



Monday, March 1, 2021

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Return of appropriations “earmarks”** – On Friday, House Appropriations Committee chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) [announced](#) that the House will accept requests from Member for Community Project Funding (previously referred to colloquially as earmarks) in upcoming appropriations bills, and Senate Appropriations Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) said the Senate is working on an agreement for its appropriations process. DeLauro outlined restrictions and transparency requirements, such as precluding requests for for-profit entities or for recipients in which the Member of Congress has a financial interest, limiting requests to 10 per Member (but not all 10 would be funded) and limiting funding to no more than 1% of discretionary funding, and requiring requests to be in writing and to be reported before the bill is considered. Congress banned earmarks in 2011, but previously education programs did get some earmarked funding, including in the Fund for Improvement of Education among others. The major federal formula grant programs did not have earmarks. According to reporting from Education Week in 2008, in fiscal year (FY) 2008, the Department of Education received 945 earmarks totaling \$383 million. Almost half the funding went through the Office of Postsecondary Education, with the Office of Innovation and Improvement having the bulk of the remaining funding. Elementary and secondary education earmarks included funding for specific after school programs and non-profits that had educational offerings.
- **Reconciliation** – Very late Friday night, the House passed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, the reconciliation bill that contains hundreds of billions for education-related needs ([see the attached side-by-side that lists education funding in the past and current COVID-relief bills](#)) with only Democratic support. The Senate is expected to take up its own, slightly different, version this week and debate it under the reconciliation procedures that require only a majority vote to pass the bill, limit debate time to 20 hours before moving to the “vote-a-rama” where Senators offer amendments but have no time for debate, and impose limits on what amendments can do (strike an entire provision, or else not worsen the bill’s underlying deficit impact, and be related to the underlying content, among other restrictions). The final Senate text has not yet been published, but the Senate hopes to pass the bill this week.
- **Senate to vote today on Dr. Miguel Cardona’s nomination to be Secretary of Education** – This afternoon, the Senate is expected to confirm Dr. Miguel Cardona to be Secretary of Education. His nomination received bipartisan support in the Senate HELP Committee last month. Having an Education Secretary and more political staff in place will help speed up the process of not only crafting the President’s FY 2022 budget request but also implementing and overseeing the COVID-relief funding for education that was approved in December and the new funding in the reconciliation bill that is pending. House Budget Committee chair John Yarmuth (D-KY) last week noted that the President’s budget request is now likely not to be sent to congress until mid-to-late

April, even later than originally expected in the first year of a new Administration. That delay is in part due to the struggle to confirm a director of the Office of Management and Budget and because the Administration will want to factor in the impact of the current COVID-relief measure in its budget. What we can expect in April is an outline, not the detailed program-by-program budget, which will be finalized even later. Congress is likely to start its appropriations process (accepting requests, holding some hearings, maybe working on the FY 2022 budget resolution that will set the level of total FY 2022 appropriations and might contain another set of instructions for a second reconciliation bill) but not marking up its 12 appropriations bills until it receives the detail budget request.

- **CEF's website** – Our website has a lot of information for the public and other info just for CEF members that is on the password-protected Member area. (If you don't have access to the Member area, create a password and type in your work email, and as long as we recognize it as belonging to a CEF member you'll be approved). Some key resources you can find:
 - **CEF charts and funding tables** – see the "[charts](#)" page for current and past charts and tables on education funding
 - **CEF's budget book** (find the grey box on the bottom of the home page) – See our "[budget book](#)" page for the electronic version of the book, downloadable charts, and the video of the July briefing with panelists discussing education funding needs. If you have questions about past funding, scroll down to see CEF budget books back to FY 2011.
 - **Advocacy materials** – We have [fact sheets](#), the [#HearOurEdStories social media toolkit](#), and [CEF's letters](#) to Congress and the Administration
 - **Events: videos and photos** – We have [videos](#) of the two congressional briefings we held last fall along with photos from past CEF galas. In the Member Area (pull down from "Members" on the top bar) we have [videos of CEF's Research Briefings](#).
 - **About CEF** – The complete list of [CEF members](#), the [2021 Board of Directors](#) and staff, [past presidents](#), and more. In the Member area we also have the [2020 CEF Directory](#), which will shortly be updated with the information you provided in your 2021 membership renewal.
 - **CEF Member Area resources** – In addition to the videos of recent CEF member briefings and CEF's Directory mentioned above, the "[Member](#)" Area has past CEF Updates, a job board with postings from CEF members, a listing of who is on each of CEF's five working committees, and a portal to pay dues, among other items.

II. Events

- **National Virtual Briefing on Summer Enrichment Funding on March 3** – CEF members the National Summer Learning Association and the Afterschool Alliance are hosting a briefing on March 3 from 3-4pm ET featuring Senators Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Michael Bennet (D-CO), along with national out-of-school time leaders discussing the COVID-relief bill and COVID-19 learning disparities. Register [here](#).

- **CEF's upcoming schedule -**
 - **Friday, March 5** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Friday, March 12** – no CEF meeting.
 - **Friday, March 19** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
 - ***New date:* Thursday, March 25 – 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET** – Zoom briefing for congressional staff and CEF members: “Impact of COVID-19 on Education Jobs” (link and speaker details to come).
 - **Friday, March 26** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.