



Monday, October 19, 2020

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Congressional update** – The Senate is in session this week but the House is in recess until after the election with plans to come back to vote if there is a bipartisan agreement on a COVID relief package. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) plans to hold a Senate vote on Wednesday on the same Republican relief bill that failed to come to the Senate floor in September (the education provisions are described in detail in the [CEF Update 9.8.20 #2](#)). That bill provides \$105 billion for the education stabilization fund, much of the K-12 funding conditioned upon schools physically reopening, as well as \$15 billion for child care, new tax credits for private school costs, and expanded uses of 592 accounts for homeschooling. The bill total would cost a net of about \$500 billion. That total is far below the [\\$2.4 trillion revised Heroes Act](#) passed recently by the House and below the \$1.9 trillion recently offered by Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, who is negotiating with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) to find common ground on a relief package. This weekend Speaker Pelosi said any deal would have to be reached by Tuesday if it were to have time to be passed before the election, but the House and the Administration still have differences in policy and funding to work out and even then, it's not clear that a big-ticket bill could pass in the Senate.
 - **What does this mean for education funding?** All the proposals so far have at least \$105 billion in relief funding for education, although the House-passed bill has more than twice that plus \$436 billion for state and local relief, some of which state would likely use for education. There are policy and funding disagreements among all three corners – the Administration, House Democrats, and Senate Republicans. The education funding provided in March by the CARES Act was almost fully obligated a while ago, and this fall states and localities will be starting to make budget cuts to accommodate both increased costs to provide education in the pandemic (for devices and connectivity, disinfecting and protection equipment, and infrastructure changes required to accommodate distancing and increased environmental controls, to name just a few new costs) and reduced local and state revenue. If relief funding is approved before the election, many of those budget cuts could be prevented. If a relief package isn't approved soon, some education systems will have to make budget cuts while waiting to see if additional support is provided in December or next year.
- **Reminder: nominations to run for CEF's 2021 Board are due in two weeks** – In December, CEF members will elect 7 members to CEF's 2021 Board of Directors: three officers who will serve a one-year term and four other Board members who will serve two-year terms. The new president will appoint two additional members. I encourage those interested in playing an active role in CEF to consider submitting a nomination for a position on next year's Board. The attached memo describes

in detail the process for nominations, creating a recommended slate, and the election, and includes a nomination form (also attached separately in Word). Nominations are due by Monday, November 2. The full CEF membership will hold its election during the annual meeting on December 11. As a reminder, there is no write-in option on the day of the election since [CEF's bylaws](#) require CEF members to have at least two weeks to consider any candidate, and nominees will only appear once on the ballot but can nominate themselves for more than one position. If you have any questions, please reach out to the CEF staff, or see the CEF Update of 9.30.20 for more details.

II. Events

- **AERA Annual *Brown* Lecture in Education Research on Thursday, October 22** – CEF member the American Educational Research Association (AERA) will host its annual *Brown* Lecture in Education Research virtually on October 22 at 6:00 pm ET. This year's lecture is entitled "The Segregation Pandemic: Brown as Treatment or Placebo?" Registration and more information on the event is available [here](#).
- **CEF's pre-election briefing with Harry Enten of CNN** – As discussed on our last call, CEF has been able to secure a virtual election briefing featuring CNN analyst and senior writer [Harry Enten](#) this Friday, October 23, at noon. For those of you who have seen Harry present, you know he is a "data" guy who spends his days pouring over daily polls, teasing out strengths, weaknesses, and trends, and reporting on overall projections. Harry will present the latest data on the Presidential race, key Senate races and a few competitive House seats to watch, as well as what he is seeing in polling data around education. So save up your questions on everything you ever wanted to know about the election, and more! This will be an informative and fun opportunity to hear from an expert on polling trends in key elections and what motivates voters. **This briefing is only open to CEF members, so please do not share the invitation.** Please [RSVP here](#) – you must register in advance to attend the briefing.
- **CEF's upcoming schedule** – CEF won't be convening Friday meetings until Congress returns after the election, but below are the dates of other CEF events through the end of November.
 - **Friday, Oct. 23** – Noon-1p.m. ET, Pre-election briefing with [Harry Enten](#) from CNN. See details above on how to register.
 - **Monday, Nov. 2** – Deadline to submit a nomination to run for CEF's Board of Directors. See attached memo and nomination form.
 - **Thursday, Nov. 12** – 2:00 -3:30 p.m. ET, Briefing for CEF members and congressional education staffers on state education budgets and the impact of COVID-19. RSVP link and panelist details coming soon.
 - **Friday, Nov. 13** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Nov. 16-20** – #HearOurEdStories week on social media.
 - **Tuesday, Nov. 17 (tent)** – Twitterchat on priorities for education funding next year. We will share materials in advance.
 - **Friday, Nov. 20** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Tuesday, Nov 24** - 2021 CEF Board nominations and recommended slate shared in advance of annual meeting on Dec. 11.
 - **Friday, Nov. 27** – No Friday meeting the day after Thanksgiving.