



Tuesday, May 19, 2020

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Congressional outlook** – The House is not slated to take votes until the middle of next week following its Friday passage of the \$3 trillion Heroes Act, the Democratic coronavirus relief measure that includes \$100 billion of direct education aid, nearly \$1 trillion in state and local fiscal relief that could prop up public education budgets, among many other policies and funding provisions intended to help individuals and businesses through the pandemic. The Senate is in session this week voting on nominations with no plans to turn to another coronavirus relief measure soon. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has not committed to a timetable or specific plan, but it seems likely that the Senate will not be debating another relief measure until the end of June, or later.
- **Polls show support for state and local fiscal relief** – A [recent poll](#) by CEF members the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) found that a large majority of likely voters support state and local fiscal relief to support public services, including education. The poll asked about relief like the \$1 trillion in the Heroes Act, and found that 84% were in favor of a package that provided \$500 billion for state and local relief and \$200 billion for public K-12 and higher education. Almost 70% thought it was very important for Congress to provide “support to maintain state and local services (police, schools, health).”
- **Education groups ask for Pell grant increase** – Yesterday a [letter](#) signed by close to 80 education groups asked Appropriations leaders to double the maximum Pell Grant in the next coronavirus relief package and to provide at least an inflationary increase in the fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations bill. The letter, signed by a number of CEF members, also asks Congress not to use any funding already enacted for Pell Grants – the so-called surplus or reserve that the Congressional Budget Office estimates currently has [\\$10.8 billion](#) – for programs other than Pell Grants. As you may recall, in three of the last four fiscal years Congress rescinded previously appropriated Pell Grant funding in amounts ranging from \$500 million in FY 2020 to \$1.3 billion in FY 2017.

II. Advocacy

- **June 9 is CEF’s virtual Day of Advocacy: please sign up to participate** – We encourage you to participate in CEF’s virtual day of advocacy on Tuesday, June 9. We will be holding virtual CEF Hill

meetings – CEF will set up the meetings for groups led by an experienced Hill Teams member, and provide the advocacy materials. We'll also ask for your help providing social media support to amplify our message – the need to increase federal education investments in the next coronavirus relief measure and in the FY 2021 appropriations cycle. (The specifics of the day are detailed in the May 18 CEF Update). To participate in the meetings, please [sign up here](#) by next Tuesday, May 26. We'll be back in touch to confirm attendance; if you are involving savvy grassroots participants from our targeted states, please sign up early so we can note their participation when requesting the meetings. We'll provide some brief Hill Teams training and review how these meetings will operate at our CEF meeting on Friday, June 5.

III. Events

- **This Friday - CEF Research Briefing on Education Technology: Equity of Access, Assessment, and Research Findings** – Friday, May 22, 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET. Join [via Zoom](#) or dial in at 301-715-8592, meeting ID 994 9698 4362. Panelists are:
 - [Verna Lalbeharie](#), Managing Director of Digital Age Personalized Learning, American Institutes for Research
 - [Noelle Ellerson Ng](#), Associate Executive Director of Policy and Analysis, AASA: the School Superintendents Association
 - [Kathe Pelletier](#), Director of Student Success Community Programs, EDUCAUSE
 - [Sean J. Smith, PhD](#), Professor of Special Education, University of Kansas
 - Corey Williams, Federal Lobbyist, National Education Association
- **Webinar on “Beyond Standardized Tests: Using Performance Assessment in College Admissions” on May 27** – CEF members EducationCounsel and the Learning Policy Institute, along with Education First are hosting a webinar on performance assessments and their use in college admissions as part of the Reimagining College Access Initiative. The webinar is on May 27 from 2-3:00pm ET. To register and for information about speakers, [click here](#).
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule** –
 - **Friday, May 22** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. [Zoom Research Briefing on Education Technology: Equity of Access, Assessment, and Research Findings](#). See details above.
 - **Friday, May 29** – No meeting during scheduled congressional Memorial Day recess.
 - **Friday, June 5** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speakers: Emily Smith and Peter Mills, Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT).
 - **Tuesday, June 9** – 1:00-5:00 p.m., CEF virtual Hill Advocacy Day/Day of Action. Sign-up info above, and details in May 18 CEF Update.
 - **Friday, June 12** – No Friday meeting – this is a change from the original schedule.
 - **Friday, June 19** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Friday meeting. Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Friday, June 26** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Quarterly Committee meeting.
 - **Friday, July 3** – No Friday meeting during congressional Independence Day recess.
 - **Friday, July 10** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Research Briefing on Diversity in the Teacher Workforce. Details to come.