



Tuesday, May 26, 2020

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Congressional outlook** – The House will be in session this week, with votes – including the first allowing remote voting by proxy – scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday. A few House committees are also holding hearings related to COVID-19. The Senate is not in session this week. Republican leaders have recently acknowledged the likelihood of another pandemic-relief measure, but action is still likely weeks away.
- **Slides and material from Friday’s briefing on education technology** – Many thanks to the very informative presentations at CEF’s Friday morning briefing on education technology. The Zoom briefing is posted on the member-only section of CEF’s website under “CEF Event Coverage” for those who want to watch it there. The panelists’ slides are posted there and are also attached above. There were also links shared in the briefing to three resources:
 - **Learning Policy Institute (LPI):** [What will it take to stabilize schools in the Time of COVID-19?](#)
 - **LPI blog** on [Social Emotional Learning to support students and families during the pandemic](#)
 - **Verna Lalbeharie, American Institutes for Research:** [Building Positive Conditions for Learning at Home: Strategies and Resources for Families and Caregivers](#)
- **Disagreement over allocation of CARES Act education relief** – The Department of Education (ED) and parts of the education community disagree about who is eligible for both the elementary and secondary education relief and the higher education relief in the CARES Act.
 - **K-12 relief** - ED interprets the CARES Act to allow state education associations to distribute funds to private schools based on the total number of students they serve, not the number of low-income students they serve, as is the case for setting aside Title I funds for services for low-income students at non-public schools. CEF member the Council of Chief State School Officers objected to ED’s April 30 non-regulatory guidance about distributing the aid in a [May 5 letter to ED Secretary DeVos](#), making the case that the funds for private schools should follow the Title I formula, as directed in the CARES Act. Senate HELP Committee chair Lamar Alexander (R-TN) last week seemed to disagree with the ED guidance, noting "I thought, and I think most of Congress thought, that money from the CARES Act would be distributed in the same way that Title I is distributed." Several states have said they will not follow the ED guidance. The Secretary said last week that ED plans to issue guidance – that

will be available for public comment – to enforce ED’s interpretation of the funding allocation.

- **Relief for college students** - There has also been disagreement about the allocation of higher education relief. ED issued guidance that only students originally eligible for federal aid would be eligible for pandemic-relief aid in the CARES Act – a determination that bars undocumented students and international students from eligibility. California and Washington states are suing ED over the guidance, and ED has since said that the guidance was preliminary and will be updated.
- **Relief for hardest-hit institutions of higher education (IHE)** – There is also disagreement about ED’s allocation of nearly \$350 million in pandemic relief that was to be shared with the IHEs with the greatest unmet need. ED last week noted that it will revise its original methodology for allocating the funding, which had the funding going to all IHEs that hadn’t yet received \$500,000, regardless of their need for relief caused by the pandemic.

II. Advocacy

- **Please sign up today to participate in CEF’s June 9 virtual Day of Advocacy** – 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). We need a preliminary sense of how many people want to participate in the meetings, so please [sign up here](#) by COB today, May 26. We’ll be back in touch to confirm attendance; if you are involving savvy grassroots participants from our targeted states, please let us know so we can note their participation when requesting and confirming 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

- **Today – Virtual briefing on “Afterschool & Summer Programs Support Learning & Recovery” from 2-3pm** – CEF member the Afterschool Alliance invites you to join a virtual briefing this afternoon from 2-3:00pm ET. It will focus on afterschool programs’ role responding to the pandemic and in the nation’s recovery, featuring perspectives from education, afterschool programs, research, and economic development on the social, emotional, and academic support being provided to students and their families. See information on panelists and how to register [here](#).
- **Tomorrow - 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 29** – No meeting.
 - **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 full 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.