



Thursday, March 4, 2021

## I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Senate reconciliation bill and leadership “perfecting” amendment (attached)** – The Senate on Saturday debated, amended, and passed the American Rescue Plan – the COVID-relief bill that provides almost \$170 billion for Department of Education programs, another \$850 million for Bureau of Indian Education programs, \$7.2 billion for a new e-rate program, plus more for libraries, child care, Head Start, and national service support. hundreds of billions of dollars for education. The attached CEF side-by-side shows the major education-related funding in the bill, the original Senate draft, and the provisions in the House bill. The Senate-passed bill includes other provisions dealing with tax relief for student loan forgiveness and FEMA funding that could go to schools that are harder to quantify. The House plans to take up the Senate-passed bill tomorrow, with the goal of passing it and sending it to the President by the end of the week.
  - **Attached Senate text (before amendments made changes)** – The attached text (a PDF with the wonderful name of a “Perfectitude” Amendment) is the text that the Senate substituted for the House-passed bill, H.R. 1319. This is not text as passed; the Senate approved several amendments that dropped or revised some of the underlying text.
  - **Attached Senate “perfecting” amendment** – Also attached is the last-minute leadership “perfecting” amendment. This amendment makes one key change for elementary and secondary education funding and it adds more funding for local relief.
    - **Shifts funds from K-12 education relief fund to special education** – The perfecting amendment reduces the funding total for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund by \$3.03 billion and eliminates a 2.5% set-aside for education technology. It adds section 2014 that provides the \$3.03 billion to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) programs: \$2.58 billion for IDEA part B state grants, \$200 million for IDEA preschool grants, and \$250 million for part C infants and children services. This lowers the amount for the K-12 stabilization fund but keeps the amount for K-12 education that same. (see pages 3-5 of the perfecting amendment).
    - **Increases total funding for localities** – The bill adds \$10 billion for Capital Improvement Projects and \$2 billion to create a Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, bringing total state and local relief to \$362 billion.

- **Senator Roy Blunt to retire at end of term** – Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee ranking member Roy Blunt (R-MO) announced that he will retire at the end of his term in 2022. He has been a supporter of education funding – CEF awarded him its William H. Natcher Distinguished Service Award at the 2017 gala at Union Station.

## II. Events

- **CEF's upcoming schedule -**
  - **Friday, March 12** – no CEF meeting.
  - **Friday, March 19** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Bradley Solyan, Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL).
  - **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 coming soon).
  - **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.