

Good Afternoon,

Below you will find the April 26, 2019 Federal Advocacy & Public Policy update. Congress will return to Washington on Monday following their district work period. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you for your continued support of public education. Have a very nice weekend!

Kind Regards,

J.T. Kessler

Congressional Developments

Appropriations Committee Plans Markup of Education Department Spending Bill

The House Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee plans to vote on the U.S. Department of Education's fiscal year 2020 budget on Tuesday, April 30 at 4:00 PM. This vote will be the first official congressional action taken on the Department of Education's FY20 budget and NSBA will closely watch the subcommittee's decisions about the major education formula programs, including Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act and the Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Pending the outcome of the subcommittee's work, NSBA expects the full Appropriations Committee to consider the bill on May 8. The Senate Appropriations Committee is not expected to take formal action on a companion education spending bill until the House committee completes its initial work.

Senate HELP Committee to Resume Higher Education Act Negotiations

The Senate will convene on Monday for the first time in two weeks and members of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will resume behind the scenes discussions about the future of the Higher Education Act, including the law's educator recruitment and preparation provisions. As part of that committee work, NSBA recently endorsed the bipartisan Prep Act (S.752), introduced by Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), to update and expand the HEA's focus on attracting, preparing, and retaining teachers and school leaders. NSBA is encouraging members of the HELP Committee to cosponsor S.752 and urging Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) to include the bill's provisions in any HEA reauthorization bill considered by the HELP Committee this year. Given educator shortages, including shortfalls of special education teachers, NSBA believes the next HEA must provide additional supports to school districts, states, and higher education institutions to strengthen the educator workforce.

House Education and Labor Committee holds Brown v. Board of Education Hearing

This week, the House Education and Labor Committee announced scheduled a hearing on next Tuesday, April 30, titled "Brown v. Board of Education at 65: A Promise Unfulfilled". The committee has not yet announced the witness list for the hearing, but NSBA expects Chairman Scott to connect the discussion to the Department of Education's implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act's accountability requirements and recent work of the Department's Office for Civil Rights. The hearing will be livestreamed [here](#).

Administration Developments

Department of Education Hosts Event Regarding Incarcerated Students

Earlier this week, the Department of Education held an event titled "Rethinking Correctional and Reentry Education: A Second Chance at Learning." Nearly 100 representatives from the education, labor and criminal justice policy sectors discussed employer-responsive approaches to educate and train incarcerated individuals. The White House has proposed more than \$500 million to assist inmates in transition from incarceration to employment. Several initiatives were highlighted during the event, including a program in Michigan which trains inmates with an on-premise skilled-trades training center and California's Five Keys Schools, a network of charter high schools that operates in 20 prisons across the state. The Administration supports education initiatives for citizens returning from incarceration coupled with their support for the recently approved [First Step Act](#).

Department of Education Invites Applications for Perkins Innovation and Modernization Grants

Last year, Congress updated the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, including authorizing a new CTE innovation and modernization grant. In mid-April, the U.S. Department of Education invited school districts and other eligible applicants to apply for the grants for the first time. Among other investments, grantees will be able to use the funding to upgrade technology and take steps to make technology use more effective. Funds may also be used to expand, develop, or implement programs designed to increase opportunities for students to take rigorous courses in coding or computer science. The program is small, the Department of Education expects to award approximately six grants with an estimated size of \$450,000, but it offers an opportunity for districts interested in launching or building-on efforts to develop more technologically focused CTE programs. Applications must be submitted no later than June 14, 2019.

J.T. Kessler
Government Relations Specialist
Virginia School Boards Association
200 Hansen Road, Suite 2
Charlottesville, VA 22911
800-446-8722 or 434-295-8722 Office
434-295-8785 Fax
jason@vsba.org, www.vsba.org

Have you registered for the VSBA School Law Conference yet?