

# eSembler Gradebook and No Child Left Behind (NCLB)



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for education

gradebook software by

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The “No Child Left Behind Act of 2001” (H.R. 1) was signed into law Jan. 8, 2002. It is the most sweeping reform for elementary and secondary education since 1965. Every state, district, and school is affected by No Child Left Behind (NCLB). eSembler™ for Education, the premiere Web-based gradebook and attendance software for educators, can help districts and schools more easily achieve compliance with the NCLB Act.

## ***Key Issues***

- A major component of the NCLB Act is to ensure improved academic performance for students.
- The NCLB Act specifies a number of parental notifications “in an understandable format, in the parent’s own language.”
- Local education agencies are required to reserve 1% or more of their allocation to carry out parent involvement activities, including seeking parental input and providing parents with timely information about programs.
- New regulations are required for notifications for parents of students learning English as their second language.

## ***Meeting the Requirements***

Educators working to meet specific requirements of No Child Left Behind are focusing on links between parent and student involvement and student achievement. Improved student achievement is the fundamental premise of the NCLB act. In support of involvement and student achievement, after reviewing over 7,500 studies on learning and instruction, John Hattie, a renowned education researcher, reported that providing students with specific information about their current academic standing increased their achievement by 37 percentile points. Providing tools to increase parental involvement and access to similar information can provide comparable results.

In fact, 87% of students who earned A’s or B’s reported that their parents were involved in their homework. More than 75% of these parents also talked to their child about their life at school. 50% of students with grades lower than C reported that their parents were not involved with their schooling. Two-way communication between the home and school is critical to increasing parental involvement. Such efforts promote a collaborative environment where parents can gain confidence in the school’s interest and attention to their child’s education.

A student’s attendance is also directly related to their performance. Higher achievement in assessments is gained by improving student attendance. In Minneapolis, a recent study found that students who were in class 95% of the time were twice as likely to pass state language-arts tests as students with attendance rates of 85%. Students in Rochester, New York scoring greater than 85% on state English tests had attended school an average of 93% of the time. Students scoring far lower, below the 54th percentile, had attendance rates of 85% and lower. Parental absence notification produces the greatest direct effect in reducing student absences and thereby improving student performance.

Improved attendance statistics can be realized by involving parents. A study at one Brooklyn, New York high school showed average daily absences of nearly one in every four students. However, when parents were notified daily of their student’s attendance status, educators saw a 13% decrease in absenteeism over the previous year’s statistics.

## ***eSembler’s Role***

Implementing eSembler in a district or school can help improve parental and student involvement through real-time distribution of assignment and attendance information and thereby meet specific requirements of the NCLB Act. Some of the eSembler features that help districts and schools meet the requirements of the NCLB Act include:

- Provisions for real-time secure parental access to a student’s grade and attendance information from any computer with Internet access—including computers located in libraries and community centers.

- Support for integration with telephone messaging systems like SchoolMessenger, which allows automatic delivery of messages detailing a student's daily academic progress and attendance statistics to a parent's home or work phone.
- Multiple language capabilities allowing student assignment and attendance information (as well as teacher comments) to be automatically translated for non-English speaking parents. Some of the languages supported by eSembler include Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Russian, and Korean.

### ***Observations***

Although the NCLB Act poses unique challenges for districts and schools, eSembler can be implemented to ease some of the burdens now placed on the already overtaxed resources of our educators and educational administrators. Improved student academic performance is the end goal of the NCLB Act; eSembler helps teachers distribute timely assignment and attendance information to parents helping assure superior student classroom performance.