



Tuesday, March 23, 2021

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Biden infrastructure plan includes investments in education** – According to reports in the [New York Times](#) and the [Washington Post](#), the Biden Administration is preparing a \$3 trillion, two-part infrastructure plan that includes big investments in education. The proposal has yet to be made public so specifics are not final, but the reported plan includes spending for universal pre-K education, increased child care support, free community college, free and reduced tuition at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and \$100 billion for school/education infrastructure, among many other investments. One bill would focus on physical infrastructure while the other would invest in domestic priorities, including education. Some of the new spending and tax breaks would be offset by increased taxes on businesses and the very wealthy – offsets that will not be easy to pass in Congress, along with the plan’s high overall price tag. There’s discussion about whether some or all of these investments could be enacted via the budget reconciliation process that Congress employed to pass the American Rescue Plan, which has the main benefit of requiring only 51 votes rather than 60 votes to pass in the Senate. Using budget reconciliation would require Congress to first agree on a fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget resolution that has reconciliation instructions to relevant committees to craft the legislation that would ultimately be the reconciliation bill, and remember that there are limitations on what types of provisions can be included in a reconciliation bill. That is all to say that there are still many difficult steps for Congress to navigate before it produces another major spending and tax bill for the President to sign. The inclusion of lots of different investments in education is very encouraging, though!
- **Guidance on education appropriations “earmarks” for FY 2022** – The House Appropriations Committee has published guidance on the process for Members of Congress to request Community Project Funding (aka, appropriations earmarks) in the FY 2022 cycle. The [guidance for the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill](#) lists the two education accounts that are eligible for requests:
 - Innovation and Improvement for elementary and secondary education, a \$1.1 billion account. The largest programs in this account are charter schools (\$440 million), Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grants (\$200 million), Education Innovation and Research (\$194 million), and Magnet Schools (\$109 million). You can see all the programs in this education account on CEF’s funding table [here](#).
 - Fund for Improvement in Postsecondary Improvement, which received \$41 million for FY 2021, a big increase from recent years.

In the Department of Labor, the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) demonstration program is eligible for earmark requests, and in the Department of Health and Human Services the eligible programs are almost exclusively health-related, not the education-related programs that CEF follows. The deadline for requests for both Community Project Funding and programmatic funding in this bill has been extended until April 28 (see the Chair's "Dear Colleague" guidance on all requests [here](#).

- **Senate HELP Committee hearing on ED Deputy Secretary nominee** – Tomorrow at 10am ET, the Senate HELP Committee [is holding a hearing](#) on the nomination of Cynthia Marten to serve as Deputy Secretary of Education. More of President Biden's nominees are moving into place, with Senate confirmation yesterday of Labor Secretary Marty Walsh
- **Your input is needed on CEF's gala survey** – We would appreciate if all CEF members [could take a 2-minute survey to provide preliminary thoughts for our planning for a different type of CEF gala this fall](#). Assuming safety guidelines allow it, CEF's Gala Committee is planning an event for a venue that offers an outdoor, ground-level, covered site for a reception (not a dinner), and then have a keynote speaker and award ceremony that we'll live-stream for those who don't want to attend an in-person event. We'll circle back this summer as conditions for a possible gathering become clearer, but feedback now will be helpful in looking for sites, thinking about the budget, and planning the components. [Click here to take a short survey on your thoughts about a fall 2021 CEF gala](#).

II. Advocacy

- **Hill Teams meeting with office of Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI)** – Yesterday CEF Hill Teams members met with Hannah Aiken with [Rep. Haley Stevens \(D-MI\)](#), a member of the House Education and Labor Committee. Hannah noted the Representative's interest in ensuring any infrastructure package has a robust workforce development component and in reauthorization of WIOA, among other priorities. [Hannah is happy to be informed about any education-related Dear Colleague sign-on letters being circulated](#).

III. Events

- **This Thursday - CEF Hill Briefing: The Impact of COVID-19 on Education Jobs, March 25, 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET** – [RSVP here for the webinar link](#). CEF is holding its first Zoom briefing of the year for congressional education staffers and CEF members. We will hear from researchers and policy experts who will provide a broad outline of the impact on education jobs nationwide, discuss the disparate impact from state to state, and address the job impact in both the elementary and secondary school arena as well as higher education. Panelists are:
 - [Melat Kassa](#), Research Associate, Economic Policy Institute
 - [Maryanne Salm](#), Associate Director of Research & Strategic Initiatives, American Federation of Teachers
 - [Andy Brantley](#), President and CEO, College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
- **NAfME briefing on Music, Arts, and Social Emotional Learning on March 24** – CEF member the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and others are holding a virtual briefing on the ways that music education supports students in becoming resilient and socially empowered

individuals. The briefing is Wednesday, March 24, at 3:00 p.m. ET. [Click here](#) for more details and to RSVP.

- **AFT virtual conversation with Education Secretary Cardona on March 25** – CEF member the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) invites people to join its “Share My Lesson” keynote session featuring Education Secretary Dr. Miguel Cardona and AFT President Randi Weingarten on Thursday, March 25 at 5pm ET. You can register [here](#).
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule -**
 - **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.” See speaker details above and [RSVP here for the webinar link](#).
 - **Friday, March 26** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Woo Lim, Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA).
 - **Friday, April 2 and April 9** – No CEF meeting during congressional recess.
 - **Thursday, April 15** – 5-6 p.m. ET – CEF [Zoom happy hour](#) (federal taxes aren’t due until May 17 so you can spare an hour for fun)!
 - **Friday, April 16** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Thursday, April 22** – 3-4 p.m. ET – Twitter chat on the President’s education budget. Details to come.
 - **Friday, April 23** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.