



Appropriations

For the first time in over ten years, the Senate completed its annual appropriations bill for the Labor Health Human Services Education & Other (LHHS) appropriations bill for federal fiscal year 2019 (FY19), which starts October 1 and will be in schools for the 2019-20 school year. LHHS provides funding for USED and critical education programs. The House also completed its appropriations bill, and then the LHHS was conferenced to reconcile their differences, something that also hasn't happened in more than a decade. The final bill provides a \$581 m increase in funding for USED, bringing the total to nearly \$71.5 billion. The bill rejects the Trump administration's proposals to fund vouchers and privatization priorities, as well as proposed program eliminations and the proposal to consolidate USED with the Department of Labor. Tracking a few key programs, here are some that received increases (Title I, \$100 m; Title II I is level funded; IDEA, \$87 m; Title IV, \$70 m) 21st Century, \$10 m; Impact Aid, \$32 m; Perkins Career & Technical Education, \$95 m; and Head Start, \$200 m). Outside of funding levels, two items of note: the final bill did NOT include language to prohibit federal education funds from being used to arm school personnel or provide arms training. The bill did eliminate a long-standing rider that prohibited the use of federal funds for transportation to help increase integration. The elimination of the language is a big equity win, and something AESA has been tracking. Moving forward, each chamber will need to vote for the final bill and President Trump will have to sign it into law.

Talking Points:

- Thank your members of Congress for the final FY18 package, which provided a \$3.9 billion increase to USED, a critical investment that worked to restore the continued pressure of recession cuts. The FY18 allocations were the starting point for any FY19 discussions, and we commend the final FY19 LHHS bill for providing a modest overall increase to LHHS.
- AESA opposes the redirection of public dollars to support private education. We oppose all vouchers and privatization schema. We ask Congress to continue to prioritize investment in critical formula programs designed to level the playing field, including IDEA, Title I and Title IV. We commend the FY19 LHHS bill for rejecting the Trump administration's privatization agenda.
- Flag for your delegation that FY20 has a funding cliff. The continued pressure of funding caps established by the 2011 Budget Control Act means that unless Congress votes to raise the caps for FY20, there will be a significant cut to LHHS in 2020. There is not a specific ask right now, other than letting your delegation know it is coming, that it is a priority, and they will need to maintain parity between defense and non-defense discretionary in any final cap increase.