FY 2019

CCSESA applauds Congress’ successful adoption of the Budget Act of 2018, which raised the funding caps for FY18 and FY19, and the timely passage of the FY19 Labor Health and Human Services (LHHS) appropriations package. These increases are a step toward ensuring that all students have access to a high-quality public education.

Although education funding is less than 1% of the total federal budget, this funding is critically important to the local budget of every school district in California. Without federal support for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), California schools would struggle to serve our large population of high-needs and low-income students.

While the renewed investments in FY18 and FY19 are a welcome reprieve from sequestration, it is important to note that if FY12 funding levels had kept pace with inflation, USED would be funded at $3 billion more than the current level.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

California is currently experiencing a severe shortage of teachers with the most acute shortages in special education, advanced math, advanced science, and foreign language. As a result, CCSESA has serious concerns about any legislation that would eliminate or cut Title II of the Higher Education Act (HEA) which helps with teacher recruitment and retention through the preservation and improvement of grants and loan repayment options for future and current teachers.

CCSESA encourages Congress to support a bipartisan reauthorization of HEA that includes continued support for existing critical grant and loan forgiveness programs that help bolster teacher recruitment and support teacher retention.

STUDENT DATA & PRIVACY

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is the premier federal policy related to student data and privacy. Originally passed in 1974, the bill has never been reauthorized and has seen only peripheral changes via regulation over the years despite the passage of interrelated laws and regulations, like HIPAA, and huge advancements in technology. FERPA/HIPAA conflicts create huge unnecessary barriers to serving students’ health, mental health, and education needs. With the uptick in concerns related to preserving student data and privacy, as well as an uptick in broader data breaches and the growing role of third-party vendors in schools, reauthorization of FERPA is long overdue.

As Congress moves forward with reauthorization, CCSESA urges members to focus on passing a bill that modernizes and clarifies terms and definitions, and maintains continuity between laws (like HIPAA), and remains narrow in scope.

*Estimated
USED State Funding History Tables
https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/history/stthisbyst15.pdf