the disadvantaged.

- a. H.R.1539 requires reporting *to parents and the general public* a disaggregated description of student progress and a description of how the State has used Federal funds to improve academic achievement, *reduce achievement disparities* between various student groups, and improve educational opportunities for the disadvantaged.

### **5. Performance Agreement (S.893):**

The state must submit an application. The application shall include:

- a. A list of programs for which the State will receive federal funds on a consolidated basis.
- b. *A description of the State's accountability system to the Secretary.*
- c. An assurance of fiscal control and fund accounting procedures.
- d. An assurance that all Civil Rights laws will be followed.
- e. An assurance that the State will continue to pursue the goal of improving educational opportunities for the disadvantaged.

**The Secretary must approve or disapprove the performance agreement.**

### **6. Programs eligible for consolidated funds:**

- a. S.893: any program for which Congress makes funds available to the State if the program is for a purpose described in section 1001 of the Elementary and Education Secondary Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301).

### **7. Participation by Private Schools:**

- a. S.893 provides participation of private school students and teachers as dictated by section 9501 of NCLB (20 U.S.C.)

### **Declaration of Intent (H.R.1539):**

The declaration of intent shall include:

- a. A list of programs for which the State will receive federal funds on a consolidated basis to manage the expenditure of such *funds to advance the educational policy of the State*
- b. An assurance of fiscal control and fund accounting procedures.
- c. An assurance that all Civil Rights laws will be followed.
- d. An assurance that the State will seek to advance educational opportunities for the disadvantaged.

**The Secretary must review the declaration of intent and recognize that it meets the definitions of the law.**

- a. H.R.1539: any program for which Congress makes funds available to the State if the program is for a purpose described in section 1001 of the Elementary and Education Secondary Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301). *A State may not include any program funded pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.).*

- a. H.R.1539 provides distribution in an equitable manner as determined by the State, participation of private schools, and the students and staff of such schools.