

Isakson / Title I / Amendment #1  
Flexible Standards and Tests for Students with Disabilities

**Purpose:** Allows states to have alternative standards and alternative and modified assessments for students with disabilities

**What it Does:**

- Allows states the flexibility and freedom to develop alternative standards and alternative and modified assessments for students with disabilities
- Empowers educators and parents to make the most appropriate assessment decisions for their child by not forcing a one size fits all requirement on educators, parents, and children
- Protects children's rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, by allowing assessment decisions to be individualized and not arbitrary
- Ensures that parents, as part of the individualized education program team are fully aware and consent to the standard and assessment criteria for their individual child
- Allows for alternative academic achievement standards and alternative and modified assessments without an arbitrary cap

**No Child Left Behind (existing law):**

- The use of these alternative standards and assessments are capped at 1% and capped at 2% for modified assessments
- Secretary Duncan said he plans to phase out the use of the 2% cap

**Strengthening America's Schools Act:**

- It prohibits the use of alternative standards above a 1% cap for all students
- Prohibits more than 1% of all students to be assessed based on alternative academic standards