



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