



# Making the Most of your Congressional Visits

Educating Your Congressional Representatives of Magnet Schools



# INTRODUCTIONS



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# The Federal Role in Education



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# The Federal Role in Education

The federal government has an important, but limited role, in education policy.

There are four primary legislative vehicles for education policy:

- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act – K-12 policy
- The Higher Education Act – Postsecondary policy
- Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act – CTE policy
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – disability policy

In most cases, federal policy empowers state and local policy over education issues, in many cases through formula funding (ESEA, Perkins) provided to the state and local levels.



# Magnet School Assistance Program

Fiscal Year	Magnet School Assistance Program Appropriations
2019	\$107,000,000
2018	\$105,000,000
2017	\$97,647,000
2016	\$96,647,000
2015	\$91,647,000
2014	\$91,647,000
2013	\$91,647,000
2012	\$96,705,000



# But That's Not All!

Other areas of federal policy that impact magnet schools include:

**ESSA Funding** for Title I (low income school districts), Title II (professional development), Title IV Part A (student success and academic enrichment)

**Perkins Funding** for magnet schools with a career and technical education focus

**Higher Education Act** provisions related to teacher preparation, including TEACH Grants and public service loan forgiveness

**School Infrastructure Funding**

**School Safety**

**Immigration policy** that impacts education (DACA, hiring teachers internationally)



# Finding Your Way Around the Capitol Complex



# Logistics – The Capitol Complex

**Three House office buildings – Cannon, Longworth Rayburn**

- **Closest metro stop is Capitol South**

**Three Senate office buildings – Russell, Dirksen, Hart**

- **Closest metro stop is Union Station**

**Leave sufficient time for security (just like airports), especially in the morning. Sometimes security lines can take up to 30 minutes.**

**Don't be late!**





# U.S. Capitol Complex Map



## Areas of Interest

- 1 Russell Senate Office Building
- 2 Dirksen Senate Office Building
- 3 Hart Senate Office Building
- 4 U.S. Supreme Court
- 5 Jefferson Building  
Library of Congress
- 6 Madison Building  
Library of Congress
- 7 Adams Building
- 8 Cannon House Office Building
- 9 Longworth House Office Building
- 10 Rayburn House Office Building
- 11 Ford House Office Building
- 12 U.S. Botanic Garden & the National Garden



# What to Expect in Your Meetings



# Members and their Staff

Your meetings should not exceed 30 minutes. Be respectful of the time of the member/staff!

Members of Congress each have a staff, who divide responsibility for policy issues between them. You will be meeting with a staffer responsible for handling the education policy portfolio.

Members and staff need to know “a little about a lot,” so don’t be surprised if they do not know much about magnet schools. Don’t assume *they* know what *you’re* talking about!

Don’t be surprised by the staffers’ age. Many staff, particularly on the House side, are in their twenties.

If the member joins the meeting, they may do so for only 10-15 minutes. Don’t be offended – thank them for their time. They’re very busy.



# The Meeting

The content of your meeting will  
divide into two categories –

**Educate!**

**Advocate!** (if you can)

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# The Meeting – Educate!

Focus on personal experiences. Tell your story – who you are, the benefits of your school, and the education you are providing.

Tell them why attending magnet schools has worked for your students, and how it will benefit their future education and career.

The member/staff will want to hear from as many members of the group as possible – make sure everyone has something to add!

Only discuss the specifics of policy to the extent you are knowledgeable and comfortable. If you don't know, tell them someone will follow up with answers or more details.



# The Meeting – Advocate!

For those members not attending thanks to federal funding

We are recommending two “asks”

Continued funding growth in the Magnet Schools Assistance Program

Co-sponsor the Strength in Diversity Act

Feel free to include other priorities of your institution, or any other legislation in this space that aligns with those priorities. These are suggested asks.





# The Year Ahead for Education Policy

Appropriations, Legislation, and Regulations



# A Challenging Budget Year Ahead



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# Appropriations in 2019

For the past two years, Congress has been operating under an agreement that raised budget caps for **both** defense and non-defense purposes.

However, the two-year budget agreement has now expired.

Negotiators will need a new budget agreement. Absent any agreement, draconian cuts from sequestration will come into effect that will cut all federal programs significantly.



# Higher Education Act



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# HEA Reauthorization

Big focus of the House Education & Labor Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee will be reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Why should K12 groups care about HEA? Two primary reasons:

**TITLE II – Teacher Preparation Programs**

**TITLE IV – TEACH Grants, Public Service Loan Forgiveness**

**Dual or Concurrent Enrollment Programs**



# School Infrastructure Funding



# School Infrastructure

House Education & Labor Chairman Scott (and 153 cosponsors) have introduced the Rebuild America's Schools Act (H.R.865)

The bill would authorize **\$70 billion** in grant funding and **\$30 billion** in tax credit bonds for school construction, targeted at high poverty schools with the highest needs.

This is likely to be the first bill marked up by the House Education & Labor Committee this year, and could set off a wider infrastructure debate.



# School Safety



# School Safety

Last month the Federal Commission on School Safety released its report, which contained more than 90 recommendations around enhancing school safety.

The report led to the Department of Education moving to rescind the Obama Administration era discipline guidance. Both the guidance and the move to rescind it were controversial.

Congressional Democrats are likely to place some focus of their work in the year ahead on legislation addressing gun violence, but little substantive progress is expected with Republican control of the Senate and the White House.



# Immigration





# Immigration

The future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program remains unclear.

The Supreme Court is unlikely to take up the issue this session, so the program is likely to remain in place until 2020.

Current DACA recipients remain eligible to apply to renew their status and work permits.

Despite suggestions during the 35-day government shutdown that a broader agreement over border security and legal protection for DACA and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients was possible, currently negotiations are not considering such an option.

In addition, Trump Administration has made changes to the process for applying for H-1B specialty occupation visas, which are used to hire teachers who are not US citizens.



# Questions?

