Every Student Succeeds Act: An Overview

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MDSE 2016
ESSA Warm Up

• Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) 1965
• No Child Left Behind (NCLB) 2001
• Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2015
• NCLB reauth started in Aug 2007 and lasted just over 8 years.
• The 114th Congress-2016 was a year of action!
• ESSA:
  – Passed the House 359-64; Passed the Senate 85-12
  – Bill signed into law December 10, 2015
What’s in the Bill?

• ESSA is a significant improvement over current law.
• Maintains federal role, but emphasizes role is to support/strengthen, not dictate/prescribe to, schools
• Returns pendulum of federal overreach and prescription back to state/local control
What’s in the bill?

• Standards: States must have high standards
• Assessments: Maintains annual assessments in Math and ELA, and grade-span testing in science
  – State Assessment Pilot will support selected states in creating/utilizing their own or regionally designed assessment (much like what NH has done)
  – Local high schools can, with permission from their state, use a local assessment in place of the state assessment, and this could include SAT or ACT
• Accountability: Maintains data disaggregation and graduation rate calculation
  – Outside of broad federal guardrails, significantly whittles back federal overreach and prescription Mandates ID and intervention in bottom 5% and high schools graduating less than 67%
  – States must establish sub-group performance targets, but there is NOT consequence for intervention based on these targets
  – Academic (non academic) factors
• Collective impact of reducing high-stakes testing environment
What’s in the bill?

• Title I, Other
  – Portability is OUT; weighted funding pilot is IN
  – No Title I Formula rewrite, but there is a Congressional Study

• Rural Education: REAP, USED Study, and consolidated grants

• Titles II (Professional Development) and Title IV (school climate) are block grants
  – Title II formula rewrite, toward deeper concentration of poverty

• Alternate Assessments
Timeline & Implementation

• Signed into law (Dec 2015); regulations in 2016
• Current waivers would expire July 31, 2016
• New provisions go into effect for 2017-18 school year
• 2016-17 school year could be ‘soft launch’ of new elements
• Negotiated Rulemaking will take place in Mar/April, related to assessments (comp adap, alt assmt, ELL assm, and 8th grade math) as well as supplement/supplant
• Other regulations expected (Title II, Title III, Title IV, etc…)
Federal Fiscal Year 2017
Federal Fiscal Year (FY) runs Oct 1 – Sept 30
• We are in FY16 (Oct 1 2015- Sept 30 2016)
• FY16 dollars will be in schools for 2016-17 school year
• We are in the non-defense discretionary (NDD) portion of the budget
• Education $$ is in the LHHS-Edu approps bill
• Pres FY17 budget came out Feb 9.
NDD Spending Caps

FY 2015 Sequester Cap: $492
FY 2016 Sequester Cap: $493
FY 2016 President's Budget: $530
FY 2016 Budget Deal: $518
FY 2017 Sequester Cap: $504
FY 2017 Budget Deal: $519

Total: $527

Cap level
OCO fund nondefense increase

$8
FY17 Budget Talking Points

• 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
  – Funds Title IV at $500 m (increase from $353, but well below authorized $1.6 b)
  – Comes with rider language to make the program competitive, and allow states to establish priorities
Questions? Comments?

- AASA Advocacy on Twitter
- Weekly & Monthly Updates
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