Agenda Topic: Federal Legislative Update

Materials: Washington Education News for August 2001
Recommendations to the Conference Committee on ESEA
Status Report on Federal and Foundation Funding in 2001

Staff Contact(s): Gail Lieberman

Purpose of Agenda Item

To apprise the Board members on current legislation before Congress, and discuss related federal education issues and funding.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

The Board will be informed and able to make relevant decisions when necessary.

Background Information

In addition to this report, the monthly updates on the agency’s web site under Federal Legislation are useful tools. Your continued reading of Connie Rogers’ notes from NASBE would also be of considerable value in keeping informed. Attached is the August 2001 Washington Education News.

Analysis and Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action and Communications

The federal ESEA legislation has implications for upcoming budget and agency action:
- standard appropriations (e.g., for Title I) in September 2001 has implications in the budgeting process and supporting agency and school initiatives;
- special requests of the agency from our delegation in the appropriation process (e.g., assistive technology funding in 2000);
- agency actions will be affected by the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (e.g., consolidated applications, new agency applications such as for Reading First or Early Reading First); and
- agency grant applications or school direct grant applications during 2001-02 will be dictated by Congressional actions in September 2001.

Recommendations for the ESEA Conference Committee were sent to our delegation members in July, once the Senate ESEA bill was available for review.
Congress is in recess now. They return after the Labor Day holiday to tackle virtually all of the federal appropriations and remaining large issues such as completing the reauthorization of ESEA. Conferee staff continue to meet in all day sessions. CCSSO says that it is unclear what issues the staffs are currently working on. The critical issues of adequate yearly progress, annual assessments, and program improvement have not been discussed yet, but will most likely be discussed in the last 2 weeks of August.

The appropriations process will not be completed until early October.

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<th>FY 2002 Budget</th>
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<td><strong>Labor/H HS/Ed</strong></td>
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<td>$108,477</td>
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Both sides are far apart on the budget. The House allocation is $4.1 billion above the President’s request. The Senate allocation is $3.3 billion above the President’s request. All of these increases will not necessarily be available for education spending as there are other health and labor priorities for increased funding as well. One reason that many education groups are supporting mandatory full funding of IDEA is that it can free up $6.3 billion in discretionary spending that could be applied to other education programs.

Once action occurs in the fall, several agency tasks will move forward:
- **formal budget process** for FY03 will be able to include federal funding information
- **competitive proposals** will be sought by USDE and other agencies with the new funds,
- **special project proposals** will be needed by USDE and any other agencies that may be appropriate in order to receive these funds
- development of **state plans/consolidated applications** for future federal funding pursuant to ESEA reauthorization/No Child Left Behind Act.

Agency staff will act accordingly on all of these tasks.

Of course throughout the year we continue to seek and secure federal and foundation funding. Attached is a status report on that endeavor.

**Superintendent’s Recommendation**

No formal action is needed at this time.

**Next Steps**

Continued information throughout the year.

Attachment
- Recommendations to the Conference Committee on ESEA
- *Washington Update* for August 2001