

Good Afternoon,

The latest Federal Policy & Advocacy Update for June 14, 2019 can be found below. Thank you for all you do on behalf of public education in the Commonwealth. Have a good weekend!

Kind Regards,

J.T.

Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Update

June 14, 2019

Congressional Update

House Begins Debating U.S. Department of Education's FY20 Budget

The House began debate, this week, on an omnibus spending bill (H.R.2740) that includes the budgets for the departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, Education, Energy, State and Labor. The bill would increase the Department of Education's fiscal year 2020 budget, including by providing new funding for ESSA, Title I and IDEA Part B. NSBA expects the House to complete consideration of the bill next week without making any significant changes to its education provisions. Unlike the House, the Senate's appropriations work has been stalled over the absence of an agreement about the overall level of spending that should be established for fiscal year 2020. Congress and the White House have been unable to decide whether the spending caps established in 2011 should be raised for the next fiscal year. The House choose to move ahead using the spending levels established for the last fiscal year, but Senate leaders paused their work until a decision could be made about the caps. NSBA is working on both sides of the Capitol to encourage members to invest in public education and we hope the Senate will begin work soon to push the annual spending process forward.

House Education and Labor Announces Higher Education Innovation Hearing

The House Education and Labor Committee will hold a [hearing](#) on Wednesday, June 19 focused on innovation in higher education, the fifth in a bipartisan series designed to support the Higher Education Act reauthorization. The hearing, titled "Innovation to Improve Equity: Exploring High-Quality Pathways to a College Degree", will likely be the final HEA focused hearing held by the committee before the panel turns its attention to drafting legislation to update the law. NSBA is closely following the HEA debate, given the law's provisions focused on educator recruitment, preparation and retention. The HEA also authorizes college access programs, such as the GEAR UP and TRIO programs, that provide resources to high schools. NSBA is working closely with other national K-12 groups to ask Congress to strengthen the HEA's educator-focused provisions to help address teacher and leader shortages, especially in high need fields like special education.

Administration Updates

Department of Education Places CA and NM ESSA Title I-A Awards on High-Risk Status

The Department of Education placed the fiscal year 2018 Title I, Part A grant awards in [California](#) and [New Mexico](#) on "high-risk" status for failure to include all required indicators for identifying schools for comprehensive support and improvement. Specifically, the department said the states did not use the Progress in Achieving ELP indicator within the required timeframe and they failed to identify additional targeted support and improvement schools in a compliant manner.

Department of Education Announces New Grant Applications

The Department of Education invited applications for two competitive grants offered the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and one grant offered by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services:

School Climate Transformation Grant Program – School districts may seek funding for implementing a multi-tiered system of support for improving school climate. The Department will prioritize support for certain communities that will benefit from implementation of this system, including rural communities, Tribal communities, and LEAs that are in Qualified Opportunity Zones. This discretionary grant program has a total of \$40,000,000 in estimated available funds, contingent upon the availability of funds and quality of applications. Applications are due by July 22, 2019 and further information is available [here](#).

State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP), Tribal Education Agency Development Discretionary Grant Program (STEP Development) – The STEP program seeks to: "(1) Promote Tribal self-determination in education; (2) Improve the academic achievement of Indian children and youth; and (3) Promote the coordination and collaboration of Tribal educational agencies (TEAs) with State educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) to meet the unique education and culturally related academic needs of Indian students." Applications are due by August 12, 2019 and further information is available [here](#).

Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities, Doctoral Training Consortia Associated with High-Intensity Needs – The program seeks to: “(1) help address State-identified needs for personnel preparation in special education, early intervention, related services, and regular education to work with children, including infants and toddlers, with disabilities; and (2) ensure that those personnel have the necessary skills and knowledge, derived from practices that have been determined through scientifically based research and experience, to be successful in serving those children.” The estimated available funds for this program total \$3,900,000. Applications are due July 29, 2019 and further information is available [here](#).

NSBA Updates

CSALS Fall Meeting Registration Opens on Monday, June 17th

We hope that you will be able to join us for the CSALS fall meeting in San Diego this year! The meeting will be held at the Andaz San Diego from Monday, October 7th through Wednesday, October 9th. The cost is \$550 and will include a group reception on Monday evening and group dinner on Tuesday. Additional details will be sent on Monday. In the meantime, please contact wriggs@NSBA.org with any questions.

Notable K-12 Bills

[H.R.3220](#) To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow certain institutions to use geographic preference for procurement of certain foods, and for other purposes. Sponsor: [Rep. Pingree, Chellie \[D-ME-1\]](#)

[H.R.3205](#) To amend title 14, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, to establish programs for the purpose of improving the mathematics and scientific knowledge and skills of elementary and secondary school students and faculty members, and for other purposes. Sponsor: [Rep. Kaptur, Marcy \[D-OH-9\]](#)

[H.R.3192](#) To add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards. Sponsor: [Rep. Correa, J. Luis \[D-CA-46\]](#)

[H.R.3180](#) To improve the identification and support of children and families who experience trauma. Sponsor: [Rep. Davis, Danny K. \[D-IL-7\]](#)

[S.1782](#) A bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards. Sponsor: [Sen. Kennedy, John \[R-LA\]](#)

[S.1770](#) A bill to improve the identification and support of children and families who experience trauma. Sponsor: [Sen. Durbin, Richard J. \[D-IL\]](#)

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