

# **South Carolina School Boards Association Legislative Conference**

**A School Board View on Washington, D.C. by  
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# Discussion Agenda

- ▶ Politics 2014 & Education Legislation
- ▶ The Federal Budget & Education
- ▶ The Role of the Department of Education
- ▶ ESEA and NSBA's Bill
- ▶ Your Action

# Congressional Math

## U.S. Senate

- ▶ 100 seats: 50 needed for majority/60 to break a filibuster
- ▶ D's (53 + 2 I's): R's 45
- ▶ Seats Up: 35 including 2 special elections
  - ▶ D's: 20 + 1 special election (HI)
  - ▶ R's 13 + 1 special election (S.C.)
- ▶ Retirements:
  - ▶ D's: IA/MI/MT/SD/WV
  - ▶ R's: GA/NE
- ▶ Vulnerable Incumbents in general election:
  - ▶ D: AK/AR/LA—maybe NC
  - ▶ R: None (primaries can change result)

# Congressional Math

## House of Representatives

- ▶ 435 Seats: 218 for a majority
- ▶ All seats are up
- ▶ Current R's: 234 to D's 201
- ▶ D's need net gain of 17 seats/R's can lose 16 seats
- ▶ Retirements R's 13, D's 5

## Congress – After The Shutdown

	Approval	Disapproval
Overall	12%	85%
Re-elect Own member	25%	66%
Republican Party Overall	32%	63%
Republicans in Congress	21%	73%

Note: Gallup polling showed approval of Congress at 11% in October and 9% in November

# The President –After The Healthcare Website

<b>November</b>	<b>Approval</b>	<b>Disapproval</b>
President Obama (Job)	42%	55%
Overall Impression	46%	52%

# South Carolina Education Funding

S.C.	State Allocation	Total Per Pupil
2009-10	\$1.065 b	\$9,008
2010-11	\$0.973 b	\$8,801
2011-12	\$1.138 b	\$9,010

Per pupil expenditures flat over three years

\*Data provided by South Carolina Department of Education

## South Carolina Federal Grants (in millions)

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Title I	215.650	220.301	219.300	205.585
IDEA	175.288	140.625	176.828	167.787

- Some districts were cut more than others (Avg. 4.5% over 4 years)
- Sequestration could bring more cuts for FY 2014
- Costs Rise
- State funding is flat
- Academic expectations and requirements on school districts rise
- Enrollments increase in some districts



# History of the Federal Role

- ▶ The National Purpose Era (Pre-1965)
- ▶ The Equity Era (1965-2002)
  - ▶ Focus on access/support for high need students
- ▶ The Accountability Era (2002-2009)
  - ▶ Focus on quality for all students through accountability
- ▶ The School Reform Era (Current)
  - ▶ Focus on quality for all students by impacting the delivery system

# Department of Education Overreach

1. ED has established significant and detailed program initiatives that, in the absence of federal legislation or on the basis of very general language, has:

- ▶ **Compromised local school board governance**
- ▶ **Limited the flexibility that school districts need to meet local, state, and federal goals**
- ▶ **Imposed unnecessary costs, administrative burdens and negative consequences in the classroom**

2. ED's rules etc. are not adequately responsive to local school operations

# Examples of the Overreach

## 1. Absence of Specific Legislative Authority

- ▶ State Race to the Top grants
- ▶ Grant priorities
- ▶ Local Race to the Top grants
- ▶ NCLB waiver conditions

## 2. Lack of Responsiveness to Local Concerns

## ESEA: House Passed Bill (H.R. 5)

- ▶ Grade Testing And Subgroup Reporting Retained
- ▶ ED Cannot Add/Delete State Standards, Assessments, Or Accountability System To Approve State Plans
- ▶ AYP Removed Without New Performance Goals
- ▶ Elements of NSBA Bill (H.R. 1386) Incorporated:
  - ▶ ED Prohibited From Mandating/Coercing Standards/ Assessments Etc. /Imposing Unfunded Costs/ Or Exercising Governance/Admin Over Schools Unless in ESEA
  - ▶ Local And State Waivers/ No Conditions Added
  - ▶ Increased Local Input/Higher Standard For Regulations To Be Financially, Operationally, And Educationally Viable At Local Level

