



## Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Update

Good Monday Evening. Please find the Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Update for April 4, 2022 below. If there are questions regarding the information found in this week's report, do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a great week!

Best,

J.T.

### **Congressional Update**

#### **President Biden Releases FY23 Budget Request**

On Monday, March 28, President Biden sent his administration's Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget request to Congress. The \$5.8 trillion budget **proposal** would provide a nearly 21% increased investment in the U.S. Department of Education (USED)-a total that would equate to \$15.3 billion in additional funding for the agency and the programs it oversees and administers. Significantly, the request proposes a roughly \$3 billion increase for Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act. In addition to this proposed 17% increase in Title I funding, the budget request seeks significant increases for other key programs such as IDEA Parts B (state formula grants), C (infants and toddlers), and D (educators), Teacher Quality Partnership grants, and CTE national activities.

This budget request was developed and published before Congress enacted final full-year funding for the previous federal fiscal year (FY22). Because of this timing, several funding requests in the budget proposal fall below total funding provided by Congress last month. USED has termed these "artificial cuts" and reiterated that the agency supports enacted FY22 funding levels. The full FY23 USED budget summary can be found [here](#) and more detailed justifications for individual requests can be found [here](#).

#### **Bipartisan Group of Senators Introduce Nutrition Waiver Extension Bill**

Senators Stabenow (D-MI) and Murkowski (R-AK) **introduced a bill** - the Support Kids Not Red Tape Act (S.3979) - to extend the U.S. Department of Agriculture's school meal flexibilities from June 30, 2022, to September 30, 2023. 50 senators have signed-on as cosponsors to the bill.

## **Administration Update**

### **Secretary Cardona Encourages States to Use ARP Funding to Address Teacher Shortages**

Also on Monday, March 28, the U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona called on education stakeholders to make use of funding provided by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to address persistent and widespread teacher shortages. Cardona urged states, postsecondary leaders, districts, and schools to consider establishing evidence-based teacher residency programs, creating registered apprenticeship programs for the teaching profession, and increasing teacher compensation along with a slew of other proposals. The full announcement can be found [here](#).

### **U.S. Department of Education Webinar on Addressing Teacher Shortages**

The U.S. Department of Education is convening a webinar on Thursday, April 7, 2022, from 3:00 – 4:00 pm Eastern, on "Strengthening Partnerships Between States, School Districts, and Higher Education to Increase the Number of Teacher Candidates Prepared to Enter the Classroom and Provide Immediate Support to Schools." You can register for this webinar here: [ed.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/...](https://ed.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/...)

The webinar will discuss ways that states, institutions of higher education, and school districts can utilize American Rescue Plan and other federal relief funds to help address teacher shortages; share how federal relief funds and opportunities through the U.S. Department of Labor are being used to address teacher shortages and provide support to schools by establishing or scaling up teaching residency and apprenticeship programs; provide examples from states increasing their investments in a diverse educator pipeline; and highlight educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education that are partnering with districts to leverage their residency and apprenticeship programs to provide immediate support to schools.

## **Discretionary Grants**

- USED published notice on a discretionary grant program for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services: Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities – National Center for Improving Teacher and Leader Professions to Better Serve Children with Disabilities – The Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities program is focused on preparing personnel for work in special education, early intervention, and regular education to work with students with disabilities. The National

Center created through this grant program will focus on high-quality instruction in institutions of higher education for teacher candidates; recruitment and retention of educators; as well as alignment of preparation systems to improve outcomes for students with disabilities, among other expectations. The department plans to use a total of \$3,500,000 for this competition, out of a total of \$90,200,000 requested for the Personnel Development program. Applications are due by May 31, 2022, and further information is available [here](#).

### **New Legislation**

- **R.7269** - 117th Congress (2021-2022) NOT in Our Schools Act of 2022 Sponsor: **Rep. Green, Mark E. [R-TN-7]**
- **R.7251** - 117th Congress (2021-2022) GIRLS STEM Act Sponsor: **Rep. McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9]**
- **R.7215** - 117th Congress (2021-2022) Ravi Thackurdeen Safe Students Study Abroad Act Sponsor: **Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]**
- **3927** - 117th Congress (2021-2022) Mental Health Excellence in Schools Act Sponsor: **Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]**

The VSBA Executive Director and lobbyists are in daily contact discussing legislation and policies that drive the Association's lobbying efforts, including the decision to send action alerts to the membership. The Association's lobbying efforts are based on positions contained in the VSBA Legislative Positions Handbook that is approved each year by the VSBA Delegate Assembly. Local school boards are not bound to this handbook and can adopt local positions on legislation and policy.

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