



I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Coronavirus summary info (attached)** – American Continental Group (ACG) is writing a daily update memo that includes the latest from the Administration and Congress, macro statistics, and business and community news and notes. While this memo is not education specific, we think it might be useful to our members as there is information in there that may help you communicate with your own institutions and networks. This morning’s memo is attached, along with a summary of the response bill (H.R. 6201) as amended, that the House passed yesterday and that awaits Senate action.
- **Education-related coronavirus response so far** – The Department of Education has a Coronavirus page [here](#). It has student aid information here, along with links to other government websites. On Friday the President said he would suspend interest on student loans, not the monthly payments themselves, but there are still [questions about exactly how that will work](#).
- **Possible next education-related coronavirus response** –
 - **Stimulus** - Both the Administration and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) this morning previewed ideas for separate, huge (HUGE!) stimulus bills. The Administration is discussing mostly tax-related measures and loans while Senator Schumer’s outline includes spending. Both could include education-specific proposals. This would be the third coronavirus-response measure, although the Administration has just floated the idea of combining the President’s \$850 billion stimulus measure with the House-passed bill. That seems unlikely to me for many reasons – mostly that Congress will want time to assess the scope of the economic, financial, and personal crisis before taking action on such a drastic scale.
 - **Senator Murray’s bill for education assistance** – Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) has introduced [S. 3489, the Supporting Students in Response to Coronavirus Act](#) that would provide more than \$3 billion in new mandatory grant funding for both higher education and preK-12 education. It includes \$1.2 billion for governors for to provide emergency preparedness and support grants for school districts and institutions of higher education, \$1.2 billion in emergency financial aid for students facing unexpected needs because of coronavirus disruptions and response, \$600 million to keep early care and education programs operating, and other provisions. Senator Murray’s staff is looking for feedback to improve the bill or add items that are still needed. Please send your suggestions to Manuel Contreras at Manuel_Contreras@help.senate.gov.

- **Remote learning assistance** – The sudden switch to remote education at the K-12 and higher education level makes clear the need for internet connectivity, among other needs. The Federal Communications Commission could take some immediate action to create Wi-Fi hotspots or other steps to expand access to broadband.
- **Boost funding for existing programs or create new ones?** – One question to grapple with is whether it is better to provide extra funding for existing programs that address needs that are exacerbated by coronavirus interruptions, or to create new programs so that existing and ongoing needs continue to be addressed. There are some calls for loosening or expanding regulations and requirements for existing funding streams, but that could mean that current needs might be overlooked.