



I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **President-elect Biden's education agenda** – With the unofficial confirmation that Joe Biden has won the election, the future of federal education funding and policy will change dramatically from the Trump Administration agenda. In short, the outlook is much better for increases in federal education under a Biden Administration. We will continue to provide additional information on possible Biden Administration actions in the education field.
 - **Articles with education specific** – A number of fairly comprehensive articles laid out some of the rumors and thoughts about who might be named Secretary of Education, President-elect Biden's education agenda, and possible obstacles if the Senate still has a Republican majority after the January 5th runoff elections for both Georgia Senate seats. Below are some links to those articles and some CEF highlights.
 - [Washington Post article on changes likely for education policy](#) – This in-depth article covers that the Education transition team is being led by Linda Darling-Hammond, the guidance and regulations that the Biden Administration will likely change, and the funding priorities in the Biden platform, including tripling Title I funding and fully funding special education.
 - [Education Week article about K-12 outlook](#) – This detailed article covers likely COVID-related guidance and funding for education, and the K-12 funding priorities in the next Administration, among other topics.
 - **Education funding priorities in the Biden agenda** – The [Biden campaign provided specific plans for changes along the education continuum](#) focusing broadly on four areas, many of which require a lot of new federal spending – something that might not be easy to procure if the Senate remains under Republican control. However, the public does support increased education funding: in a poll from early this year, nearly 2/3 of those surveyed want to increase education funding, with about 80 percent of the supporters saying education funding for public schools should be increased even if that would require them to pay more taxes. The four major areas in the Biden platform are:
 1. improving pay and training for teachers,
 2. providing more resources for schools (mental health professionals, facility upgrades, community schools)
 3. equity of access to high-quality public education, and

4. [student aid and institutional support](#)

Of the many proposals, three of the biggest requiring Congressional approval for more spending are listed below.

- 1) **Free community college** (this proposal cost \$60 billion over ten years in last Obama budget) **and two years of free public college for families with income under \$125,000**. This plan would reportedly cost nearly \$50 billion in the first year, with the federal government paying 75% and states paying the remaining 25%. Last month, a [Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analyses](#) found that the plan would pay for itself within ten years in terms of increased revenues from college graduates.
 - 2) **K-12: Triple Title I and fully fund IDEA**. Title I currently receives about \$17 billion: tripling the funding represents a 47% increase in total Department of Education funding, something not likely in a short period and under a divided Congress when many Republicans have been opposed big expansion of federal education investments. President-elect Biden wants to use new Title I funding to increase teacher salaries and provide preschool to 3- and 4-year-olds, requiring state matching requirements where there is inequitable financing. This is a substantial change in Title I policy and would require changes in the authorization law. For special education, the Biden plan would fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) within 10 years – current funding of \$13 billion provides only one third of “full funding,” so full funding requires another \$26 billion per year.
 - 3) **Universal Pre-K education**: The plan involves federal and state funding for high-quality universal Pre-K education, a proposal that cost \$75 billion over ten years in last Obama budget. The proposal has been around for years, but in the pandemic the need for child care has been highlighted, and such a plan could be part of a stimulus proposal.
- **Education priorities that don't require Congressional approval** - Other areas where the Biden Administration could act unilaterally are with regulatory guidance and executive orders undoing some of the changes of the Trump Administration. For example, a new Administration could roll back changes or make new guidance dealing with student debt relief – the gainful employment rule, providing Public Service Loan Forgiveness – and with civil rights enforcement.
 - **Tomorrow Senate to release FY 2021 Labor-HHS-Education bill and report language** – Tomorrow around 10am, Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) plans to release all 12 fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations bills, including the Labor-HHS-Education bill and draft report language that explains appropriators' intent for the programs and should include the funding levels for individual programs (something that is not always knowable just by looking at the legislative text, which includes funding at the account but not always the program level). Recall that the spending caps on defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding for FY 2021 are essentially frozen at FY 2020 levels, which resulted in very few spending increases in the House-passed Labor-HHS-Education bill. [CEF's funding table](#) lays out current and proposed FY 2021 funding for education programs – we will update it and circulate it tomorrow to include Senator Shelby's FY 2021 proposal.

- **Outlook for action** - The Senate does not anticipate marking up any of the 12 bills but would use them as the starting point for negotiations with the House, which passed 10 of the 12 government funding bills this summer. House and Senate leaders have said they want to finish action on all 12 bills in the lame duck congressional session, and will have to take some action before government funding runs out December 11 under the short-term funding extension Congress passed in September. There are likely to be some difficult policy and funding differences between the House and Senate in the Labor-HHS-Education bill, and the question of emergency COVID-relief funding for education (and many other areas) will need to be settled before Congress will sign off on regular FY 2021 funding, adding another obstacle to quickly completing the FY 2021 bills.
- **Final week! Please take a moment to complete CEF's brief survey** – Thanks to those who have already taken CEF's annual membership survey – it takes only a few minutes, and all responses are anonymous. Each fall, CEF surveys its membership to ensure we are providing the benefits you want and to ask for suggestions for improvement. 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.

II. 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. 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
 - [Elizabeth McNichol](#), Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- **CEF's schedule for November and December -**
 - **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. See [updated toolkit](#) – more information (promotional tweets and blurbs for your outreach) coming shortly.
 - **Tuesday, Nov. 17** – Twitterchat on priorities for education funding next year. We will share materials later this week.
 - **Friday, Nov. 20** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Gabriele Elul, House Budget Committee.
 - **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.
 - **Friday, Dec. 4** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Friday, Dec. 11** - 9:30-11:30 a.m. ET, Zoom Annual Meeting (link to come). Attendance is important for elections and preview of CEF's 2021 plans.

