



Thursday, August 13, 2020

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Senator Harris's education record** – There's already been a lot written about Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) since her selection as Joe Biden's vice presidential running mate. In case it is helpful, below are some highlights of her policy and funding positions on education. (You can read more about the campaign's policy positions, including on higher education and child care, in the blue boxes at the bottom of the campaign website [here](#).)
 - **Teacher Pay:** As a presidential candidate, Harris outlined a plan to increase teacher salaries by an average of \$13,500.
 - **Early Education:** She supports creation of a national pre-kindergarten program and funding to allow Head Start to serve all eligible children (Head Start currently serves less than 40 percent of all eligible children from low-income households, so this could require an extra \$15 billion per year).
 - **Special Education:** Harris supports full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – something that would require approximately \$26 billion more per year.
 - **Title I:** She has said she supports making the formula for Title I funding for low-income schools more equitable.
 - **Higher education:** Harris is an original cosponsor of the [College for All Act](#) that eliminates tuition and fees at public colleges for those making less than \$125,000 and makes community college free. She supports increases for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and improving student loan repayment plans..
 - **School Infrastructure:** Harris is an original cosponsor of the [Rebuild America's Schools Act](#) that provides \$100 billion in funding and tax credit bonds over ten years for school infrastructure.
 - **Civil Rights:** Harris supports funding increases for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, and stronger enforcement of civil rights requirements, including discipline.
- **House floor schedule update for September** – House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) announced that the House will not be in session the first week of September but instead will reserve that week for Committee action. The [updated House calendar](#) for the fall now shows only three weeks when the House will be in session between now and the middle of November. However, House (and Senate) leadership have said they would give at least 24 hours' notice to call members back to vote on a pandemic relief bill, should an agreement be reached. Also, in many previous election years Congress has chosen to stay in session a week or so longer than planned in October to address time-sensitive issues.

- **CARES Act materials from the Congressional Research Service (CRS)** – The Congressional Research Service has written several reports on education funding and provisions in the CARES Act. Two are recently updated or produced:
 - [Report](#) on Education Stabilization Funds (updated August 6, 2020). Pages 30-31 show how much each state gets from each of the three primary funds (K-12, higher education, and each Governor’s relief fund).
 - Two-page [fact sheet summarizing the higher education](#) policy and funding (July 2020)

II. Events

- **CEF’s upcoming schedule–**
 - **August 14 through Labor Day** – CEF meetings will take a break during the congressional recess!
 - **Friday, Sept. 11** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. [Zoom Friday meeting](#).
 - **Friday, Sept. 18** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. [Zoom Friday meeting](#).
 - **Wed., Sept. 23** – 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET, Zoom Research Briefing on How Money Matters in Education. Open to CEF members and congressional staffers. Panelist details coming soon.
 - **Friday, Sept. 25** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Friday meeting.