AASA Governing Board

July 12–July 14, 2016
Washington, DC

MASS Governing Board Representatives

Ruth Gilbert-Whitner, Ed.D.  Superintendent, Whitman-Hanson RSD
Joseph Maruszczak, Ed.D.  Superintendent, Mendon-Upton RSD
AASA Federal Legislative Agenda

The AASA/ASBO Advocacy Update on July 12, 2016 covered four key legislative priorities: the newly enacted Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Perkins CTE Reauthorization, Child Nutrition, and Federal Funding & Appropriations. Below are the most salient points of each of these priority areas.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

USED has issued Regulations on Accountability, State Plans, and Data Reporting (public comment ended on July 30)

AASA advocates these positions on the USED Regulations:

- Opposition to USED’s effort to achieve statutory changes to the comparability provision through regulations for “supplement not supplant (SNS).”
- Opposition to the regulations that require state plans to include one summative rating from at least three distinct ratings for each school
- Opposition to the proposed regulation that would require all SEAs to identify LEAs in need of support and/or improvement for the start of the 2017-18 school year (ESSA takes effect July 1, 2017)
- Opposition to the proposed regulation as it relates to the transportation of foster children (assumption of lack of collaboration)
- Concern of proposed regulation from the EPA requiring schools to remove light ballasts with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls): environmental safety/fiscal implications with timelines
- Concern of Department of Labor Fair Labor Statistics Act (FLSA) which would extend overtime salary thresholds for school support personnel

Perkins CTE Reauthorization

The main problem is funding, not policy. 13% decrease in funding since 2007! However, the law is ripe for improvement.
AASA priorities include:

- Don’t make it so difficult for districts to get a few extra dollars-reduce the paperwork burden
- Separate streams of funding for secondary and postsecondary programs
- Emphasize better alignment with business/industry
- More funding for career exploration and counseling
- Make Perkins funding non-competitive
- Allow states more flexibility in designing accountability systems and setting performance targets
- Remove the non-traditional performance target (unintended consequences)

A House Bill (HR 5887) may be considered this fall. Among its provisions are:

- Reduced paperwork burden- simplifies local application process
- Consideration of labor market information in CTE program offerings
- Discouragement of states from requiring set asides from districts

**Child Nutrition**

The 2010 *Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA)* is up for reauthorization. No action has been taken prior to the recess.

AASA priorities include:

- For reimbursement: a 10 cents/meal increase; for breakfast, a 3 cents/meal increase
- Reduce whole grain requirements from 100% to 50% (taste and cost considerations)
- Keep reasonable sodium requirements
- Allow any part of the meal to be reimbursable (a la carte)
- Change fruit/vegetable from “must take” to “may take” to eliminate food waste
Federal Funding: Budget and Appropriations

The federal FY16 runs from 10/1/2015 - 9/30/2016 (federal dollars in schools for SY 2016-17) and the federal FY17 runs from 10/1/2016 - 9/30/2017 (SY 2017-18: the first year of ESSA)

AASA priorities for the FY17 Federal Budget include:

- Permanently resolve sequestration
- Ensure parity between defense and nondefense discretionary dollars (only an $8M increase in nondefense OCO fund spending per the FY17 Budget Deal)
- Fund Title I (level funded, but with consolidations and changes in hold harmless provisions, a cut of $250M to LEAs)
- Fully Fund IDEA: Congress’ commitment is 40%; With level funding for FY17, the actual federal share is 16%. This is lower than it was in FY05, when it was 18%
- Appropriate funding for technology Infrastructure and student data privacy
- Appropriate Federal/Local Balance

More detailed information, charts, and statistics shared during the AASA/ASBO Advocacy Update may be found at this link.
Regional Meetings

Discussion - Region 7 (ME, NH, VT, CT, NY, RI, MA)

- Transgender Student Policies/Procedures - What Professional Development do Superintendents need?

- ESSA Implementation

- Statewide Testing Issues - PARCC - Opting Out

Capitol Hill Day Office Visits
Representative Jim McGovern - 2nd Congressional District MA
Representative Stephen Lynch - 8th Congressional District MA
Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator Ed Markey
Representative Bill Keating - 9th Congressional District MA
Representative Joseph Kennedy - 4th Congressional District MA