



Thursday, May 7, 2020

## I. The Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Requests for aid for states and localities, and additional education funding** – There is a growing push in Congress to provide flexibility in how states may use the \$150 billion in general coronavirus aid included in the CARES Act and to enact additional aid to backfill lost revenue as a result of the coronavirus. This type of aid could be used to shore up state and local budgets that support public education along the continuum. A number of community sign-on letters to Congress have made requests for such aid, some of them requesting specific amounts to be set aside for education in general or certain programs in particular. In addition to the [CEF letter](#) sent on Monday, other letters are listed below.
  - 70+ organizations sent [a letter on May 5](#) asking for at least \$250 billion in additional education funding, including: at least \$175 billion for the Education Stabilization Fund created in the CARES Act; \$50 billion for public institutions of higher education and minority-serving institutions; \$25 billion for Title I, special education, and other programs under the Every Student Succeeds Act serving vulnerable students; and \$4 billion for the e-rate program. It also included education policy proposals to support students' nutritional and educational needs.
  - Higher education groups [laid out the need](#) for almost \$47 billion in additional aid to institutions and students (updated on May 4), among other needs.
  - National Governors Association on [April 21](#) asked for \$500 billion for state and local governments to replace lost revenue, along with additional funding for the Governors' Emergency Education Relief Fund created by the CARES Act.
  - American Council on Education and more than 30 others sent a [letter on April 20](#) asking for relief on student loan repayment and borrowing terms.
  - The Association for Career Technical Education (ACTE) and Advance CTE sent a [letter on April 8](#) asking for at least an additional \$1 billion for CTE programs, among other policy proposals focused on work-based learning, access to postsecondary education, and dislocated workers.
  - Twelve K-12 groups sent a [letter on April 6](#) asking for more than \$200 billion in education relief funding.

- NASSP, ISTE, Learning Forward, and SETDA are asking for at least another \$200 billion for the Education Stabilization Fund, with at least \$2.13 billion of that dedicated to professional development in online learning for K-12 educators.
- **Lower student loan rates and FAFSA applications** – With colleges bracing for potential steep declines in enrollment this fall as a result of the pandemic, there are signs that many fewer students are filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at a time when it looks like federal student loan rates are about to be set at what would be a record low rate. Next week the U.S. Treasury auction will determine the rates of Stafford Loans issued for the coming academic year, with interest rates likely to be about 2.8% for the life of the loan. At the same time, CEF member the [National College Attainment Network \(NCAN\) is tracking the worrisome drop in FAFSA applications](#) among both current college students and high school seniors.

## II. Advocacy

- **CEF Hill Teams meetings restarting next week** – CEF is scheduling virtual Hill meetings with the congressional offices of Members who are key to the education funding and policy arena. So far we have meetings set for the next two weeks with offices of three members of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees: [Rep. Barbara Lee \(D-CA\)](#), [Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman \(D-NJ\)](#), and [Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith \(R-MS\)](#). Members of CEF’s Advocacy and Hill Teams Committee have signed up to participate, and we will keep that Committee informed as more meetings are scheduled. [If you are not a member of the Advocacy and Hill Teams Committee but would like to join, please email me \(Abernathy@cef.org\) and we’ll add you.](#)

## III. Events

- **NASSP and LPI briefing on “Principal Turnover: Causes, Impacts, and Solutions” on May 14** – CEF members the Learning Policy Institute and the National Association of Secondary School Principals are hosting a livestreamed briefing to release a report, “Supporting a Strong, Stable Principal Workforce: What Matters and What Can Be Done”— that outlines policy recommendations for Congress, states, districts, and schools to support and retain high-quality school leaders. The event is on Thursday, May 14, 1:30-2:30pm ET. Please [click here](#) for information on panelists and to RSVP.
- **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 Friday Zoom meeting schedule** –
  - **Tomorrow, Friday, May 8** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. [Zoom meeting](#). Guest speaker: Bob Moran, Education Policy Director, Senate HELP Committee majority staff.
  - **Friday, May 15** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. [Zoom meeting](#). Guest speaker: Mark Laisch, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee minority staff.
  - **Friday, May 22** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Research Briefing on Education Technology: Equity of Access, Assessment, and Research Findings. Details coming soon.
  - **Friday, May 29** – No meeting.

- **Friday, June 5** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom meeting. Guest speakers: Emily Smith and Peter Mills, Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT).