



Tuesday, July 21, 2020

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Senate pandemic relief bill to include \$105 billion to reopen schools** – With Congress back in session after two weeks of recess, Senators are gearing up to propose a new pandemic relief bill that will include education funding in some form; the House passed the Heroes Act in May, but the Senate has not passed a comprehensive relief package since the Cares Act was signed into law in March. Today Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) said the Republican bill will provide \$105 billion to safely reopen schools, noting that the pillars of the Republican proposal will be jobs, healthcare, getting children back in school, and liability protections.
 - **Controversial issues for the bill** – Senate Minority Leader Schumer (D-NY) expressed opposition to the Republican bill apparently not including a number of top Democratic priorities, such as more funding for state and local governments (funding that in large part can support public education and that many Republicans also support.). In addition, the implication that the education funding in the bill would be conditional on schools providing in-person classes is something Democrats have said they do not support. The White House on Friday also said it wants to reserve 10% of the education funding for non-public schools and for the scholarships to private schools funded by tax credits that the Administration proposed in its budgets the last two years. Whatever Senate Republicans first propose this week will not be the final version of the bill – there are many controversial policy issues and funding disagreements among Republicans and with Democrats that still need to be resolved.
 - **Timing** - The White House and House Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) want to have a compromise bill by the end of this week, when expanded unemployment provisions expire. It's possible the deliberations will last into next week, or even the first week of August when the Senate is still slated to be in session.
- **Joe Biden to announce a child care and education workforce plan today; reopening schools plan announced last Friday** – In a campaign speech today in Delaware, Former Vice President Biden will roll out the third plank of his "Build Back Better" economic recovery plan, which would cost \$775 billion over 10 years and aims to create 3 million new caregiving or education jobs. The "*Biden Plan for Mobilizing American Talent and Heart to Create a 21st Century Caregiving and Education Workforce*" will offer universal pre-k, make childcare more affordable and accessible, and aim to create over 1 million early education jobs. The plan also proposes increasing pay for early childhood educators in public schools to "receive similar pay and benefits to elementary school teachers if they have similar qualifications and experience." The proposal is expected to be paid for by rolling back

certain tax breaks for high-earning real estate investors and by increasing tax compliance for high-income earners. The previous two planks of Biden's the economic recovery plan included a pathway to [reopening schools safely](#)

Specific provisions in this proposal include:

- Providing all 3- and 4-year-olds access to free, high-quality pre-kindergarten
- Offering low-income and middle-class families a tax credit of up to \$8,000 to help pay for childcare.
- Ensuring families with school-aged children have expanded access to after-school, weekend, and summer care.
- Investing in childcare and other wraparound services at community colleges.
- Growing a diverse care and education workforce by providing increased pay and benefits, and access to collective bargaining, training and education, and career ladders.

On Friday afternoon, the Biden campaign released a plan to [reopen schools safely](#). In addition to steps to health care provisions to control the virus and protect the public, the plan has several education funding proposals:

- enacting the Heroes Act (which includes about \$100 billion for education programs and more for childcare);
 - passing another bill with \$30 billion to ensure schools have the supplies they need to safely reopen; and
 - providing \$4 billion to upgrade technology and broadband access for schools.
- **New CAP report on need for more K-12 education funding** - The Center for American Progress today released a report titled, "[Why K-12 Education Needs More Federal Stimulus Funding](#)." It provides a short outline of education relief measures enacted so far and key proposals still pending, and then makes the case for a greater federal investment in K-12 education based on the last recession's negative impacts on student achievement and the loss of teacher jobs.

II. CEF Budget Book briefing yesterday

- **Briefing available on CEF's Facebook page and website** – Yesterday CEF held its first virtual public briefing to officially release our FY 2021 budget book, with a truly effective panel of people involved with education from coast to coast. If you missed it, you can view it on CEF's Facebook page (@CMTE4edfunding) and on the [CEF website's budget book page](#). Thanks to the many CEF members who were involved – the writers and editors of the book's articles, and those who helped identify and invite such an effective panel of speakers.
- **Budget book and charts on CEF website** – While CEF members have had access to the budget book since late March, it is now available to all on the public part of our website (the grey box on the lower right of the homepage).

- **Highlighting the book's video vignettes** – Throughout this week, CEF will be tweeting links to the 11 video vignettes included in the budget book – a new feature for CEF's book this year. The videos highlight the real world impact of funding for programs – the same thing we are encouraging people to do with the #HearOurEdStories social media campaign.

III. Advocacy

- **#HearOurEdStories campaign push the week of July 27** – We have updated CEF's #HearOurEdStories social media toolkit and urge you to share it NOW with your Communications Director and membership networks to make next week “#HearOurEdStories” week on social media. (See the CEF Update on July 20 for full details, including sample tweets and charts.) Next week the House plans to consider the FY 2021 Labor-HHS-Education bill in an omnibus appropriations package and Congress will be working on another pandemic relief bill, so the time is right to emphasize the need for education funding. CEF's updated [#HearOurEdStories social media toolkit](#) includes 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.

IV. Events

- **CEF's remaining schedule for the summer** –
 - **Friday, July 24** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Alura Ervin, Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC).
 - **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: (tentative) Corey Linehan, Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE).
 - **August** – CEF meetings will take a break during the congressional recess.