Welcome!

Education Matters: Investing in America’s Future – Panel Discussion of the Impact of the President’s Education Budget

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

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Education Funding is Increasing After Years of Stagnation

(Department of Education Discretionary Funding in Billions of Dollars)

2017, 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 regular totals reflect rescissions of Pell Grant funds

Regular ED Funding

Emergency Relief (2020 CARES Act & 2021 COVID relief)

2017, 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 regular totals reflect rescissions of Pell Grant funds
Federal Funding Has Not Increased Over the Last Decade Except for K-12

(Discretionary nominal dollars, in billions)
Two Thirds of Voters Believe the US Spends Too Little on Education

"Approximately 2% of the regular federal budget is spent on education. Do you think this amount is too little, about right, or too much?"

- **Too little**: 67%
- **About right**: 20%
- **Too much**: 13%

**Source:** Change Research/ACG Advocacy poll conducted 4/30-5/7/21

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Downloadable charts from CEF’s budget book are on our website at www.cef.org/cef-budget-book/

Hill staff will receive an electronic copy of the book and can request a hard copy.

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Investing in America’s Future: Workforce Development

Jennifer Harris
Board of Directors
NAWB
What is a Workforce Development Board?
The Current Workforce Landscape
WIOA Reauthorization & Impacts
Conclusion

If the United States wants to remain competitive in an increasingly crowded global economy, increased investment in education that leads directly to sustainable and meaningful employment should be of paramount importance by our legislative leaders at the state and federal level, creating equitable opportunities and economic mobility for all.
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How Alaska’s Libraries Use Federal Funds to Support Education
Institute of Museum and Library Services

- $1.1 million granted annually to libraries statewide through Alaska State Library
- Statewide service grants that support equity
- Individual project grants to libraries for pilot projects
- Continuing education grants for library staff
Reading Motivation Grants

- Battle of the Books – statewide competition reaches 15,000 students
- Summer Reading Program – prevent summer slide in reading scores
- Big Reads – A town or school district that reads the same book and has programs
- Books Get Our Vote – Children got to vote on their favorite books in November 2020
- Elizabeth Peratrovich – League of Women Voters project to distribute this title to every school in Alaska
Digital Equity – Fifty Databases for All Alaskans

- Averages about 1M uses annually – 1.3 items per capita
- BrainPop - Short animated films on science, social studies, English, math, engineering & tech, health and arts and music
- EBSCO Primary Search / Middle Search / Academic Search – Indexing and full-text of magazines
- Novelist K – 8 Helps young readers find books in series and read-alikes
- Point of View Reference Center – Examines multiple sides of issues
- Science Reference Center – Indexing and full text of science magazines
- Learning Express – career tests and planning, GED and college test prep, computer skills center
Rural Library Services via Alaska Mail Services

- Books, audiovisuals, and magazines mailed to families living in towns without public libraries
- Families with internet access can access ebooks and audiobooks on AK Digital Library
- Students doing research receive materials for their reports
- Excitement at receiving red zipper bags compared to opening Christmas gifts
Service to Underserved Patrons

- Audiobooks, audiomagazines, and large print materials to patrons who are print disabled
- Includes a rich selection of children’s and young adult materials
- Serves people of all ages with dyslexia
- Free service with materials sent by email or available through download
- Congress mandated this service in 1931
Expert Library Workforce Serves All Alaskans

- No graduate library school in Alaska
- Scholarships awarded for school and public librarians
- Annual conference of Alaska Library Association
- Continuing Education Grants for school and public librarians
- Individual workshops through InfoPeople

Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress
Innovative Approaches to Literacy Grants

- Large multi-part grants to high-need school districts to address literacy over five years
- Dillingham $3.4M LINKED Project
- Literacy Innovation for Neighborhood Kids’ Education Development
- School district project that partners with public library
- Book distributions, reading nights, incentive reading programs, reading intervention training for teachers, hiring two literacy specialists, and more
Library Infrastructure

- People need libraries and libraries need adequate buildings
- Congress has not supported capital funding for libraries in 25 years
- Aging buildings and demands of technology make it harder to serve our patrons
- Edna Bay Public Library and its entire power source
- In order to have lights, the back door has to be cracked open
114 American Rescue Plan Act Grants

- State Library received $2.2M total in addition to $1.1M of annual IMLS funds
- Must be spent by Sept. 2022
- 23% ($506K) to buy library materials statewide at 80 libraries
- 41% for digital projects – wifi, webpages, online access to materials
- 27% pandemic response – PPE, furniture and equipment for social distancing
- 9% training library staff
The Ask

• Libraries are essential for Alaska’s communities and Alaskan students
• Support funding of at least $232M for Library Services and Technology Act at IMLS
• Innovative Approaches lets districts craft comprehensive literacy projects
• Support funding for at least $50M for Innovative Approaches to Literacy
• Library infrastructure projects need federal support after 25 years of inaction
• Support funding to renovate and modernize library facilities through Build America’s Libraries Act
Thank you for your time! Questions?

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