



Literacy Education Advocacy Day — April 22, 2010

The National Council of Teachers of English asks you to take two important actions on behalf of literacy learners and teachers across grade levels and in all content areas. NCTE members, 50,000 strong, encourage both actions as essential elements of reauthorizing ESEA.

Cosponsor and vote for LEARN Act. (HR 4027; S2740)

Important elements of LEARN:

- Demonstrates the interdependent and reciprocal relationship of reading and writing
- Requires instruction that is developmentally and contextually appropriate and meaningfully engages students
- Recognizes the importance of literacy in all content areas
- Connects literacy learning across all grade levels

Support teachers as professionals in defining teacher effectiveness.

1. The definition of teacher effectiveness needs to include such **professional practices** as:

- Applying deep content knowledge
- Using pedagogical and assessment strategies that enable diverse students to meet learning goals
- Engaging continuously in and applying knowledge from professional learning
- Participating in teacher learning communities to plan, assess, and improve instruction
- Connecting students' in-school and out-of-school learning
- Incorporating current technologies in learning and teaching

2. The definition of teacher effectiveness includes **impact on student learning** fairly and fully determined through balanced assessment. Consider the following points:

- Formative assessment generated or selected by teachers is embedded within learning activities and provides information for immediate adjustment of instruction and learning.
- No one test score is determinant of a teacher's success with students.
- Examining student work products in terms of learning objectives and rubrics for achievement enables accurate description of student learning.
- Performance assessment in which teachers' actual practice is observed over time with transparent rubrics collaboratively developed by administrators and teachers is important.

3. The definition of teacher effectiveness includes **professional development** as an essential element of professionalism for all teachers. Meaningful professional development includes several important features:

- Because knowledge about the brain, ways of learning, diverse students, technology, and content increases continuously, teachers must have time for learning to maintain their professional status.
- Professional development must be job-embedded, ongoing, and high quality.
- Professionals operate in communities of practice to share expertise and generate knowledge.
- Teachers can be expected to describe ways in which professional development has positively influenced their instruction.