

# Key Remarks From ESEA Reauthorization Hearings: March–May 2010

March 9, 2010

## [The Importance of World-Class K–12 Education for Our Economic Success](#)

Selected statements of each speaker are presented to help you identify which testimony you may wish to read in its entirety.

### [Andreas Schleicher](#)

*Head of the Indicators and Analysis Division, Education Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development, Paris, France*

“The international achievement gap is imposing on the U.S. economy an invisible yet recurring economic loss that is greater than the output shortfall in what has been called the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Using economic modeling to relate cognitive skills—as measured by PISA and other international instruments—to economic growth shows that even small improvements in the skills of a nation’s labour force can have very large impacts on the future well-being of countries.”

### [Dennis Van Roekel](#)

*President, National Education Association, Washington, D.C.*

“Our vision of what great public schools need and should provide acknowledges that the world is changing and public education is changing too. NEA’s Great Public Schools (GPS) criteria require not only the continued commitment of all educators, but the concerted efforts of policymakers at all levels of government. These criteria will prepare all students for the future with 21st century skills; create enthusiasm for learning and engaging all students in the classroom; close achievement gaps and increase achievement for all students; and ensure that all educators have the resources and tools they need to get the job done.”

### [Charles Butt](#)

*Chairman and CEO, H-E-B, San Antonio, TX*

“All industries are brutally competitive today, especially during this recession, and most companies, like ours, have multiple productivity, process, and efficiency efforts underway. Workplace ready high school graduates are crucial to driving these programs forward.”

### [John Castellani](#)

*President, Business Roundtable, Washington, D.C.*

“Employers perceive a large and growing gap between the educational and technical skills requirement of the positions they need to fill and the preparedness of U.S. workers to fill them. Their perception is, in fact, reality. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the fastest growing occupations are those that require higher levels of education and greater technical competence.”