

FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE

Leslie Finnan

Senior Legislative Analyst

AASA: The School
Superintendents
Association



ESSA OVERVIEW

- ESSA is a huge step forward
- Maintains a Federal role in education
- Control swings from Federal to state/local level
- Removes AYP, AMO, HQT
- Keeps testing schedule
 - Math/ELA in 3-8, once in high school
 - Grade span in science
 - Can use nationally recognized exam for high school (ACT, SAT) with state permission
 - Innovative assessment pilot

ACCOUNTABILITY UNDER ESSA

- States must have standards
 - Must be aligned with work/postsecondary institutions
- Must report out sub-group information
 - Expanded slightly from NCLB
- Must establish sub-group targets
- Must identify and intervene in bottom 5% of schools, any high school graduating less than 67%
- Must use at least one nonacademic indicator
 - Can be up to 49% of accountability
- No Federally mandated interventions, no required action if targets not met

TITLE IV - STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENTS GRANTS

- Title IV was a group of small programs
 - Mentoring, afterschool, safe and drug free, etc.
- Under ESSA, Title IV is block granted – now Student Support and Academic Enrichments Grants
- Formula grant for districts to do any nonacademic work
 - Especially important with the provision of nonacademic indicator in accountability system

REGULATIONS

- Accountability
- Assessments
- Supplement not Supplant

TRUMP'S EDUCATION PRIORITIES

- Once he knows his education priorities, we will know them.
- Silver lining: lack of education specifics in campaigns and election
 - It means the candidates didn't provide specifics or draw a line in the sand on education positions
 - Has indicated proposals for higher ed, K12 and early ed, but significantly devoid of details
 - Chatter about reducing role of OCR
 - No way to know the extent to which the promises of the candidate become the priorities of the President, or the extent to which he will work with Congress to move them

BETSY DEVOS

- Betsy DeVos
 - No formal training or experience in education
 - Strong school choice advocate
 - While politically active, lacks political experience
 - Family ties: Father in law founded Amway, brother founded Blackwater, she has served as chair of MI Republican party, family has given to a laundry list of conservative and Christian organizations
 - Chairwoman for American Federation of Children

THE FUTURE OF REGULATIONS?

- ESSA: Accountability and Supplement/Supplant
- HEA: Teacher Prep Regs
- IDEA: Disproportionality
- Department of Labor: OT
- Environmental Protection Agency: PCBs & Light Ballasts
- FCC: Lifeline and E-Rate
- Affordable Care Act: Excise Tax, 30 hr v 40 hr, employer mandate (95%, affordability, and reporting)
- And more.

NEW TERM: BUDGET RECONCILIATION

- Only been used a few times
- Opportunity to repeal and replace(?) ACA
- Opportunity to enact entitlement reform and/or tax reform
- Things we are watching re tax reform
 - Addition of tuition tax credits aka vouchers
- Things we are watching re entitlement reform:
 - Block-grants to Medicaid
 - Elimination/changes to CHIP Program

FUNDING AND APPROPRIATIONS

- Continuing Resolution – expires April 28
 - Includes slight cut (0.19%) to stay under budget caps
- Title I shortfall – with the new state set-aside under ESSA, districts are looking at a \$200 million shortfall
- Title IV – authorized at \$1.6 billion, level funding would be \$353 million
 - President Obama asked for \$500 million
 - The House proposed \$1 billion, the Senate \$300 million
 - Anything under \$750 million would require the funds to be switched to competitive – not all districts would receive any funding for nonacademic programming

OTHER BILLS

- Perkins CTE
 - House passed bipartisan bill 405-5
 - Senate version fell apart –with hope to be revisited
- Higher Education Act reauthorization likely next
 - FERPA may be included
- Child Nutrition Reauthorization
- IDEA

AASA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Legal support
- School Administrator magazine
- Certification, consortiums and other education programs
- Meetings and conferences
- Networking opportunities
- Insurance Program
- Publications
- Executive Consultants
- Leadership Development
- AASA School Solutions Center
- Advocacy
 - AASA Policy Blog The Leading Edge
 - aasa.org/policy-blogs.aspx
 - AASA Advocacy on Twitter (@AASAhq)
 - Weekly & Monthly Updates
 - AASA ESSA Resources
 - aasa.org/AASAESSA.aspx

OTHER TOPICS

- ESSA
- School Nutrition
- Perkins Career/Tech
- IDEA
- Rural Education (REAP, Forest Counties, Impact Aid)
- School Vouchers
- E-Rate/Lifeline/EBS
- Student Data & Privacy
- Charters
- Higher Education Act
- Affordable Care Act
- Funding
- More?

POLICY & ADVOCACY TEAM

Leslie Finnan

lfinnan@aasa.org

@LeslieFinnan

Noelle Ellerson Ng

nellerson@aasa.org

@Noellerson

Sasha Pudelski

spudelski@aasa.org

@SPudelski