



Thursday, August 5, 2021

Thanks to those sponsoring CEF's 2021 Gala!

Straight "A"s: American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

Star Student: American Council on Education (ACE); American Library Association (ALA); National Education Association.

Dean's List: National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU); AASA, the School Superintendents Association/Consortium for School Networking/National School Boards Association.

Honor Roll: Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU); Bose Public Affairs; National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS); National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP); National Association of Secondary School Principals/National Association of Elementary School Principals/American Federation of School Administrators.

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Senate FY 2022 appropriations process starts** – Yesterday the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up its first three fiscal year (FY) 2022 appropriations bills without first voting on allocations for all 12 bills, as is the customary practice. The bills – Agriculture, Energy and Water, and Military Construction-VA – were approved with bipartisan support (summaries, bill text, and report language are linked within Chairman Leahy's [press release here](#)). The Committee has not yet announced a schedule for additional mark-ups of the other bills, I do not expect the Labor-HHS-Education bill to be released or marked up this summer – that bill is likely to be controversial due to abortion policy issues so may not be marked up in Committee at all. [Chairman Leahy's opening statement](#) addressed the unusual circumstances of not having a discretionary total set for FY 2022 and therefore his decision not to release allocations for all 12 bills at the start of the markup process, noting "In the absence of a topline, I am not going to put forward an allocation at this time. I believe that would only divide the Committee, and delay our typically bipartisan work. I have been urging for months that we begin bipartisan, bicameral negotiations with the White House on spending toplines, and I continue to believe that is the right way to proceed." The bottom line for education funding at this point is that we don't yet know the total for the bill, how much education funding will be increased (it will certainly be increased), or when or whether the Senate Appropriations Committee will release or mark up a Labor-HHS-Education bill.
- **Senate debating Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal (BID) that has education-related funding increases and decreases** – The Senate plans to stay in session until it passes both the BID ([bill text is here](#)) currently being debated as well as a FY 2022 budget resolution that will contain reconciliation

instructions for a bill that will likely have much more direct education funding for infrastructure and new programs. The BID contains funding for broadband, lead pipe removal in schools and child care centers, energy efficiency improvements in schools, and clean energy school buses. It also extends the Secure Rural Schools program.

- **School-related infrastructure funding –**
 - A total of \$65 billion for broadband investment to help families access the internet and afford devices (Division F, starting on page 2014);
 - \$5 billion for clean-energy school buses (section 71101, starting on page 2386);
 - \$500 million over 5 years for competitive grants to schools and non-profits for energy efficiency improvements (section 40541, starting on page 1719);
 - \$200 million over 5 years to remove lead contamination in school drinking water, as part of a much bigger drinking water program (section 50110, pages 1929-1934); and
 - Reauthorizes and extends until 2023 the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, which helps fund schools in 700 counties that have federal forest land (section 41202, starting on page 1878).

- **Offsets (i.e., government savings) related to education** - To partially offset the new costs, the bill:
 - Extends the mandatory sequester for one more year (it is currently in place through FY 2030), which means one more year of an elevated origination fee for student loans. That additional component of the origination fee has been in place since FY 2013. For FY 2022, that extra fee under imposed by the mandatory sequester brings in a total of \$51 million to the federal government; and
 - Rescinds \$353.4 million of unobligated balances from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. On page 2456, the bill rescinds \$353.4 million in unobligated balances from the total of almost \$37 billion that Congress provided for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. That funding was enacted in the CARES Act in March 2020 and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act in December 2020. The rescinded amount is less than 1% of the total provided, and no Institutions of Higher Education had applied for that funding.

II. Events

- **CEF gala on September 28 outdoors at Due South-Dockside** – CEF’s Gala this year will be a hybrid in-person/livestreamed event outdoors along Washington’s waterfront on Tuesday, September 28. For those who want to attend in person, we are selling tickets and sponsorships for a networking reception with appetizers and drinks at Due South [Dockside](#) (see below for details).
 - **Due South-Dockside** – Dockside is an outdoor venue with a [canopied section of the wide dock along the Anacostia River](#) that is reached via stairs or a gradual ramp along the right of Due South (301 Water Street, SE, Washington, DC). It is 4 short blocks (0.3 miles) from the Navy Yard metro station and there are parking garages nearby, along with scarce street parking.
 - **Award ceremony with Senator Markey will also be live-streamed for free** -- After the reception, starting at 6:30pm we’ll livestream the award ceremony and speeches available to anyone online for free. One of the honorees selected by CEF membership, [Senator Ed](#)

- Markey (D-MA), will be attending and accepting CEF's William H. Natcher Distinguished Service Award; we are waiting to hear back from the other two honorees. We'll provide the free link for the livestream closer to the date.
- **Tickets and sponsorships** - Individual tickets are for sale for \$100 on [CEF's website](#) or by emailing RSVP@CEF.org to be sent an invoice (please include the names of those attending, their organization, email, and number of tickets you want). Gala sponsorship information is online [here](#). The venue's capacity is limited to 150 and two-thirds of the tickets have already been sold, so **if you want to attend, please don't delay in getting your tickets!**

 - **CEF's upcoming schedule -**
 - **New: Thursday, August 12. 4:30-6:30pm** - CEF Happy Hour outdoors at The Admiral – 1 Dupont Circle, NW.
 - **August Fridays** – no CEF Friday meetings during August/congressional recess. We'll keep you informed via email about any education funding-related action.
 - **Friday, September 10** – 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.