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CREEED STATEMENT ON THE SIGNING OF THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

Bill will help create greater opportunity for every student to succeed

WASHINGTON – Today, President Barack Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a bill to reauthorize the federal education law known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which passed both chambers of Congress with bipartisan support. The Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREEED) applauds the key provisions in ESSA that support dual enrollment/early college and STEM/computer coding.

CREEED had previously written to the chairs of the committees of jurisdiction to express their views on some key programs of interest in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Local business and civic leaders came together to form CREEED to help address persistent issues that make it difficult for the region's public school students to succeed in the competitive global economy and is pleased by the steps this bill takes toward addressing these problems.

"Today, Washington came together to take a bold, positive step toward creating the education system of tomorrow. The Every Student Succeeds Act will help ensure all students have an equal opportunity to a high-quality public education regardless of where they live," said **CREEED Chairman Richard A. Castro**. "We are pleased that the bill includes language that will advance and improve dual enrollment and STEM education. Our students and workforce will benefit tremendously from initiatives that promote college completion and emphasize the science, technology, engineering, and math fields."

Key provisions in ESSA that support dual enrollment/early college and STEM/computer coding include:

- Allowing secondary schools to use their Title I funds to operate dual or concurrent enrollment programs that address the needs of low-achieving secondary school students and those at risk of not meeting the challenging State academic standards.
- Including as an allowable use of funds under Title III, Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students, “Offering early college high school or dual or concurrent enrollment programs or courses designed to help English learners achieve success in postsecondary education.”
- Including as an allowable use of funds under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program (after school), programs that build skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to as ‘STEM’), including computer science, and that foster innovation in learning by supporting nontraditional STEM education teaching methods.
- Including as an allowable use of funds by school districts under Title IV’s Well-Rounded Educational Opportunities, programming, and activities to improve instruction and student engagement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science, (referred to as ‘STEM subjects’) such as –
 - increasing access for students through grade 12 who are members of groups underrepresented in such subject fields, such as female students, minority students, English learners, children with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students, to high-quality courses;
 - supporting the participation of low-income students in nonprofit competitions related to STEM subjects (such as robotics, science research, invention, mathematics, computer science, and technology competitions);
 - providing hands-on learning and exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and supporting the use of field-based or service learning to enhance the students’ understanding of the STEM subjects.

Other provisions that support dual enrollment/early college and STEM/computer coding can be seen [here](#).