

March 20, 2007

The Oakland Education Association supports federal funding of public education and supports passage of ESEA legislation without the NCLB punitive measures, emphasis on high stakes testing, and embrace of privatization and profiteering.

OEA specifically opposes NCLB's imposition of punitive measures that have decimated conditions in inner city schools, caused wholesale school closures that qualitatively increase instability in inner city areas, created opportunities for charter schools, and hit hardest at poor and minority schools, students and families.

We also oppose NCLB's emphasis on high stakes testing, which has led to harmful and dangerous pseudo-educational practices (e.g., teaching to the test; scripted learning; narrowly focusing on rote learning of two subjects [reading and arithmetic] to the exclusion of electives like music and art and even of history and foreign languages).

Finally, we oppose NCLB's promotion of privatization and profiteering in public education (e.g., outsourcing of tutoring to private companies is mandatory for Program Improvement schools).

All of these have led us dangerously down the road to destruction of public education. Removal of these sanctions is a prerequisite for real improvement and achievement in our nation's public schools.

Therefore, and in the above context:

(1) The OEA Executive Board supports the Educator Roundtable anti-NCLB petition.

Such support will include:

- (a) a public endorsement (including giving Educator Roundtable permission to cite this endorsement, e.g. on its web site);
- (b) organizing support for the petition inside CTA, including contacting and working with other CTA locals to build such support.

(2) The OEA Executive board supports Educator Roundtable's proposal to focus on Oakland as a clear example of the adverse effect NCLB/high-stakes testing has on inner city schools and kids, and welcomes Educator Roundtable's offer to assist OEA in organizing a publicity campaign against NCLB (e.g., helping with press releases, op ed pieces, videos).