



The Year Ahead for Education Policy

Appropriations, Legislation, and Regulations



INTRODUCTIONS



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A Challenging Budget Year Ahead

(aren't they all?)



Appropriations in 2020

Congress is operating under a 2-year budget agreement for FY21 (beginning October 1, 2020.)

Funding increases for FY20 were focused primarily on the large formula grant programs at the Department of Education (ESSA Title I, IDEA State Grants being the main recipients)

FY21 budget caps include only a small increase in domestic spending, which means that additional funding for the Department of Education may be marginal.



Magnet School Assistance Program

Fiscal Year	Magnet School Assistance Program Appropriations
2020	\$107,000,000
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



Higher Education Act



HEA Reauthorization

Big focus of the House Education & Labor Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee has been 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

President Trump signed into law a simplification of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) late last year, a key priority of Senate HELP Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN).



College Affordability Act

The House Education & Labor Committee reported a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act last fall. Provisions relevant to school districts within the bill:

Reauthorizes and expands the Teacher Quality Partnership program to focus on successful teacher preparation and retention strategies.

Doubles the size of the TEACH Grant from \$4,000 to \$8,000

Creates a \$250 million per year grant program to support dual enrollment, early college, AP and IB programs



Senate Bills

In the Senate, the focus has been on introducing bipartisan bills that advance some element of HEA reauthorization. These include:

The PREP Act – Bill from Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Susan Collins (R-ME) to focus the Teacher Quality Partnership grant program on successful teacher preparation and retention strategies.

The Fast Track to and Through College Act – Bill from Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Todd Young (R-IN) to establish a state grant program to support dual enrollment, early college, AP, and IB.



Special Education Funding



Special Education Funding

Over the last year, there has been a significant push to increase funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education (IDEA) Act.

Currently, the federal government is meeting only about 13% of the 40% commitment it made in the 1970s to pay 40% of the extra costs of providing special education services for students.

The federal share has gone down from 14.6% since last year, despite a \$400 million increase in FY20.



Special Education Funding

IDEA Full Funding Act (H.R. 1878 and S.866)

139 House and 14 Senate bipartisan co-sponsors.

Funding Early Childhood Is the Right IDEA Act (H.R. 4107)

36 bipartisan co-sponsors

Senator Hassan expected to introduce Senate companion.



Immigration



Immigration

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

The Supreme Court held oral arguments on the case in November, 2019. A decision is expected within the next six months.

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

Little congressional progress on striking a deal with the White House on immigration policy.



School Choice



School Choice

Federal funding for the Charter School Program also remained level in FY20 at \$440 million

Despite President Trump's (expected) comments at the State of the Union last night, congressional proposals around charter school scholarships and tax credits are not expected to advance.



Our Advocacy



MSAP Appropriations

Despite a disappointing result (level funding), MSA made some significant progress in its advocacy this year:

The House Labor H appropriations bill recommended a \$13 million increase for MSAP.

Bipartisan House letter advocating for MSAP appropriations exceeded signatures from previous year.

Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) led an appropriations letter in the Senate for the first time ever.



Taking the Next Step...

MSA will be rolling out a new member to legislator advocacy service within the next several months.

This service will allow us to connect you directly with your legislators at all times of year, and will allow for more grassroots engagement with members of Congress.

In addition, MSA has been working hard to determine exactly how many magnet schools are in each congressional district, increasing the power of our message with every member of Congress.



Looking Ahead

We are not solely focused on MSAP appropriations.

MSA will soon be publishing a concept paper for a new legislative proposal to expand the existing MSAP program to build in a focus on sustainability and encouraging greater diversity in the classroom with grants short of new school set up or whole school redesign.

Intent is to get a bill introduced that would be a good vehicle for any debate over public school desegregation or reauthorization of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



Questions?

