

# Republican Lawmakers Attack Obama's Education Law

## As Educators Work to Improve ESSA, Republicans Vote to Weaken the Law

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Contributor

**W**ithout hesitation, Jill Lauren said that the most critical program that should be included under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is proper reading instruction beginning in kindergarten.

"We know that children learn to read by using either a whole language or phonics approach. Some kids seem to pick up reading, as if by magic, while others need every sound and syllable rule explicitly taught," said Lauren, who holds a bachelor's of science and master's degree in learning disabilities from Northwestern University.

Known as an expert in reading and writing, Lauren has trained teachers around the country to utilize a variety of structured, multi-sensory approaches to the instruction of reading and written language.

"Teachers of pre-K to [third grade] need to know how to teach both methodologies of reading instruction," said Lauren. "Every child entering third grade should be reading on grade level, meaning we have four years to properly teach kids how to read."

Lauren continued: "Without the essential skill of reading on grade level, the rest of a child's school years will be troubled, and statistics show that most youth offenders, as well as adult inmates, struggle with literacy. This educational failing is a national tragedy."

Lauren's concerns come as Education Week reported a push by Republicans in Congress to overturn accountability regulations for ESSA could have far-reaching consequences for how the law works in states, and the potential end of the much-contested rules is dividing the education community.

Groups supporting the move argue that it would free schools from unnecessary burdens, while opponents contend that overturning the rules could hurt vulnerable students and create turmoil in states and districts trying to finalize their transition to ESSA, the 2015 law that replaced the No Child Left Behind Act.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association



The House of Representatives recently approved a joint resolution that would overturn ESSA accountability rules issued by the Obama administration. In this photo, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-Wisc.) takes his oath of office following his election as Speaker on October 29, 2015.

tion (NNPA), comprised of 211 African American-owned media companies and newspapers, recently received a \$1.5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support a three-year, multi-media public awareness campaign focusing on the unique opportunities and challenges of ESSA.

Bridging the academic achievement gap in education K-12 for African-American students and others from disadvantaged communities is of critical importance over the next several years, said Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president and CEO of the NNPA.

"The ESSA law was established to help increase the effectiveness of public education in every state," said Chavis. "Our task is to inform, inspire, and encourage parents, students, teachers, and administrators to fulfill the intent and objectives of ESSA with special focus on those students and communities that have been marginalized and underserved by the education system across the nation."

Under ESSA, states will adhere to more flexible federal regulations that provide for improved elementary and secondary education in the nation's public schools.

ESSA, which also reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), received bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2015.

The regulations are administered by the U.S. Department of Education and ESSA goes into full effect at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

Last week, the House of Representatives approved a joint resolution that would overturn ESSA account-

states the timeline for addressing underperforming schools, how schools

must be rated, the ways English-language learners must be considered

in state accountability plans, and other policy issues.

### SHOWTIMES



The Week of  
Friday, Feb. 24 through  
Thursday, March 2, 2017

**SILENCE (R)**

Fri-Thur: 1:10, 9:10

**PASSENGERS (PG-13)**

Fri-Thur: 11:50, 6:40, 9:40

**MOANA (PG)**

Fri-Thur: 11:35, 2:05, 5:00, 7:25

**FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (PG-13)**

Fri-Sa, Mon-Thur: 2:15, 6:55  
Sun: 2:15

**LOVING (PG-13)**

Fri-Sa, Mon-Thur: 4:20

**THE EAGLE HUNTRESS (G)**

Fri-Thur: 11:15, 4:40

**SID AND NANCY (R)**

Fri-Thur: 9:50

**THE 2017 OSCARS (NR)**

Sun: 4:00

\$4.00 adults, \$3.00 senior citizens (65+), \$3.00 for kids (12 & under)

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### What's Happening:

**18th**

**DNA DAY 1:** Comparing the Three Testing Companies; Basics of Y-DNA and mtDNA; atDNA Basics; Organizing Data & Contacting Matches; Discovering My Birth Family through DNA Testing

**19th**

**DNA DAY 2:** Convincing Family & Strangers to Test & Why; The Four Autosomal DNA Testing Companies; Examples of How Autosomal DNA Testing Solved Genealogical Problems; GEDmatch; DNA Q & A

**20th**

Start with the Census; Immigration & Naturalization; History of Railroads in the US; Ports & Shipping

**21st**

GFO Website & Catalog; Facebook 101; Facebook 102; Create a Blog

**22nd**

Cemetery Research; FindaGrave.com; Intro to Photoshop Elements; Intro to Heritage Makers Books; GFO's Resources

**23rd**

Mexican History for Genealogists; Intro to Mexican Records; Intro to Probate Records; Intro to Military Records

**24th**

Genealogy Basics; Genealogy for Beginners & More; Using a Timeline; Organizing All That Stuff

**25th**

French Prairie; The French-Canadian Collection at the GFO; Membership Meeting; British Events Leading to Migration

**26th**

Ancestry.com; FindMyPast.com; One-Step Webpages of Stephen Morse; HistoryGeo.com; FamilySearch.org

**CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CALENDAR FOR CLASS TIMES & MORE INFO**

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