



1129 20th Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3425
(202) 973-9700

www.nais.org

July 16, 2013

To: The Honorable Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

Re: H.R. 5, *Student Success Act*

As the House of Representatives prepares to consider the *Student Success Act* (H.R. 5), the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) wishes to express support for the provisions included in the bill that provide equitable services to students and teachers in independent private schools.

Section 120 of the bill, which amends Section 1120 (20 U.S.C 6320) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, as well as Section 501, which offers a host of general provisions, including amendments to Section 9501 (20 U.S.C. 7881) of ESEA, together contain important changes that would provide more clarity, timeliness, assurances, equity, and overall improvements to the provision of services to private school children and their teachers.

When ESEA was first enacted, Congress determined that federal education aid should be directed in an equitable way toward helping *all* children in need, regardless of the type of school they attend. That principle of equitably shared funding and services governed the implementation of ESEA from 1965 until its most recent iteration, the *No Child Left Behind Act*, when certain funding formulas and set-asides began to erode equity. The provisions in H.R. 5 would help correct those inequities and would strengthen the safeguards designed to ensure equity.

By way of background, the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) provides services to more than 1,700 schools and associations of schools in the United States and abroad, including 1,400 independent private K-12 schools in the U.S. Independent schools are non-profit private schools that are self-determining in mission and program. They are governed by independent boards. Approximately 569,000 students attend NAIS member schools.

Thank you for continuing to ensure equitable services to students and teachers in independent and private schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John E. Chubb', written in a cursive style.

John E. Chubb
President, NAIS