



I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **House Appropriations Committee approves FY 2021 Labor-HHS-Education bill** – Yesterday the House Appropriations Committee approved a fiscal year (FY) 2021 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill by a vote of 30-22. The Committee adopted only a bipartisan Manager’s amendment that did not include any changes to education funding and an amendment from Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) adding report language about insurance for substance abuse and mental health coverage. (See the CEF Update from 7.12.20 for the CEF funding table that shows program levels.) Subcommittee ranking member Tom Cole (R-OK) offered an amendment (but withdrew it rather than ask for a vote) that would have rejected the bill’s \$40 million cut to the charter schools program. In objecting to the amendment, Subcommittee chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) said that the Department of Education has not been able to spend all the funding currently in the program. Family planning and abortion measures were the most contentious for both Democrats and Republicans. Some Democrats are upset that the bill maintains the long-standing Hyde amendment language that prohibits federal funding for any abortion-related activities, and Chair DeLauro said she would continue to work to remove that language. Some Republicans opposed new provisions that block Trump Administration restrictions on family planning grantees, and Ranking Member Cole offered an amendment (defeated by a vote of 22-30) that would have deleted the provisions.
- **Next action for Appropriations** – The Appropriations Committee will be marking up the last five FY 2021 appropriations bills today and tomorrow. The first four-bill appropriations package – comprising the State-Foreign Operations, Military Construction-VA, Agriculture, and Interior and Environment bills – will be on the House floor on July 23 and 24. The next omnibus package will be on the House floor the week of July 27. It’s not clear if the other eight bills will be in one omnibus package, but that is likely because House leadership wants to complete all House floor votes by July 31. Given the time required for any floor votes, we do not anticipate that many amendments will be allowed. The Senate still has not started marking up any of its FY 2021 appropriations bills, confirming that there will not be time to complete action before the new fiscal year starts on October 1. Once Congress is back in session in September it will need to extend government funding, likely until Congress reconvenes in a lame-duck session after the November 3 election.
- **GAO Report on CARES Act finds most ED funding obligated but not yet spent through May 31** – The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issues a report in late June reviewing how much of the coronavirus relief assistance in the CARES Act had been spent as of May 31 (so it’s already quite out of date). The GAO report includes some findings about what led to some delays in getting funding out. [Appendix 38](#) covers the Education Stabilization Fund, and includes a breakout of funding by state. It found that a majority of most of the separate K-12 funding streams had been obligated (i.e., assigned) but not yet expended (i.e., flowed out to the school districts), and that the

Department of Education had awarded colleges nearly all of the funding to help students directly. Other Appendices deal with [emergency aid to college students](#), [student loan provisions](#), and the [Department of Education comments](#).

- **CEF in the news** – We answer questions, share data and charts, and regularly steer reporters to our various members. Two recent articles:
 - **Education Week Politics K-12 blog** – a July 6 [article](#) titled "What to Watch for in Any New Coronavirus Bailout for Schools"
 - **Chalkbeat** – a July 10 [article](#) titled "As CARES Act helps some schools, many say it's just a down payment on what districts need to avoid financial disaster"

II. Advocacy

- **CEF social media Members of the Week: CEC and CASE** – This week [CEF highlighted the Council for Exceptional Children \(CEC\) and the Council of Administrators of Special Education \(CASE\) as Members of the Week on Twitter and Instagram](#), noting its Special Education Legislative Summit taking place this week. We're asking all of you to [submit information about your upcoming events – advocacy days, fly-ins, conferences, briefings, etc., – at this link](#) so that we can highlight them and your organization on social media. Our goal is to garner more attention to the advocacy, cross-pollinating among our members' networks. We will be in touch with you as we get close to your event to get your material - language and images – that we can use and then link to your own sites.
- **#HearOurEdStories campaign push the week of July 27** – We will be updating CEF's [#HearOurEdStories social media toolkit](#) to include a focus on the extra costs and needs associated with going back to school this year. It provides the information needed for people to tell Members of Congress why increased education funding is so important. We will make a push to share the campaign the week of July 27, when the House plans to consider the FY 2021 Labor-HHS-Education bill in package that will likely include six other funding bills. [Once the toolkit is updated we will send you the link and sample Tweets that we encourage you to use in sharing it with your grassroots networks.](#)

III. Events

- **Register now to attend CEF's Budget Book briefing: "Education Matters: Investing in America's Future – Discussion of the Need for Increased Federal Education Funding,"** Monday, July 20, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. ET. [You must RSVP here in advance](#) to get the link for the Zoom webinar. [This event is open to CEF members, congressional education staffers, the wider education community, and the press.](#) Our FY 2021 budget book will be shared publicly on the CEF website following the briefing (it's on the members-only page currently.) [The briefing features a discussion with five panelists covering the education continuum from states with Members of Congress in key education funding positions:](#)
 - [Aidan Arasasingham](#), Rising Senior at University of California-Los Angeles
 - Joshua Ferguson, Assistant School-aged Childcare Director, Jefferson City Area YMCA, Missouri

- [Jennifer K. Foster](#), Deputy Executive Director, Illinois Community College Board
 - [Bethany Meehan-Poulin](#), 4th and 5th grade special education teacher, Dirigo Elementary School, Peru, Maine
 - [Dr. Janet Robinson](#), Superintendent, Stratford Public Schools, Connecticut
- **CEF's schedule for the summer –**
 - **Friday, July 17** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Friday meeting. Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Monday, July 20** – 10:00-11:30 a.m. Zoom webinar briefing on CEF's FY 2021 Budget Book and the urgent need for education funding for CEF members and congressional staff. See details above; you must register in advance.
 - **Friday, July 24** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Friday meeting. Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Monday, July 27** – Weeklong renewed push on updated #HearOurEdStories social media campaign to focus on the issues of going “back to school” this fall.
 - **Friday, July 31** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Friday meeting. Guest speaker TBD.
 - **August** – CEF meetings will take a break during the congressional recess.