

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
Education 

NEWS RELEASE

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KEN JAMES' STATEMENT ON CCSSO RECOMMENDATIONS

"As a board member of the Council of Chief State School Officers, I am proud of the substantive recommendations we are making to Congress as it looks at reauthorization of the landmark No Child Left Behind legislations. And as Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education, I am hopeful that these suggestions will be incorporated into the future version of the federal law in order that we might achieve the admirable goal of educating each child to a proficient or advanced level while increasing the flexibility by which states and schools have to do that.

"In CCSSO's deliberations, one over-riding theme that guided the construction of this document is that the ultimate reason for accountability is the advancement of each and every child, not the labeling of schools. That's why this document urges flexibility in how schools are held accountable in the treatment of children with special needs – both students with disabilities and students who are learning the English language. We also hope Congress will see fit to differentiate schools who miss adequate yearly progress because of low scores in one or two subgroups as opposed to low scores across much of the student body.

"No Child Left Behind has been a positive influence on education, especially in regard to driving standards-based education in every school as well as enforcing needed accountability for the performance of all students. I believe that the incorporation of these suggestions will strengthen NCLB and allow it to better produce the results it was originally intended to produce."

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The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.