



Monday, October 26, 2020

## I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **CEF's pre-election briefing last Friday with Harry Enten of CNN** – Big thanks to CEF Advocacy and Hill Teams Committee co-chair Sam Chasin of the YMCA of the USA and to his colleague at the Y, Derek Summerville, for helping CEF confirm CNN's Harry Enten for a great election briefing last Friday. Harry lived up to his reputation for providing interesting polling data on the presidential and congressional races in both an entertaining and informative manner! We had a big turnout of CEF members at the briefing.
- **Congressional update** – The House is not in session this week. The Senate is in session and expected to vote today on the Supreme Court nomination of Amy Coney Barrett. Negotiations on a possible COVID-relief measure continue but seem unlikely to produce a deal before the election, with Senate Republicans opposing the almost \$1.9 trillion offer from the Administration as too expensive while House Democrats wanted a bigger deal. Some of the contentious issues are the amount of state and local fiscal relief, whether to offer liability protection to employers that reopen, perennial policy differences about federal funding for abortion and health care for undocumented immigrants, and whether to expand the child tax credit and the unearned income tax credit.
- **GAO report on schools' difficulties using relief for past natural disasters** – The pandemic has made it hard to use all of the nearly \$1.4 billion made available to schools in 30 states and territories to help them recover from natural disasters from 2017 through 2019, according to a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) [report](#). Schools report that a top priority was restoring students' mental health after a trauma, but that has been exacerbated by the pandemic, which has also increased concerns about learning loss that were created by the original natural disaster. Other problems have also worsened, including delays in physical building recovery projects, staff burnout, and financial strains.

## II. CEF member information

- **Please take a moment to complete CEF's brief survey** – Each fall, CEF surveys its membership to ensure we are providing the benefits you want and to ask for suggestions for improvement. The survey will take only a few minutes, and all responses are anonymous. Your feedback will help us tailor our activities, advocacy, and information to what you most value. Please take the time to respond and feel free to comment on areas that were not addressed. [Click here](#) to take the survey.

- **Reminder: nominations to run for CEF's 2021 Board are due in one week** – I encourage those interested in playing an active role in CEF to consider submitting a nomination for a position on CEF's Board of Directors for next year. Nominations are due one week from today, on Monday, November 2 - the election memo and nomination form are attached. 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. . If you have any questions, please reach out to the CEF staff.

### III. Events

- **CEF Briefing for congressional staff and CEF members on “State Education Budgets and the Impact of COVID-19”** – Thursday, November 12, 2-3:30 p.m. ET, via Zoom. Panelists will discuss how state education budgets work and why some states are already cutting budgets while others are able to hold off for now. Panelists will also address the impact of looming state revenue shortages on pre-K-12 education as well as the possible impacts on post-secondary education, both for students and institutions of higher education. Please [RSVP here](#) - you must register in advance to get the Zoom webinar link.
  - Panelists:**
    - [Michael Griffith](#), Senior Researcher and Policy Analyst, Learning Policy Institute
    - [Dr. Jennifer Ma](#), Senior Policy Research Scientist, The College Board
    - Additional panelist pending confirmation.
- **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.
  - **Monday, Nov. 2** – Deadline to submit a nomination to run for CEF's Board of Directors. See information above.
  - **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. See registration and details above.
  - **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.