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**The Learning First Alliance Urges U.S. Secretary of Education to Provide  
Regulatory Relief in the Absence of Swift Reauthorization of the  
Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**

***Tired of waiting, sixteen education organizations come together to ask for swift ESEA  
reauthorization or immediate regulatory relief around No Child Left Behind***

**Washington, D.C. – May 24, 2011** – Sixteen member organizations of the Learning First Alliance (LFA), a partnership of national education associations representing more than ten million parents, educators and policymakers, community and state leaders, sent a formal letter to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan asking the Department of Education, in the absence of reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) prior to the start of the 2011-12 school year, to offer regulatory relief to schools who struggle with the demands of No Child Left Behind.

The Alliance has urged Secretary Duncan to exercise his authority and address the act's current flaws that tie up scarce resources with unnecessary regulatory compliance, counterproductive sanctions, and reporting that does little to contribute to student success.

LFA believes the intent of ESEA is to ensure that all students are held to high achievement standards and there is accountability for every student's success. The letter to Secretary Duncan suggests improvements in support of educators, student learning and local public school reform, while relieving districts and states from overly burdensome regulations.

"As a coalition, we are dedicated to ensuring high-quality public education for every student," said Cheryl Williams, Executive Director of the Learning First Alliance. "This request for

regulatory relief is predicated on the Alliance’s desire to help schools to teach and students to learn more effectively.”

**About the Learning First Alliance:**

The Learning First Alliance is a partnership of 17 leading education associations with more than 10 million members dedicated to improving student learning in America's public schools.

Alliance members who signed on to this letter are: the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, American Association of School Administrators, American Association of School Personnel Administrators, American School Counselor Association, Association of School Business Officials International, International Society for Technology in Education, Learning Forward (formerly National Staff Development Council), National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of State Boards of Education, National Education Association, National Middle School Association, National School Public Relations Association, National PTA, National School Boards Association and Phi Delta Kappa International. The Alliance maintains [www.learningfirst.org](http://www.learningfirst.org), a website that features what’s working in public schools and districts across the country.

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