



August 10, 2012

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Dear Member,

Sequester - What Does it All Mean?

Sequester or sequestration is a result of the 1985 Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act, which was a budget control bill that said if federal spending went beyond certain targets, automatic across the board cuts would kick in. This became part of last years budget deal between Congress and the White House when they sought increased spending. Then Congress couldn't come up with a budget deal during that session so they created the "super committee" to solve the crisis. They couldn't get it done. So Congress attempted to get it done in past months. They couldn't get it done either. Since these cuts are scheduled to begin right away in January, we are running out of time. \$2.1 trillion cut over 10 years - that amounts to over \$100 billion the first year. Some programs would be spared such as social security, children's health insurance program, food stamps, veteran's benefits - - - but not education. We encourage you to contact your Senators and Representatives and explain to them what impact these cuts would have on kids. This is a call to action - we must act now.

Educators Call to Action Conference September 12-14th - Washington D.C.

If there was a good time for you to be in Washington, this might be it. The registration for this conference is open now and it is important that when we spend time on the Hill during these days that we share our

needs, especially the impact of impending sequestration! Please consider attending and being active in this important conference. Check out the details [here](#).

ESA Metrics - A New Opportunity

Members of AESA are actively developing a metric system that each of us can use to measure how our agencies compare in various areas against others who submit their data. This first of its kind database will begin soon. You will receive the chance to participate by submitting your agencies data and then you can participate by using the data to answer questions for yourself, your governing body, your members, and others. This database will only be available for those who participate and pay a very small fee. It is designed to be able to help ESAs. Our thanks go out to a number of individuals especially Craig Burford, OH and Jim Mabbott, OR who presented this new opportunity at the recent CEO Conference in Idaho. Watch for details.

AESA Council Elections - Nominations Open Until September 7, 2012

Nominations are now open for positions on AESA's Council. If you are interested in serving your national organization, check out the [nomination form](#).

National Award Nominations are Open until August 24, 2012

AESA recognizes individuals each year with several different awards. These prestigious awards are open for nomination until August 24th. If you want to know more about these awards and what the criteria are - [check here](#).

Annual Conference to be in Tampa, FL - November 28-December 1, 2012

Registration is now open for AESA's Annual Conference - 80 breakout sessions by ESA experts from around the country, Keynote Speakers - Author [Marcia Tate](#), Author & Entrepreneur [Rob Mancabelli](#) and Freedom Writer [Manuel Scott](#), and time to network with friends and others from around the country. This is the only conference that is for Educational Service Agencies - folks who do what we do. [Register Here](#)

US Academic Decathlon - A Great Program for Schools

The Academic Decathlon® is a team competition where students match their intellects with students from other schools. This ten-event scholastic competition is for teams of high school students. Each high school enters a team of nine students: 3 "A" or **Honor** students, 3 "B" or **Scholastic** students, and 3 "C" or **Varsity** students.

The theme for the 2012-2013 Academic Decathlon® season is Russia. USAD also hosts the Online Individual competition (<http://usadic.org/>) for students that either don't make the Decathlon team or may not have a Decathlon team at their school and don't forget the Academic Pentathlon (<http://usad.org/competition/pentathlon.asp>) for middle school students.

If you want to know more [check here](#) or contact Mylene Chafe at info@usad.org.



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