## ESEA: House Passed Bill (H.R. 5) (Con't)

- ▶ States And School Districts Set Expectations And Determine How To Deal With Low Performance
- ▶ Consolidates To 12 Programs
- ▶ Eliminates Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements
- ▶ Teacher Evaluation Based On Student Outcomes As One Of Multiple Measures Is Optional
- ▶ State MOE Eliminated
- ▶ Funding Caps At Sequestration Level
- ▶ Title I Portability To Traditional/ Charter Public Schools

## ESEA: Senate Committee Bill (S. 1094)

- ▶ No Caps On Funding
- ▶ Authorizes 39 Programs
- ▶ Pre-school Program Added
- ▶ Race To The Top/ Other Competitive Grants Programs Included
- ▶ AYP Replaced By New Performance Goals
- ▶ ED Approves Assessment/Accountability Plan Similar To Current Law
- ▶ Subgroup Data Reporting Significantly Expanded
- ▶ Identifies Criteria For Low Performing Schools And Requires One of Six Turnaround Options

## ESEA: Senate Committee Bill (S. 1094) (Con't)

- ▶ Comparability Tied To School Based Budgeting
- ▶ Detailed Planning Requirements For Local Use Of Federal Funds Increased
- ▶ Retains HQT Requirements For New Teachers Until Growth/Improvement Systems Are In Place
- ▶ State Evaluation Systems Must, In Part, Be Based On Outcomes And Other Measures For Prof. Dev. And Assignment Purposes—But Necessarily For Salary And Firing Purposes

# Other Issues

- ▶ ED's renewal process for waivers
  - ▶ Two year waivers: meet plan, monitoring, intervention requirements. Stakeholder involvement required.
  - ▶ One year waiver: state success/resolve monitoring issues and meet professional development goals. Stakeholder involvement
- ▶ E-Rate expansion under consideration
  - ▶ Raise funding level from \$2.25 billion to \$5billion
  - ▶ Broadband including capital construction to access broadband
- ▶ School lunch/ Rep Noem's bill
  - ▶ Allows districts to reject calorie limits for meats, grains, and meat alternatives, provided these use any previous standards
  - ▶ Allows districts to waive requirements that are a net cost for competitive foods, school breakfast, and paid meal prices



# The Current Challenges For Districts

- ▶ Raise achievement for all students to levels that lead other nations
- ▶ Serve an increasingly diverse student population of whom around 20% live in poverty and a population that is approaching 40% nonwhite
- ▶ Expand program offerings in STEM subjects

## The Current Challenges (con't)

- ▶ Attract, develop, retain, incentivize competent teachers—remove failing teachers
- ▶ Utilize technology as an educational tool and cost efficient resource
- ▶ Build public confidence in public education as the go to delivery system for K-12 education
- ▶ Do all of above in a multi-year period of stagnant state/local revenues and rising obligations

# South Carolina Delegation

## Key Assignments

- ▶ Sen Graham: Appropriations Com/ Budget Com
- ▶ Sen Scott: Health, Education, Labor, Pensions Com
- ▶ Rep Clyburn: Assistant Democratic Leader
- ▶ Rep Wilson: Education and Workforce Com
- ▶ Rep Gowdy: Education and Workforce Com
- ▶ Rep Rice: Budget Com

## Your Action

- ▶ Work thru your SCSBA legislative network on federal issues
- ▶ Reps/Senators. Key questions for-
  - ▶ Both: Will you support increasing education funding? A small investment with a big payoff for South Carolina
  - ▶ Senators: Will you introduce or co-sponsor NSBA's bill to restore local governance from federal overreach?
  - ▶ Senators: Will you push for ESEA to be reauthorized in 2014?
  - ▶ Reps.: Will you co-sponsor the Noem bill?

## NSBA Resources

- ▶ Thru your SCSBA network you can access NSBA's legislative materials/calls to action
- ▶ Attend NSBA's Advocacy Institute
  - ▶ February 2-4, 2014
- ▶ Thru SCSBA you can participate in the National Connection program