



Tuesday, April 6, 2021

## I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Delayed release of President's FY 2022 discretionary budget** – We've got CEF charts ready with a blank for the President's discretionary request for the Department of Education, but it's not clear when the Administration's so-called "skinny" budget for fiscal year (FY) 2022 will be released. As is usual in the first year of a new administration, the President's budget request is delayed beyond the normal early February date. A new administration usually releases a budget outline in March or April with just topline numbers for agencies and key funding initiatives, but not the detailed program-level data that will be included when the full budget request is sent to Congress later in April or May. The Biden Administration had planned to send up its topline discretionary request late last week but that has been delayed, with no new date yet announced. Usually an administration would not send its budget request to Congress in a week like this one when Congress is not in session – but what has been usual about this year? We'll let you know when we hear anything and will share updated education funding charts as soon as possible. There likely will not be enough detail to update [CEF's 4-page education funding table](#) until the full budget is released later this spring.
- **Another chance to use the FY 2021 budget resolution to create a reconciliation bill** – The Senate parliamentarian ruled yesterday that [Congress can revise its FY 2021 budget resolution to create new reconciliation instructions](#) that could be used to streamline passage of major budgetary legislation. That legislation is likely to include parts or all of the American Jobs Plan for infrastructure the President announced last week that had more than \$200 billion for education-related infrastructure investments. The House and Senate would still need to pass a revised FY 2021 budget resolution that included the reconciliation instructions to committees of jurisdiction, and those committees would report legislation that would be packaged into a reconciliation bill that gets fast-track protections in the Senate – the most important is that it cannot be filibustered so needs only 51 votes to pass. If Congress has the appetite for it, it could then pass a FY 2022 budget resolution – the one for the coming fiscal year that Congress would normally be crafting now – for a third reconciliation bill this year, which could be used for other big-ticket items. Those items could include climate change proposals or a second "social infrastructure" package that the Administration is working on that reportedly will include large investments in universal pre-kindergarten, free community college, child care, and other ways to increase access to post-secondary education (the Administration is expected to release this proposal in the coming weeks). In total, this approach would mean Congress passes three budget resolutions in one year and then crafts and passes three reconciliation bills – a tall order, but one that is now parliamentarily possible.

- **Department of Education biweekly newsletter** – The Department of Education (ED) sends out and [posts a biweekly newsletter](#) summarizing its major announcements, reports, briefings, etc. The newsletter released on Friday has a lot of good data – the release of two thirds of the American Rescue Plan’s Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds and state allocations, lots of information about guidelines for reopening schools safely, and guidance for institutions of higher education regarding relief for student loan borrowers, new allowable uses of the Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) funds from the second relief bill, and more. There is information on how to subscribe to the newsletter at the bottom, for those interested.
- **CEF Job Board** – Don’t forget to check the Job Board on the member-only page of the CEF website for openings (or send us yours to add to the Job Board). Recent additions are:
  - **National Association for State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)** – [Director of Finance and Administration](#)
  - **Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)** - [Media Relations and Advocacy Associate](#)

## II. Advocacy

- **Reminder: CEF is collecting examples of how COVID education funding is being used** – CEF is collecting examples of how schools, districts, colleges, and other entities are using COVID-relief funding – the \$282 billion for Department of Education programs and additional funding for other education-related programs. We’ll share the collected information about how the federal relief funding is being used as part of CEF’s advocacy to increase federal investments for long-term, ongoing education programs. Please share examples that show how the federal COVID-relief dollars have been or will be used. We have a [short questionnaire where you can provide specifics](#), or you can email information directly to me.

## III. Events

- **CEF’s upcoming schedule -**
  - **Friday, April 9** – No CEF meeting during congressional recess.
  - **Thursday, April 15** – 5-6 p.m. ET – CEF [Zoom happy hour](#) (it’s not tax day so come share an hour for fun)!
  - **Friday, April 16** - 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speakers: Amanda Beaumont and Bryce McKibben, Senate HELP Committee.
  - **Thursday, April 22** – 3-4 p.m. ET – Twitter chat on the President’s education budget. Details to come.
  - **Friday, April 23** - 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
  - **Friday, April 30** - 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Owen Reilly, Rep. Joe Morelle (D-NY).
  - **Friday, May 7** – no CEF meeting.
  - **Friday, May 14** – 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.

- **(tentative) Tuesday, May 18** – 2-3:30 p.m. ET – Zoom briefing for congressional staff and CEF members on historic underfunding of education and long-term needs. Details to come.