



Federal Legislative Update

Amirah S. Salaam, Esq.
Government Relations Counsel
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Objectives

By the end of this presentation, you should understand:

- NSBA's Federal Advocacy Agenda
- U.S. Congress and Administration Action on Education, Child Nutrition and Federal Funding
- What's New in Washington?



Quiz Time! True/False

- **When the Trump Administration takes office, all federal rules and regulations (i.e. ESSA) will no longer be federal policy.**
- **During the first “100 Days” of the new 115th Congress, lawmakers will pass legislation to reauthorize the *Child Nutrition Act* and *Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)*.**
- **Lobbyists are the only individuals qualified to advocate before lawmakers and legislative staff.**

114th Congress: Legislative Priorities

- ESSA Implementation Update
- Child Nutrition (The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act)
- Career and Technical Education
- Appropriations/Federal Funding

NSBA Advocacy Agenda

- NSBA represents state school boards associations and their more than 90,000 local school board members. We believe education is a civil right, and public education is America's most vital institution.
- Works with Congress and the Administration to advance policies in support of local governance, community ownership of public schools and greater flexibility for local school boards.
- Advocate for passage of legislation that maximizes federal funding for Title I, IDEA ,and excludes private vouchers, tuition tax credits, or existing voucher programs.

Federal Advocacy



ESSA Implementation

NSBA's Delegate Assembly informed the development of Title VIII (Section 8541) of the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*.

- Upholds local governance and community ownership of public schools.
- **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to allow the Secretary to—

“ (1) exercise any governance or authority over school administration, including the development and expenditure of school budgets, unless otherwise authorized under this Act.”

ESSA Implementation: Oversight Hearings

On Capitol Hill, House and Senate Education committees convened hearings on the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act:

- Reaffirm congressional intent to restore local governance in education.
- Emphasize Congress' oversight authority over the U.S. Department of Education's implementation of the law.
- Ensure that the ED Secretary understands the importance of promulgating rules/guidance within the bounds of the law.

What's going on with ESSA?

- State Accountability Plan Regulations
- Assessment Regulations
- Supplement, Not Supplant Regulations
- Two dozen Dear Colleague letters, FAQ's, webinars and other forms of policymaking

- www.ed.gov/essa.

Congressional Review Act

- The law empowers Congress to review, by means of an expedited legislative process, new federal regulations issued by government agencies and, by passage of a joint resolution, to overrule a regulation.
- The Congressional Review Act can come into play when the U.S. President from another political party takes office.
- Under the Trump Administration, Obama's regulations finalized in the last months of this administration could be subject to repeal in the first few months of the next Congress.

CHILD NUTRITION

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (current version of the Child Nutrition Act)

- Expired on Sept. 30, 2015.
- Authorizes six federal food programs, including the school lunch and breakfast programs.
- Over 30 million children rely on these programs.



Child Nutrition

NSBA Advocates for a reauthorization that provides:

- *Flexibility* to administer school meal programs.
- *Authority* to make adjustments to ensure students in need receive healthy, nutritious meals while in school.
- *Reduce burden* on school districts.
 - e.g. increased costs, decreased participation and whole grain/sodium requirements.

Child Nutrition

- **U.S. Senate and House of Representatives introduced bills to reauthorize the legislation.**
 - *Senate- Improving Child Nutrition Integrity and Access Act (no bill number)- approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee in January 2016.*
 - *Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act (H.R. 5003)- approved by the House Education and the Workforce Committee.*

Child Nutrition: Senate and House Bills

- Provides relief for whole grain content and sodium reduction targets.
- Creates a School Nutrition Advisory Committee (SNAC) to advise the Secretary...the SNAC would include a school board representative.
- House bill includes community eligibility provision that increases poverty threshold from 40% to 60%.
- House bill includes requirement to consult with school boards.
- NSBA expressed support with reservations.

Appropriations

- Continuing Resolution (H.R. 5325) effective until 12/9/16.
- In July, House Appropriations Committee reported *Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies FY2017 appropriations bill* by a vote of 31-19 (H.R. 5926).
- Proposes more than a \$450 million increase for Title I grants.

Appropriations

- Proposes \$500 million increase to special education grants under the *Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*.
- Impact Aid – would provide over \$1.3 billion for Impact Aid, an increase of \$23 million above the current enacted level, and would retain funding for federal properties payments to school districts.
- Proposes \$142 million increase for Head Start.

Career & Technical Education

- NSBA urges Congress to ensure that students have access to high-quality career and technical education programs with a strong academic component and credentialing.
- Support the expansion of public/private partnerships with secondary and post-secondary programs, including alignment with state and local industries.
- Maximize the federal CTE investment in its current form, as a formula grant program to benefit more students, rather than disparate allocations through competitive grants.

Career & Technical Education

- H.R. 5587, the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, was passed by the House in September.
- Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee action pending.
- Final reauthorization expected in 2017.

November Elections

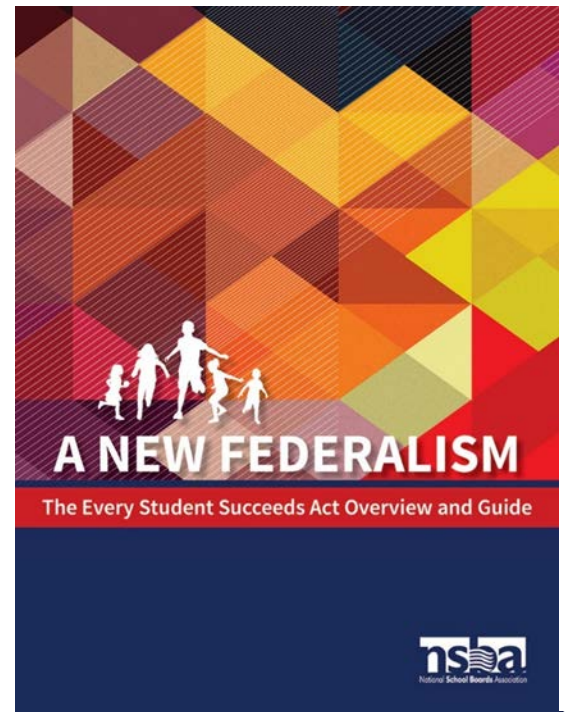


What's Next in Washington?

- Inauguration of the 45th President of the United States of America.
- Swearing-in Ceremony for Members of Congress, including the newly-elected Members and South Carolina Delegation.
- Supreme Court Review: Education Cases.
- NSBA Advocacy Institute, January 29-31st in Washington DC.

NSBA Resources

- ESSA Implementation Guidebook
- Legislative Updates
- Targeted Assistance





Working with and through our State Associations, to advocate for equity and excellence in public education through school board leadership.

www.nsba.org