



I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **ACG Coronavirus summary info (attached)** – American Continental Group (ACG) is producing a morning and evening 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, the CEF officers agreed that it might be useful to our members as there is information that may help you communicate with your own institutions and networks. We will start sending the memo every morning and evening, even when there isn't new CEF information.
- **What's been enacted and what's being considered currently** – Congress has enacted \$8.3 billion primarily for health-related measures including funding for treatment and response. Second, the House has passed and the Senate is now considering H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, that creates a program to provide sick and quarantined workers at small and mid-sized businesses with two weeks of emergency paid leave and provides tax credits for employers to provide up to three months of paid time off for protracted absences from work due to the pandemic. The bill provides \$1 billion in grant funding to help states manage and expand their unemployment insurance programs during the COVID-19 crisis; funds for free coronavirus testing; funding for enhanced food security initiatives, including SNAP, student meals, seniors nutrition and food banks; and additional federal funding for Medicaid. Third, the Administration and the Senate Democratic leadership have each proposed "Phase 3" huge stimulus bills, with some conversation about including immediate relief in the form of checks to all Americans.
- **New education-related coronavirus response proposal** – Last night the Administration sent Congress a request for \$45.8 billion in emergency supplemental fiscal year (FY) 2020 funding for coronavirus response and preparedness that includes \$140 million for the Department of Education. The education funding (starting on printed page 11) includes:
 - \$100 million for Project SERV in the Safe Schools and Citizenship Education account to help K-12 and postsecondary schools to help in cleaning and disinfecting classrooms and in providing counseling and distance learning. This is almost double the \$105 million already appropriated for FY 2020 for school safety national activities. (This is one of the programs the President's FY 2021 budget eliminates, consolidating its purposes into a new, smaller block grant also containing 28 other programs.)
 - \$40 million for student aid administration for increased loan servicing costs associated with the repayment relief (no interest on federal student loans starting on March 13). There is currently \$1.8 billion appropriated for student aid administration.

- \$10 million for Departmental management to expand telework at the Department of Education to 5,000 staff, and to provide for any necessary disinfecting.
- **Canceling in-person classes** – Kansas has now canceled in-school K-12 classes for the rest of the school year, and California’s governor has said the same might happen there. More colleges are canceling in-person classes for this semester, with education moving online in ways it hasn’t before. There will be a learning curve for both those teaching and those learning.
- **Education Department coronavirus resources** – The Department of Education has a Coronavirus page [here](#). It has student aid information [here](#), along with links to other government websites. The President said he would suspend interest on student loans, not the monthly payments themselves.