



2001 'No Child Left Behind' Education Law Rewritten

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Copy Editor

Former president George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, which affects how federal funds are spent in public schools, was rewritten on July 19 by the House of Representatives. This change occurred because the Republicans wanted to renovate the original law

to reduce federal involvement in education issues; however, it was met with resistance from the Democrats.

The Republicans and the Democrats both agreed that, despite the successes that were garnered in improving achievement levels, the law was too inflexible and required a major overhaul.

The NCLB Act required all students to have the appropriate reading and math skills for their grade level by 2014. However, last year, the Obama administration argued that this objective

was unattainable. Last year, it began to offer waivers to states that created their own federally approved plans to measure student and teacher performance for college and careers, ensuring that students are prepared.

House Republicans voted to dismantle the original NCLB Act because they felt that the states and local school districts, rather than Washington, should be the ones creating the rules to ensure that students are receiving a quality education.

The new bill would get rid of

more than 70 elementary and secondary educational programs. Instead, grant money will be given to the states and school districts to improve the areas they deem necessary. Additionally, the bill would eliminate federally required testing of students and the adequate yearly progress criteria. Furthermore, the bill would encourage high-quality charter schools to expand, thus

Although the school district is still in the process of working on the changes, they have notified the schools that there will be many professional changes and more timelines which to adhere.

"Overall, I just want what best serves kids," Principal Duane Russell said.

However, the Obama administration said the revised NCLB law is a step backwards in terms

of the efforts to better prepare students for colleges, careers and improvements to low-performing schools. Democrats also argued that the legislation would lower the spending levels for education and would not hold the states and schools accountable for ensuring that the students are learning.

Though the modified law was voted against by every Democrat and 12 Republicans, the revised law

still passed with a 221-207 vote. Despite their loss, the Democrats are working on their own act. Their act contains similar aspects to the Republicans' act in that it would also give the states more flexibility to advocate school improvement standards. However, their bill allows the federal education secretary to be in control and to approve of any plans. Nevertheless, it is unlikely that a Senate vote will occur until autumn.

PROS:

- States and local school districts create the rules instead of Washington.
- The expansion of high-quality charter schools gives parents more schools to choose from.
- Standardized tests set baseline standards for achievement for each grade level.

CONS:

- Standardized tests do not measure the broad range of skills that students acquire in the classroom.
- The NCLB Act causes teachers to 'teach to the test'.
- There is a potential loss of educational opportunities for the disabled, low-income and English language learners.
- The revised NCLB Act does not hold states and school districts responsible for ensuring that students learn at their respective grade level.

giving parents a wider range

of schools to choose from in order to find one that would suit their student's needs.

Therefore, California and the Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) will have the power to develop their own plans and strategies in order to improve school and student performances.

"This will allow us to set educational goals that are reasonable, so that students do not get discouraged," science teacher Daniel Hyke said.

MOOR graphic by Simon Zhao

Creatine Supplement Conflict Results in New Football Coaching Staff

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With less than seven weeks before their first game of the season, AHS' football team lost its entire coaching staff on July 9.

According to Principal Duane Russell, the staff was dismissed for providing seven players with creatine, an over-the-counter supplement that is used to help build muscle mass. Under CIF State rule 22B12, it is a violation of the coaches code of ethics to provide anything other than

"non-muscle building nutritional supplements."

"Although I can't make definite promises, [...] I can promise a safe learning environment for [AHS] students," Russell said. "What our coaches did was unacceptable and we need to hold them accountable."

The issue arose when it was discovered that one of the players did not receive parental consent. Upon discovery, the parents con-

fronted school officials for action. According to the Pasadena Star News, Head Coach Chuck Leonardis, Athletic Department

“[W]e need to hold [our coaches] accountable.”
-Principal Duane Russell

Chair Jerry DeSantis and Russell met after practice on July 9; later that day, the entire staff was fired.

"This is our best coaching staff [that] I've had in the past three

AHS Under New Principal's Administration

DIANA LI
News Editor

After former Principal Brad Walsh left AHS, a new administrator arrived to continue AHS' legacy. Though Principal Duane Russell is new to AHS, he is not inexperienced with the roles of teaching and administrating.

Russell began his career in education in 1986, when he became a teacher at his alma mater, Northview High School, in Covina. He later taught various subjects at Mark Keppel High School (MKHS), including social studies, English, physical education and special education.

However, Russell did not limit himself to academic teaching; during his time at MKHS, he also coached football, baseball, basketball, swimming, track and

field, wrestling and softball. His interest in teaching was sparked by his pursuit of coaching football. He was initially named assistant football coach of MKHS, but later became the head coach.

Over the years, Russell has spent 17 years teaching and 12 years administrating. After working at MKHS for 24 years, he also worked at Century High School and Mountain View High School. He was the principal of both high schools, with each term lasting two years.

Russell hopes to ensure that students will enjoy their time and experience at AHS.

"I want our students to achieve, I want our students to be involved and I want our kids to be connected to Alhambra High School," Russell said.

MOOR graphic by GEN THIPATIMA

New Kickoff Event Welcomes Freshmen

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The new school year brings along new freshmen, many who may be intimidated by AHS' unfamiliar campus. This year, in order to make this transition less daunting, Associated Student Body (ASB) organized "High School 101," a freshman kickoff event.

A week before the first day of school, incoming freshmen and their parents were invited to the event, which took place on Aug. 8. Through campus tours, dance performances and a club fair, ASB hoped to rally excitement among freshmen about their new school.

High School 101 was created to be more efficient than previous kickoff days, which took place during the school year. With the event held in the

summer, ASB members were not pulled out of their classes to give tours and help out.

"I did enjoy seeing the [variety] of clubs and the teams perform," freshman Jennifer Nguyen said, who attended the kickoff event. "They did quite a nice job [of] introducing [the school]."

High school can be intimidating, but ASB tries to have freshmen feel comfortable at AHS regardless. Christina Eng, ASB assistant to Commissioner of Clubs, stresses that staff and ASB members will always be available if any help is needed.

"Don't be scared to approach us because we'll always be welcoming," Eng said.

Despite the pressures of high school, ASB hopes that freshmen will be able to enjoy their time at AHS.

MOOR graphic by SYDNEY LI

every morning at 5 a.m., working out [...]; now it feels like the only people who were doing that with us [are] gone just like that," said senior running back Jimmy Calderon.

Despite the incident, the team met its new coaching staff on July 15 and has been working hard since.

"At the end of the day the situation is out of our hands and the only thing we can do now is [...] go show what a Moor stands for and bring a championship back to Alhambra," Calderon said.

years playing at Alhambra," said senior outside linebacker Chris Salazar. "These are not only our coaches, but they are family."

A meeting was held later that same day, during which school officials addressed parental concerns.

Many parents and players criticized the unfairness of valuing one family's opinion more than all of the other involved families.

"It's unfair [that] we put the time and effort into waking up