

S 528

Empowering Parents and Students Through Information Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Education

**Introduced:** Feb 12, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Feb 12, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/528>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** PA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Feb 12, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 12, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Education

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## Empowering Parents and Students Through Information Act

Amends the school improvement program under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require each state that elects to use alternate academic achievement standards for students that have the most significant cognitive disabilities to:

- establish and monitor the implementation of clear and appropriate guidelines for individualized education program (IEP) teams to apply in determining, on an annual and subject-by-subject basis, when a child's significant cognitive disability justifies assessment using alternate standards;
- ensure that the parents of students the state plans to assess using alternate assessments are involved in, and provide informed consent to, the decision to apply such alternate standards;
- provide evidence that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities are making progress in the general curriculum for the grade in which the students are enrolled and in assessments aligned with that curriculum;
- develop and promote the use of reasonable accommodations to increase the number of such students participating in grade-level academic instruction and assessments aligned with grade-level academic standards;
- promote the use of such accommodations to increase the number of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are tested against grade-level academic achievement standards;
- ensure that general and special education teachers and other appropriate staff know how to administer assessments for disabled students;
- require separate annual determinations about whether a student should be assessed using an alternate assessment based on alternate academic achievement standards for each subject assessed; and
- ensure that students who take such alternate assessments are not precluded from attempting to complete the state requirements for a regular secondary school diploma.

Prohibits states from using any student's IEP in the state accountability system.

Requires states' annual report cards to: (1) include the number and percentage of disabled students who take the alternate assessments; and (2) break that information down by grade and subject matter and by the disability categories described in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Feb 12, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 12, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.