

Good Friday Afternoon! Below, please find the Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Update for September 20, 2019. Congress is busily working through the appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2020. This week the House of Representatives passed a short-term spending bill that will keep the government open through November as the House and Senate seek to resolve differences in their respective versions of the federal budget. We will continue to monitor these developments and provide additional information on the federal budget in the coming weeks.

Have a good weekend and thank you for all you do on behalf of public education.

Best Wishes,

J.T.

Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Update

September 20, 2019

Congressional Updates

House Approves Temporary Federal Funding Measure

With the next federal fiscal year only days away, and a full slate of unfinished appropriations bills stuck in various stages of the legislative process, Congress must quickly approve a stopgap spending bill to keep the federal government's doors open beginning October 1. Earlier this week, the U.S. House of Representatives took the first step toward heading-off this problem when it passed by a vote of 301-123 a short-term spending bill (H.R.4378) designed to continue federal operations, until November 21, at fiscal year 2019 levels. NSBA expects the U.S. Senate to take up the House passed measure next week, but the body has not yet announced a specific timeline for debating it. Both parties seem eager to avoid a government shutdown, so we do not expect the process to get off track. We are, however, closely monitoring the bill's progress and will update the membership next week.

Senate Appropriations Committee Releases Fiscal Year 2020 Education Spending Levels

Even as party leaders try to pass a temporary funding measure, Congress continued work on several long-term spending bills, including the legislation that will eventually authorize funding for the U.S. Department of Education. Last week, only moments before it was scheduled to begin, the Senate Appropriations Committee postponed a planned debate about the fiscal year 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies bill. The committee's work on the spending bill was derailed by a partisan disagreement about controversial policy "riders" that party leaders wanted to attach to the measure. After failing this week to resolve the standoff at the committee level, Majority Leader McConnell announced plans to skip the committee process and simply bring the bill before the full Senate. The Senate Appropriations Committee then publicly released the committee's bill, so that members could review it prior to the vote. The measure was blocked by a procedural vote before it could be considered, but NSBA was able to review the bill's [proposed fiscal year 2020 funding levels](#) for the U.S. Department of Education. The bill would decrease the U.S. Department of Education's budget but level-fund the major federal education formula programs, including ESEA Titles I and II and the IDEA State Grants program. Other key program funding levels follow in the table below:

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Education			
Program	FY2019	Senate	House
ESSA Title I-A	\$15.86 billion	\$15.9 billion	\$16.9 billion
ESSA Title II-A	\$2.05 billion	\$2.1 billion	\$2.6 billion
ESSA Title IV-A	\$1.17 billion	\$1.22 billion	\$1.32 billion
21 st Century Community Learning Centers	\$1.22 billion	\$1.22 billion	\$1.32 billion
State Assessments	\$378 million	\$378 million	\$378 million
Impact Aid	\$1.44 billion	\$1.47 billion	\$1.49 billion
School Safety National Activities	\$95 million	\$105 million	\$120 million
CTE State Grants	\$1.26 billion	\$1.26 billion	\$1.31 billion
TRIO	\$1.06 billion	\$1.06 billion	\$1.16 billion
IDEA State Grants	\$12.36 billion	\$12.36 billion	\$13.36 billion
IDEA Preschool Grants	\$391 million	\$391.1 million	\$403.4 million
Data Systems	\$32 million	\$32 million	\$35 million
Charter Schools	\$440 million	\$460 million	\$400 million
Magnet Schools	\$107 million	\$107 million	\$125 million
Health and Human Services			
Program			
CCDBG	\$5.27 billion	\$5.27 billion	\$7.67 billion
Head Start	\$10.06 billion	\$10.06 billion	\$11.56 billion
Preschool Development Grants	\$250 million	\$250 million	\$350 million

Administration Updates

Department of Education Publishes Special Education Guidance

Earlier this week, the U.S. Department of Education published new Individuals with Disabilities Education Act guidance, "[Increasing Postsecondary Opportunities and Success for Students and Youth with Disabilities](#)" which describes how federal funds can be used by states and school districts to support dual enrollment, comprehensive transition, and other postsecondary education programs for students and youth with disabilities. Among other topics, the guidance discusses opportunities for students with disabilities to enroll in postsecondary education programs, while still in high school, and opportunities for students and youth with disabilities to enroll in comprehensive transition and other postsecondary programs for individuals with disabilities after leaving high school.

U.S. Department of Education Highlights U.S. Census Bureau Program

The Department of Education highlighted the [Statistics in Schools](#) program, which is a Census Bureau initiative that uses census data to create classroom materials for PK-12 schools. The Department's announcement notes that "[new activities](#) designed for the 2019-20 school year highlight the 2020 Census and the importance of making sure everyone is counted -- especially children. Census responses drive decisions on the allocation of more than \$675 billion in federal funds to states and communities, including support for school programs and services such as Title I, special education grants to states, Head Start, and the National School Lunch Program."

Notable K12 Bills

[H.R.4389](#) To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide additional amounts of loan forgiveness to teachers of English learners, and for other purposes. Sponsor: [Rep. Langevin, James R. \[D-RI-2\]](#)

[H.R.4381](#) To effectively staff the public elementary schools and secondary schools of the United States with school-based mental health services providers. Sponsor: [Rep. Clark, Katherine M. \[D-MA-5\]](#)

[H.R.4371](#) To authorize funding to strengthen investments in the nation's postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs and build connections across the entire education and workforce development system. Sponsor: [Rep. Trahan, Lori \[D-MA-3\]](#)

[H.R.4301](#) School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act Sponsor: [Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi \[D-HI-2\]](#)

[S.2499](#) A bill to effectively staff the public elementary schools and secondary schools of the United States with school-based mental health services providers. Sponsor: [Sen. Merkley, Jeff \[D-OR\]](#)

[S.2492](#) A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy. Sponsor: [Sen. Gardner, Cory \[R-CO\]](#)

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