



## Principles for Reauthorization of the Education Sciences Reform Act (ESRA)

[Knowledge Alliance](#) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization committed to the greater use of research-based knowledge in education policy and practice. We believe the effective development, dissemination, and use of research-based knowledge is essential to improving instruction and increasing student achievement. With that in mind, we believe the reauthorization of ESRA is long overdue. Our nation's education research infrastructure must be updated to meet the pressing needs arising from the pandemic, address racial and social inequities and be aligned to current federal education law to be prepared for future critical events that can dramatically upend how schools operate.

Despite having bipartisan support and passing both chambers of Congress during different sessions, the Strengthening Education through Research Act (SETRA) that reauthorizes ESRA was not enacted. Knowledge Alliance urges the 117th Congress to begin its ESRA reauthorization negotiations with SETRA as a starting point with an openness to modifications. We believe SETRA made some positive changes to current law, including promoting education research and evaluation programs within the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) that allow for the support of evidence-based policymaking and provide federally funded research providers with the flexibility to be responsive to the needs of states, districts, and schools in their various school improvement efforts to improve teaching and learning.

### ***Knowledge Alliance recommends the following principles in your efforts to reauthorize ESRA:***

1. Increase the federal investment in research, development, dissemination and technical assistance to support states, districts, educators, students and families.
2. Drive effectiveness and efficiency in every Federal education program by aligning and coordinating the use of evidence across the board.
3. Ensure a strong definition of scientifically-valid research.
4. Maintain the independence of IES and its basic structure while promoting and incentivizing the responsiveness and usefulness of research.
5. Strengthen existing language in ESRA to support robust research that protects student privacy.
6. Improve the ability of Regional Educational Laboratories (RELS) to serve their stakeholders effectively.
7. Strengthen the ability of Comprehensive Centers (CC's) to:
  - Partner effectively with the primary stakeholders of CCs – State Education Agencies (SEAs) – to jointly drive the work.
  - Respond quickly and efficiently to SEA needs.
  - Support effectively state implementation of Federal programs.



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