



I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Congress in recess until September** – The House and Senate officially are in recess until after Labor Day, with negotiations on a pandemic relief package stalled. Democrats say they won't start negotiating until Republicans agree that the package will provide \$2 trillion in aid (the House-passed Heroes Act provided more than \$3 trillion), but Republicans proposed \$1 trillion and won't set a final funding level up front. There are disagreements about many of the policy and funding proposals for the package, leading to the stalemate. Congress could come back earlier than planned to vote if an agreement is reached, but this week it's seeming more possible that a relief package could be tied in with an extension of government funding (called a Continuing Resolution) to be enacted before current appropriations bills expire at the end of the fiscal year on September 30.
- **95% of Education Stabilization Fund has been obligated** – The federal government's public tracking of COVID-19 relief funding shows that 95% of the CARES Act education stabilization funding has been obligated already. Last week, the Administration cited that only 4% of the CARES Act education funding had been expended – a very old data point that I think is from a GAO report showing spending as of May 31. Sometimes the terminology about whether money is spent can be confusing. For instance, the Department of Education can have contracts with state education agencies that have detailed exactly how funding will be used, but the money hasn't yet been transferred from the Treasury to the states so it isn't yet technically counted as an outlay.

Resources that have information about CARES Act and other relief spending.

- USAspending.gov tracking COVID-19 spending – The federal government tracks spending on usaspending.gov, and has a COVID-19 page. If you look under "Total Spending by Budget Category" and then filter under "Federal Accounts," the Education Stabilization Fund is the 10 item and has both data and nice chart!
- Treasury tracking state and local relief – This source shows state and local relief spending through June 30, by state. I don't think this includes the Education Stabilization Fund.
- Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget – CRFB has a COVID Money tracker tool with an interactive table where you can filter the "Legislative" tab to find education funding under the "State and Local Funding" and "Grant Programs" that shows virtually all of the education funding has been committed or disbursed.

II. Events

- **CEF Briefing on “How Money Matters in Education”** – Wednesday, September 23, 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET, via Zoom. [Briefing for CEF members and Congressional education staffers.](#)

Panelists:

- [Dr. Tom Harnisch](#), Vice President for Government Relations, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
 - [Dr. Rucker C. Johnson](#), Professor of Public Policy, University of California-Berkeley
 - [Dr. Jenna Sablan](#), Assistant Research Professor, Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce
 - [David Sciarra, Esq.](#), Executive Director, Education Law Center
- **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 Briefing on How Money Matters in Education (see details above).
 - **Friday, Sept. 25** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Friday meeting.