

Academic Partnership Lead Us to Success (A-PLUS) Act of 2007

Purpose

The purpose of the A-PLUS Act is three fold. First, A-PLUS gives states maximum freedom in to implement initiatives that work in their individual state. Secondly, A-PLUS reduces regulatory burdens associated with federal education programs so educators can focus on teaching rather than filling out paperwork. Finally, A-PLUS ensures that states are accountable to schools, parents and the general public for advancing the academic achievement of all students, especially disadvantaged children.

Performance Agreements

A-PLUS is similar to the concept of charter schools in that states sign a 5-year performance agreement with the Secretary in exchange for flexibility. In turn, the legislation would allow states to use federal funds for proven state education programs and reduce the regulatory burdens placed on states by focusing on performance over compliance.

The performance agreement shall waive the requirements of any program included within the scope of the agreement as long as those funds are used to advance the education priorities of the state, improve student academic achievement and narrow the achievement gaps. The performance agreement will also demonstrate the state's accountability system and the academic achievement goals to be reached.

Accountability

Accountability and student achievement will remain a high priority with A-PLUS. Each state participating in A-PLUS will need to demonstrate their accountability system. Under A-PLUS, states would have the option to utilize that adequate yearly progress model or another model of measurement that illustrates individual student progress or student progress relative to students in other states. A-PLUS requires states to submit annual reports on student progress and use of funds to parents, the general public and the Secretary.