

Good Friday Afternoon,

Please find the July 26, 2019 Federal Advocacy & Policy Update below. The United States Congress will be in recess for their annual state and district work/meeting period over the coming weeks.

The House of Representatives district work/meeting schedule is July 29 through September 6. The Senate state work/meeting schedule begins August 5 and concludes September 6. Congress will reconvene on September 9, 2019. This work/meeting period is a good opportunity to meet with your federal elected officials.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me. As always, thank you for all you do on behalf of public education in the Commonwealth.

Kind Regards,

J.T. Kessler

Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Update

July 26, 2019

Congressional Update

Congress and the White House Cut Two-Year Budget Deal

As Congress prepared to leave Washington for the long August recess, Senate and House Leaders reached a long-sought agreement with the White House on a two-year budget plan. The House approved the deal on Thursday, which provides an aggregate \$57 billion increase for non-defense programs, including education, for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. The Senate is expected to approve the deal next week. The spending agreement is good news for public education. Absent a deal to increase the spending caps established by the Budget Control Act of 2011, federal education spending was expected to decline for the next fiscal year. Instead, appropriators will have at least some additional overall funding to allocate for education programs, including school board priorities such as ESSA Title I, IDEA Part B and other significant formula accounts. Following months of delays, we expect the Senate Appropriations Committee to begin making significant progress on the fiscal year 2020 during September and October.

Senate Committee Examines School Safety Practices

On July 25, the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee held a hearing titled “Examining State and Federal Recommendations for Enhancing School Safety Against Targeted Violence”. Among other topics, the committee examined emerging state and local efforts to use student data to promote school safety. The hearing was prompted, in part, by the plans enacted in Florida following the Parkland tragedy, including implementation of a statewide school safety database. In 2018, Florida lawmakers approved a new law placing notable new requirements on school districts, including an obligation to share a vast array of sensitive, personally identifiable student data with law enforcement and state agencies. Responding to an inquiry by Education Week, the Florida Department of Education (FDE) said that covered data could include students’ course schedules, participating in scholarship and dropout-prevention programs, past homeless status, immunization status, and even the Individualized Education Plans of students in special education. The new law requires FDE to coordinate with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to create “a centralized integrated [student] data repository” and data analytics resource. The student data repository’s purpose is to help leaders make decisions about students that may pose a public safety threat. By law, the database must include – but is not limited to – “timely, complete, and accurate information” about students from social media, the Florida Department of Children and Families, FDE, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, and local law enforcement. More information about the hearing, including access to the archived webcast of the proceeding, is available [here](#).

Administration Update

FTC seeks comments on Children's Online Privacy Protection Act Rule

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) invited public comment on revisions to the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act regulations, which governs some student data handled by school districts' third-party corporate partners. The FTC requested comment on all major provisions of rules, including its definitions, notice and parental consent requirements, exceptions to verifiable parental consent, and safe harbor provision. NSBA plans to carefully review the FTC's proposed revisions. We invite members to provide input about the regulations.

Notable New K-12 Legislation

[S.2240](#) A bill to promote digital citizenship and media literacy. Sponsor: [Sen. Klobuchar, Amy \[D-MN\]](#)

[H.R.3926](#) To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes. Sponsor: [Rep. Visclosky, Peter J. \[D-IN-1\]](#)

[H.R.3913](#) To authorize the Secretary of Education to provide grants for education programs on the history of the treatment of Italian Americans during World War II. Sponsor: [Rep. Lofgren, Zoe \[D-CA-19\]](#)

[H.R.3893](#) To direct the Secretary of Education to establish a program that awards grants to State coalitions that build or expand career pathways programs in schools within the State, and to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a program that awards grants to eligible agencies to carry out career pathways programs. Sponsor: [Rep. Harder, Josh \[D-CA-10\]](#)

[H.R.3892](#) To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to award competitive grants for the purpose of developing, offering, improving, and providing educational or career pathway programs for workers, and for other purposes. Sponsor: [Rep. Harder, Josh \[D-CA-10\]](#)

NSBA Update

E-Rate Update: NSBA is continuing to monitor the FCC NPRM concerning the Universal Service Fund. We are pleased that a number of statements have already filed and we expect several more to do the same. Comments from NSBA will be shared with all of you on Monday. If there are any questions please contact Chip Slaven at cslaven@nsba.org.

SNAP (food stamps) Update: Several states contacted NSBA regarding the Trump administration proposal announced earlier this week to change the way states determine who qualifies for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. SNAP is commonly known as food stamps. There are reports this could impact 3 million people who would be cut from the program. We are going to monitor this situation and will send out updates on it when there are new developments.

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