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**Statement of EIA Executive Director Steven Pines
On Obama Administration Plans to Offer Waivers from *No Child Left Behind* and Its SES Provisions**

The Obama Administration last week repeatedly used the words “flexibility” and “relief” in its announcement that the U.S. Department of Education would soon grant to states waivers from the requirements of the “No Child Left Behind” education law.

The words sound great, but make no mistake: when it comes to the law’s requirement that after-school tutoring be provided to students who attend failing schools, the only ones who will enjoy flexibility and relief will be the education administrators running our nation’s public schools. Parents and students stuck in failing schools will likely encounter ***inflexibility*** when they try to re-enroll for federally funded free tutoring as administrators ***relieve*** them of their right to select from among numerous approved providers of what is called supplemental educational services.

The Education Industry Association (EIA), many of whose members for the last nine years have served as providers of supplemental educational services to our nation’s most deserving students, call on President Obama, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan and the nation’s governors to maintain, improve, and grow the highly successful supplemental educational services program.

Here’s why:

- **SES has a record of success and is working for low-income families** – More than 2 million students and their families (since its inception), including approximately 600,000 this year alone, can attest to the positive impact SES has had on their attitude toward learning, academic skills, and achievement in school. In a March, 2011 report, *Supplemental Educational Services in Five Waiver Districts*, the U.S. Department of Education said that the vast majority of students participating in SES are from underrepresented, minority backgrounds, and that SES participation and achievement gains were statistically significant in both reading and math.
- **SES represents a very real, tangible choice for families with few other choices** – The Department’s plans to offer waivers from *No Child Left Behind* threaten the one real choice and program parents have available to them now: SES. Allowing states and school districts to turn their backs on SES means taking away a parent’s voice and influence over the child’s education.

With his announcement of waivers, EIA wonders how U.S. Education Secretary Duncan can claim he has not gutted parental options offered by *No Child Left Behind*.

- **SES has made a significant economic impact in the communities in which it operates** – EIA research among members indicates that tens of thousands of part time SES instructors – the overwhelming majority of whom are certified teachers who belong to teachers unions such as the NEA and AFT –each received, on average, almost \$3,900 in supplemental income during the 2008-2009 school year. When the Obama Administration talks about job creation and protection, it should remind itself that the SES program has an impact on future job opportunities for students, and on the immediate financial stability of our hard-working teachers.

As we have since the inception of SES in 2002, EIA and our member organizations will continue to fight on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of students and their families for whom federally funded after-school tutoring represents their only real path toward academic success.

For more information on the Education Industry Association, please visit www.educationindustry.org or call 1-800-858-3340.

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