

## Statement on withdrawal of state's NCLB waiver

**April 24, 2014**

*School directors across Washington are disappointed by the withdrawal of the NCLB waiver announced today. Though fiscal impacts will certainly be felt by large and small districts alike, the most damaging effect may be the impact on the perception of public schools.*

*There is some irony in the fact that our students' broad success has recently been recognized by education authorities across the nation, including Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Yet next year nearly every Washington school will be required to send notification of their failing status to each student's family as we revert back to the penalties imposed by the ill-conceived and punitive 2002 law known as No Child Left Behind.*

*Before we expend too much energy casting aspersions about who is responsible for the loss of the waiver, we should consider the reason it exists: An entire generation of children have passed through public schools in the US without reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.*

*Washington may be the first to lose our waiver status and let's remember that the waiver is only a stop-gap, imperfect solution to the larger problem. Our collective response to the loss of the NCLB Waiver should be to demand reauthorization of ESEA, affirming our commitment to an excellent, free and equitable education for all of America's children.*



**Mari Taylor**

**WSSDA President**