



I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Legislative status update for this week** – There hasn't been much progress on the two biggest unresolved issues facing the 116th Congress: finalizing the fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations bills and enacting a COVID-relief package that will contain new funding (including for education) and extend at least some of the federal relief provided by the CARES Act.
 - **FY 2021 government funding** – Appropriators are unlikely to finalize agreements on the 12 government funding bills – including the bill funding education – by this Friday, December 11, when government funding expires. To avoid a government shutdown, this week Congress is expected to vote on a 7-day funding extension, moving the deadline for finishing negotiations on full-year funding bills to Friday, December 18. The same policy and funding issues continue to hold up progress, including funding for a border wall and whether to provide \$12.5 billion for veterans health as emergency funding that does not count against the total allowed under the FY 2021 non-defense discretionary spending cap. Education funding isn't likely to be a sticking point since both the House-passed bill and the Senate proposal were broadly similar in providing very small increases for many education programs, with only a scattered funding cuts.
 - **COVID-relief** – The negotiations for this bill are not following the usual procedures. Congressional Democratic leaders had been trying for months to reach an agreement with the Administration on a comprehensive measure, to no avail. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) had proposed two versions of a much smaller Republican relief bill (the HEALS Act) this summer, neither of which garnered enough support for a floor vote but which he still favors over other approaches. Last week a bipartisan group of Senators proposed an outline of an in between bill, which Democrats described as a down payment and which they agreed to support as a starting point for negotiations but which Leader McConnell has not said he would support. Individual Senate offices are drafting language for different parts of the bill, without House input and without involving many of the committee staffers usually involved in drafting policy and funding language. Congress hopes to pass a combined package of the 12 spending bills and a COVID-relief measure.
- **Secretary DeVos extends moratorium on student loan payments** – On Friday, [Education Secretary Betsy DeVos extended current student loan repayment relief](#) by one month, meaning that no payments on federal student loans need to be made until after January 31, 2021. Under the CARES Act, federal borrowers had loan forbearance through December 31, with no interest accruing and no payments due. One of the proposals under discussion for the bipartisan COVID-relief bill provides

\$4 billion for student loans, which could cover additional payment forgiveness or forbearance. There are other proposals for much broader student loan forgiveness as part of federal stimulus, but none has been yet included in a COVID-relief bill that passed.

- **CEF Job Board** – Don't forget to check the Job Board on the member-only page of the CEF website for openings (or send us yours to add to the Job Board). It will shortly be updated to include the position described in the attached PDF for:
 - **National Association of School Psychologists** – Manager of Policy and Advocacy

II. Advocacy

- **Sample tweets and CEF charts (attached)** – With negotiations ongoing to finalize FY 2021 appropriations for education (and other programs) as well as COVID relief, now is a good time to step up advocacy on behalf of education funding! Attached are two CEF charts that show the education funding and the state and local funding in various COVID-relief bills. Below are two sample tweets that could be used or modified for your specific programs of interest.
 - Tell Congress why it's vital to increase support for education in the gov't funding & COVID-relief bills under discussion. Use CEF's #HearOurEdStories toolkit to reach your Rep and Senators: <https://cef.org/advocacy/5%c2%a2-makes-sense-nov-2020/> [chart to attach: Proposed Education and State and Local Funding]
 - Let Congress #HearOurEdStories about why education funding matters now more than ever as schools, universities, child care, & others face new costs. Find out how w/ CEF's #HearOurEdStories toolkit <https://cef.org/advocacy/5%c2%a2-makes-sense-nov-2020/>[chart to attach: Education COVID-Relief Funding Enacted and Proposed]

III. Events

- **Please [RSVP here](#) for CEF's Annual Meeting this Friday, Dec. 11** – The CEF Update on Nov. 24 included the details of for the election of CEF's Board of Directors for 2021 at our annual meeting on December 11. Attendance is important for the elections and for a preview of CEF's 2021 plans– we need a quorum of at least 1/3 of all members to attend! Please [RSVP here](#) so we know who will be the official voting representative for each CEF member, whether you will join by computer or by phone, and how to contact you. More than one person from each organization is welcome to attend the annual meeting but each CEF member in good standing gets one vote in the election, and a representative of the organization must attend the Zoom meeting to vote. This year's keynote speaker is 2020 National Teacher of the Year Tabatha Rosproy!
- **CEF's schedule for the next month -**
 - **Friday, Dec. 11** - 9:30-11:30 a.m. ET, [Zoom Annual Meeting](#). See RSVP link and agenda details above.
 - **No Friday meetings during the holiday break** – we'll send out CEF Updates as news warrants.
 - **Friday, Jan. 8** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, Zoom Friday meeting. Guest speaker TBD.