

Good Morning,

Below, please find the Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Update for April 6, 2020. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Additionally, the VSBA Government Relations team continues to update the Legislative Update Blog with information regarding federal and state developments. You can access the blog by [clicking here](#).

As always, thank you for all you do on behalf of public education in the Commonwealth.

Best,

J.T.

Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Update

April 6, 2020

Congressional Update

Congress in Recess, but Preliminary Plans are Forming for a Fourth Emergency Bill

Congress will not reconvene until at least April 20, but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has called for a fourth emergency bill, which she argues should be focused upon expanded unemployment benefits, support for the healthcare industry, and support for state and local governments. While President Trump has also seemed to indicate some interest in additional stimulus, he has pointed towards infrastructure spending as being his preferred use of funds. In the Senate, Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) has said that talk of a fourth stimulus package is premature. He argues that the third bill should be allowed to work before Congress considers a fourth, but Senate Democratic committee staff initiated conversations this week with NSBA and other national groups about policy issues and funding that should be included in a fourth emergency bill, should Congress consider one later in the spring. NSBA also held conversations this week with Senate Education Chair Alexander's staff and with staff from House Education Chairman Scott. In addition to talking with Congress about school district's emergency needs, we are also talking with the Department of Education about quickly disbursing the CARES Act's K-12 relief funds and properly exercising the new waiver authority available to interested school districts. NSBA is continuing its aggressive grassroots activities around getting additional funds and resources to support schools, directed funding to address the homework gap through E-Rate (see update below), and IDEA funding and flexibility.

Administration Update

FCC Extends E-Rate Program Deadlines

The [FCC extended](#) key E-Rate program deadlines, including service implementation for special construction for all funding year 2019 applicants. The needed extensions, granted by the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau, aim to "alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and libraries and enable them to focus on transitioning to remote learning during the pandemic." NSBA is continuing to work with our national partners in the Education and Libraries Networks Coalition and the Future Ready Schools campaign to urge the FCC to use its emergency authority to enable the E-rate program and other Universal Service programs to help connect students and teachers displaced by the pandemic. We are also asking Congress to provide at least \$2 billion of emergency funding to the E-Rate for home connectivity.

DeVos Announces Deadline Flexibility for CTE Plan Submission

Secretary DeVos [provided states](#) with more time to submit long-term plans for implementing the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins V). Secretary DeVos said recipients will still receive their Perkins V funds on time and states may also provide funding recipients additional time to complete their applications. States that are ready to submit their applications may still adhere to the previous deadline: April 15, 2020. If additional time is needed, they may submit their plans by June 15, 2020, and at the latest, September 15, 2020. States that submit plans in September will still receive funds in July, with a commitment from the state that the plan will be submitted on time in September. Further information on the new flexibilities can be found in this [FAQ document](#)

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