



February 28, 2013

Dear Member,

Federal (in)activity - Sequestration and More

You've followed the news - nothing is happening in Washington. The paralysis continues as we slide into automatic cuts this week. While lack of clarity exists surrounding what that impact might be to education, suffice it to say, should a fix not come quickly, we will be hit. AESA continues to ask congressional members to fix the problem and move on. We appreciate your participation in this as well. A number of you contacted your senators and congressional delegation to share your opinions, and we thank you for that.

On another legislative front, a bill has been introduced by Senator Boxer which AESA has signed on in support of, which would provide more funding for the COPS grant program providing more police in schools reducing the local match from 50 to 20% of the total costs. Given our fiscal situation, it is hard to say where this will go but it would be a move to increase safety in schools.

Great American Classroom Makeover Contest

Each year Great American Financial Resources provides funding for a classroom makeover - \$10,000! This years winner is Riverside Elementary in Elk, Washington - located in ESD 101 - Spokane area. Their elementary computer classroom needed some updating. When they found out they were in the final 10 classrooms under consideration, and the winner was selected by online voting - they went to work recruiting folks to support their effort. Congratulations Riverside Elementary and teacher Mindy Shaw! Great American Financial Resources Inc., is a business partner of AESA and has been a long time supporter!

ESA Metrics Project

This past year, members of AESA have been doing some heavy lifting by creating a comprehensive survey instrument for ESAs to participate in that would give them access to data by other agencies to compare themselves against. The concept is that having many agencies share information about themselves, agencies can see what others are doing in comparison, and provide an avenue to learn and grow by sharing. The beta survey was just completed with 90 agencies from five states participating. As we work to develop the final survey and process, the plan is to hopefully have this available to all AESA member agencies to participate in this summer. Watch for details to come in the future, and in the meantime, if you have questions, drop me an email and I will get back to you right away - lwarne@aesas.us.
