Overview

- Congressional Committees
- Education Funding
- Medicaid
- Vouchers
- Congressional Review Act
- 2017: Year of Advocacy
- Education News Resources
- Stay Engaged/Contact Info
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## House LHHS Appropriations

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• 35 states provided less overall state funding per student in 2014 school year than in 2008 the year the recession took hold

• In 27 states, local government funding per student fell over the same period, adding to the damage of state cuts
FY17 Budget Talking Points

- CR through Marc 31; final work will overlap with nominations, Supreme Court confirmation, CRA floor time, and FY18 work
- Title I: Fund at level to meet state set aside and preserve LEA allocations
  - level funded (consolidates $450 m from SIG into Title I)
  - Coupled with change in hold harmless, results in CUT of $200m in LEA allocations
- IDEA: Level funding of IDEA puts the federal share at 16%, below the 2005 level, when federal share was 18%
- Title IV: Fund Title IV at a level that supports local formula allocation
  - President funds Title IV at $500 m (increase from $353, but well below authorized $1.6 b); Senate proposed $300 m; House proposed $1 b
  - Comes with rider language to make the program competitive, and allow states to establish priorities
Cuts to School-Based Medicaid on the Horizon

- GOP Goal: Reduce federal expenditures by 30%
- GOP Plan: Institute a block-grant or per-capita cap on Medicaid
- GOP Legislative Vehicle: Budget Reconciliation
Quick Primer on School-Based Medicaid

- Since 1968, districts can provide EPSDT services for medically eligible children and be reimbursed.
- Since 1988, districts can bill for medically-necessary services related to IEP
- Is it easy to bill? NO. Is it worth it for some districts? ABSOLUTELY.
- 1% of all federal Medicaid dollars go to schools
- 46% of Medicaid beneficiaries are children
- 19% of the costs of Medicaid are incurred by children.
Findings from AASA report (released today!)

How do you utilize your Medicaid reimbursement in your district?

- Direct salaries for health professionals who services for students: 68.6%
- Expanding health related services: 45.2%
- Facilitating outreach and coordination services to refer kids to services: 39.4%
- Other (please specify): 26.6%
Findings from *Medicaid Cuts: A Prescription to Hurt the Neediest Children*

- 50% of districts have taken steps recently to increase Medicaid enrollment in their districts
- Economic consequences for Medicaid cuts: furlough or lay-offs for personnel; higher taxes
- IDEA compliance may be jeopardized if professionals can’t or won’t work in your district
Big Voucher Fights Ahead!
So many options—here’s a primer

Traditional Vouchers
- All Students
- Targeted
  - Military
  - Disabilities
  - Poverty
  - Poor Performing Schools
  - Foster Child

Backdoor Vouchers
- Tuition Tax Credits
- Education Savings Accounts

Portability
- A Step Towards Vouchers
- Title I funds “follow the student”
Traditional Voucher

DC voucher program - only federally-funded voucher program

There are 25 voucher programs
Five states have Education Savings Account programs

- Taxpayer
- Government
- Savings Account
- Student
- Private school
There are 21 tuition tax credit programs
Title I or IDEA Portability

Title I or IDEA dollars
- Federal Government
- States
- School Districts
- Public Schools

Portability
- Federal Government
- States
- Follows the child to school
The SOAR Act

14 years and it’s still not working

Efforts to expand it possible

Appropriations & Reauthorization
The CHOICE Act

- Expands the DC Voucher
- Transforms IDEA into Vouchers
- Creates Military Vouchers
Native American Education Opportunity Act

- Turns BIE money into voucher
- Expands state ESA programs
- Undermines BIE-funded schools
Educational Opportunities Act

Creates a federal tax credit for contributions to non-profit organizations that grant scholarships for low-income students to attend private schools.

Dollar for dollar credit. Individual contribution limited to $2250. Couples $4,500 and $100,000 for corporations.

Student eligibility would be capped at a family income less than 250% of the poverty line.
Congressional Review Act

- Rescission of regulations
- Can be applied to any regulation issued in the past 60 business days (think: June 2016)
- When rescinded, any new regulations on same topic cannot be ‘substantively similar’
  - What does that mean for moving forward?
  - Will Trump administration issue new regs? Guidance? Technical assistance?
  - Must consider that some regulations provide critical clarification
- Alternative is to leave regs in place and/or not enforce
- Education impact: ESSA accountability and teacher prep
2017: The Year of Education Advocacy

- Can you commit to 5 minutes a week?
- Everything you need to know to lobby, you learned in kindergarten: CUT & PASTE
- Identify one theme/topic per month, and share the same information with your full delegation
- As you do more direct advocacy, rely on your membership benefits of belonging to both AASA and your state association
  - Topic summaries, one pagers, talking points, contact information
AASA Legislative Portfolio

- ESSA
- School Nutrition
- Perkins Career/Tech
- IDEA
- Rural Education (REAP, Forest Counties, Impact Aid)
- School Vouchers
- Medicaid
- E-Rate/Lifeline/EBS
- Student Data & Privacy
- Charters
- Higher Education Act
- Affordable Care Act
- Regulations: DoL and EPA
- Immigration
- More?
Sources for Education Policy Info

- **Websites & Newsletters**
  - EdWeek
  - Politics K12
  - Morning Education (Politico)
  - Real Clear Education
  - Cabinet Report

- **Coalitions**
  - National Coalition for Public Education
  - Committee for Education Funding
  - Medicaid Claiming
  - Forest Counties
  - E-Rate
  - Rebuild America’s Schools
Questions? Comments?

Stay Engaged!
- AASA Policy Blog The Leading Edge
- AASA Advocacy on Twitter (@AASAHQ)
- Weekly & Monthly Updates- email Leslie!
- AASA Advocacy Conference July 10-12
AASA Policy & Advocacy Team

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