



## FEDERAL Advocacy Update

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By Noelle Ellerson Ng, AESA Federal Advocate

**FY17 Budget:** Congress agreed to a final spending bill for FY17, the federal dollars that will be in schools for the 17-18 school year. The bill is not good, but it is about as good as Congress can do given the current funding environment. AESA did not endorse the bill, given deep concerns we have with proposed cuts and inadequate funding to core programs, but we did not oppose the bill either, given that the bill was bipartisan and as good as Congress could do given the current funding caps (We can have an entirely separate conversation on how Congress alone can address the cap issue...they put the caps into place, they can resolve them.) But, for purposes for FY17, we were neutral on the bill, highlighting the good as well as the bad, and delivering a clear message that FY18 has to be better.

### Quick Summary of Education impacts in FY17 omnibus

- Provides \$66.9 billion for USED (accounting for Pell rescission), a \$1.1 B cut from FY16
- ESSA
  - Title I increase of \$550 million (includes \$450 M from SIG consolidation and \$100 M in new funding; will still leave school districts short \$100 M for ESSA implementation)
  - Title II is cut by \$294 M (13%)
  - Title IV is funded at \$400 M, and states can choose to run it competitively.
- IDEA receives \$90 M increase (Federal share just over 16%)
- Impact Aid increase \$23 M
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers increase \$25 M
- Head Start increase \$85 M
- Includes reauthorization of DC voucher program
- Does NOT include funding for Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program

**ACHA:** The House passed the bill to repeal/replace the Affordable Care Act on May 4. Here's the latest [call to action](#), which includes the priority members (those that are leaning no). While the bill passed the House, advocacy can sway that and we need to keep the pressure on for the Senate vote.

**Perkins Career Tech:** The House today introduced its bill to reauthorize the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. Called the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act. The bill is sponsored by Rep Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL). Other sponsors include Byrne (R-AL) Clark (D-MA), Ferguson (R-GA), Langevin (D-RI), Nolan (D-MN), and Smucker (R-PA). You'll recall that AESA endorsed the 2016 version of the bill (here's a [good run down](#) of that bill).

- Key changes in the 2017 version (H/T EdWeek):

- States have to set performance targets based on the process in their state plans.
- The bill says that two accountability indicators in the bill, those for "nontraditional" students and for program quality, now only apply to CTE "concentrators" who have taken two sequential CTE courses of study. In general, the bill defines CTE concentrators as those students who have "completed three or more career and technical education courses, or completed at least two courses in [a] single career and technical education program or program of study."
- Maintenance-of-effort language has been changed that would now allow states to decrease their CTE funding by 10 percent in the year immediately following implementation of the new Perkins law.
- The U.S. secretary of education now has 120 days to review the plans, not 90 as in last year's bill.

**School Nutrition:** The US Department of Agriculture announced a partial rollback of regulations on the Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act, including delaying or weakening restrictions on salt and requirements for whole grains. This is a set of regulatory relief AESA has long championed. Check out [blog post](#) by Leslie Finnegan, AESA senior legislative analyst.

**Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act:** SRS/Forest Counties was NOT included in the FY17 funding bill. Your advocacy is working though because there is now Senate language to reauthorize the program. Sens. Hatch and Wyden [introduced a bill](#) to reauthorize the program for two years. Other Senators supporting the legislation include Crapo, Cantwell, Risch, Heinrich, Daines, Manchin, Gardner, Feinstein, Murkowski, Sullivan, Tester, and Bennet. WE MUST KEEP THE PRESSURE ON CONGRESS TO ACT. Here is our [call to action](#) AND a recent [social media campaign](#). Here's a bulleted list of what's in the bill:

- Reauthorizes SRS payments for 2 years—retroactively, to make counties whole for their FY2016 payments and FY2017 (payment goes out in 2018);
- Clarifies the use of unelected title II funds;
- Eliminates the merchantable timber pilot requirement (*note: this was never implemented by the Forest Service, and the Forest Service support its deletion*);
- Clarifies, through a technical fix, the availability of funds per section 207(d)(2);
- Extends the time available to initiate title II projects and obligate funds for the 2-year reauthorization;
- Title II and III Elections: For the 2-Year reauthorization, there won't be enough time to go through the administrative process of the counties changing their elections and still getting their payments on time, so for reauthorization, the counties have to stick with their current elections.

**Executive Order on Federal Overreach (Regulations) in Education:** President Trump signed an executive order (read it [here](#)) that directs USED and Secretary DeVos to study "where the federal government has unlawfully overstepped on state and local control." Given the restrictions on federal authority in ESSA, the executive order has for the most part been perceived as more symbolic than substantive, at least on first impression.