



FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

April 17, 2018

TO: AESA Membership
FROM: Noelle Ellerson Ng, Legislative Liaison
DATE: April 2018
RE: April Advocacy Update

Omnibus: This is the big news of the month. Congress completed its FY18 funding work, passing a final appropriations bill that includes significant increases for education funding. Congress passed, and the President signed into law, HR 1625, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018. HR 1625 provides \$1.3 trillion for FY18. It includes \$629 b in base defense funding and \$579 b in base non-defense funding. These levels reflect the recent Bipartisan Budget Act, which raised the FY18 budget caps on discretionary spending for both defense and non-defense discretionary funding. As a point of clarification, federal education funding lies, generally, in the Labor/Health/Human Services/Education/Other (LHHS) appropriations bill, which is in the non-defense discretionary (NDD) portion of the budget. Overall, the bill provides \$600 billion in NDD funding, in part fueled by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 NDD cap increase of \$63 billion. Specific to education, the bill provides a \$3.9 b increase to USED, providing a total of \$70.9 b for FY18. While this represents a significant increase and is a welcome level of investment, it is important to note that if FY12 USED funding levels (\$68.1 b) kept pace with inflation, it would currently be funded at \$74.8 b. The bill rejects the Trump administration's continued efforts to further advance their privatization agenda.

- Education Program Specifics:
 - ESSA Title I: \$300 m increase to \$15.8 b
 - ESSA Title IV: \$700 m increase to \$1.1 b
 - IDEA State Grants (Part B): \$275 m increase to \$12.3 b
 - Impact Aid: \$86 m increase, to \$1.4 b
 - Charter Schools: \$58 m increase, to \$400 m
 - 21st Century Community Learning Centers: \$20 m increase, to \$1.2 b
 - State Assessments: \$8.9 m increase to \$378 m
 - Career and Technical Education State Grants: \$75 m increase to \$1.193 b
 - Homeless Youth/Children: \$8 m increase to \$85 m
 - Native Hawaiian Education: \$3 m increase to \$36 m
 - Alaska Native Education: \$3 m increase to \$35 m
 - Rural Education: \$5 m increase to \$181 m
 - Promise Neighborhoods: \$5 m increase to \$78 m
 - Indian Education: \$15 m increase to \$180 m
 - ESSA Title II: Level funded at \$2.056 b

- Innovative Approaches to Literacy: Level funded at \$27 m
- Migrant Students: Level funded at \$375 m
- Neglected/Delinquent Students: Level funded at \$48 m
- Comprehensive Literacy Development grants: Level funded at \$190 m
- English language Acquisition: Level funded at \$737 m
- Rural Details
 - As listed above, REAP receives a \$5 million increase
 - Secure Rural Schools received a two-year authorization and funding, totaling \$500 million over FY17 and FY18. The program will be funded at approx. \$257 m in FY17, and \$245 m in FY18.
- Gun-Related provisions
 - Clarifies that funding thru the Center for Disease Control (CDC) can be used for gun-related research. This is a win: A provision called the ‘Dickey Amendment’ had long existed and been interpreted to mean that such funds couldn’t be used for this research, resulting in the dearth of research and information related to guns, gun violence, and other such information.
 - Includes language that prohibits the use of federal funds to arm teachers or provide firearm training to teachers.
 - Includes the Fix NICS Act, which would ensure federal and state authorities accurately report relevant criminal history records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.
 - Authorizes and funds the STOP School Violence Act, legislation that would invest in early intervention and prevention programs to stop school violence before it happens by authorizing the Department of Justice to make grants to states for purposes of training students, school personnel, and law enforcement to identify signs of violence and intervene to prevent people from harming themselves or others. The program is authorized at \$75 million.
- Appropriations Related Advocacy:

In the final run up to the bill, AESA led a flurry of appropriations letters, including some that were signed by NREAC:

 - Letter urging investment in programs that promote equity;
 - Coalition of national groups support increased funding for FY18 package;
 - Letter urging support/funding for SRS in FY18 package

ESSA: The biggest item we continue to flag for our members as it relates to ESSA implementation is the [requirement for state education agencies](#) to report school and district per-pupil expenditures, and to do so in the 2018-19 school year. AASA has invited AESA members to two webinars related to the topic:

- [ESSA Fiscal Transparency: Whats and Whys of Per Pupil Funding & the New Reporting Requirement](#)
- [Financial Transparency Requirement in ESSA](#)

If AESA can help you in your advocacy efforts, please contact us:

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