



# south carolina school boards association



## ***Federal Advocacy Update***

*Deborah Rigsby, Program Director, Lobbying & Federal Legislation*

December 9, 2018

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Federal Perspective
- Outlook for 116<sup>th</sup> Congress
- Q&A

# Legislative Priorities

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Appropriations
- Net Neutrality
- Higher Education Act Reauthorization
- Child Nutrition/FARM Bill
- Perkins Career & Technical Education Act Implementation
- School Infrastructure



# Federal Perspective

# Special Education - IDEA

- Last updated in 2004
- Current federal share of funding is roughly 14 percent (\$12 billion), rather than the 40 percent originally promised – approximately \$1,738 per child for 2018
- U.S. Department of Education projects that the number of children, aged 3 through 21, who will be served will continue to increase through 2019 to approximately 6.9 million.

# IDEA Reauthorization Goals

- Focus on the collaborative process to support positive outcomes for all students
- Reduce complexity of compliance provisions
  - Intervention and response to intervention (RTI) programming
  - Greater collaboration between parents and schools in developing appropriate individual education plans (IEPs)
  - Alternative dispute resolution (ADR)
  - Unilateral placement
  - Maintenance of effort
- Full funding of the federal share of IDEA investments

# IDEA Reauthorization

- NSBA supports enactment of the IDEA Full Funding Act (currently H.R. 2902 and S. 2542) that would authorize a 10-year plan to fully fund the federal share of investments in special education.
- Highlight success stories
- Educate your members of Congress

# Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations *FY2020-21 Budget & Appropriations Outlook*

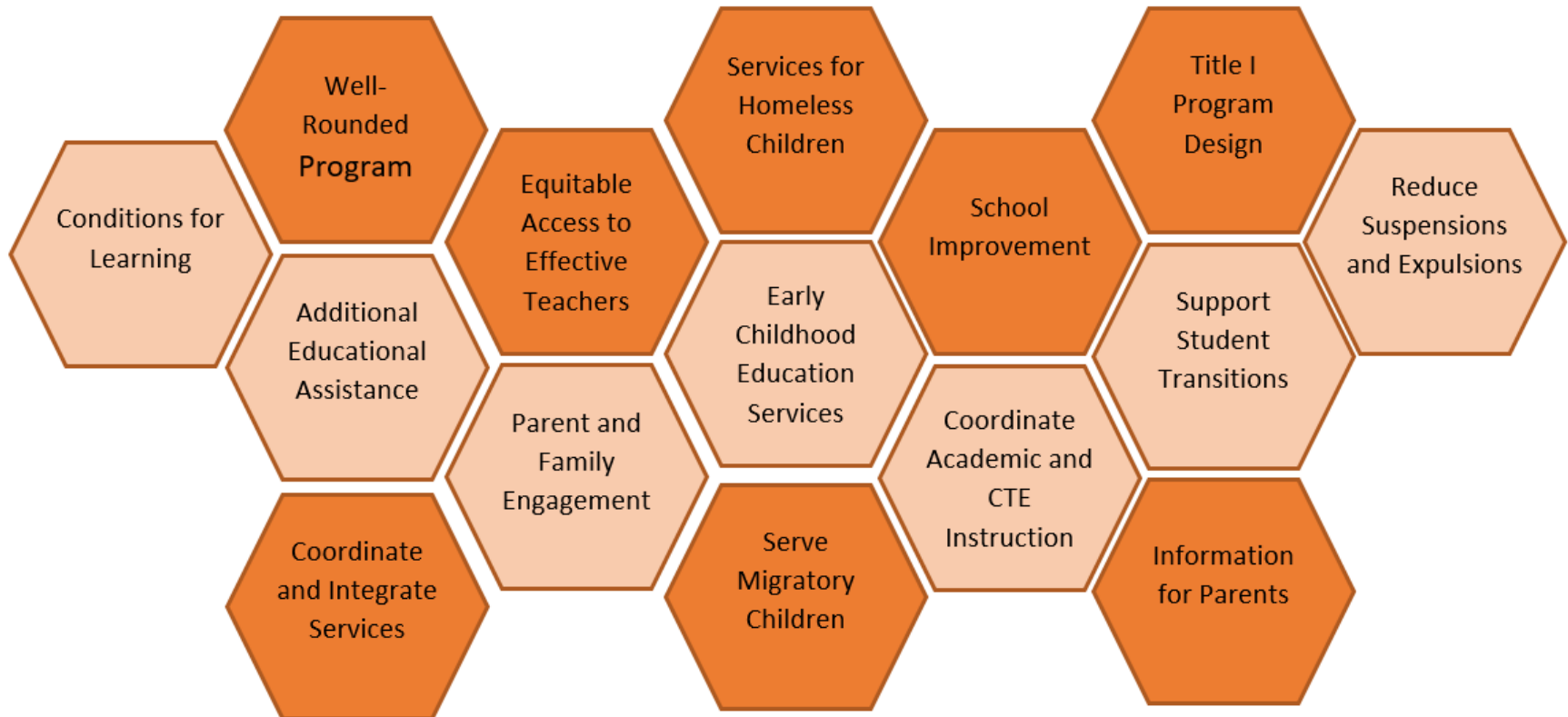




# Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations

- More than an [\\$300 million increase](#) collectively for Title I, IDEA, Title IV (school safety), Magnet Schools Assistance and Career and Technical Education.
- **ASK:** As we prepare for the FY2020 appropriations cycle, please note the following areas to discuss with your members of Congress (Title I, special education, school safety, Title IV academic enrichment, CTE, and Impact Aid).
  - ✓ Highlight success stories of student achievement.
  - ✓ Note district priorities for enhanced school safety measures.
  - ✓ Mention the amount of funding your district dedicates to IDEA, noting that the average federal share per child is \$1,738 for 2018.

**Figure 1. Examples of Policy Areas Congress Highlighted in the ESSA LEA Plan Provisions (Sec. 1112)**



# **FY2019 Appropriations for South Carolina**

*(as of November 19, 2018)*

- Title I Grants - \$245.6 million
- Special Education (IDEA) - \$186.8 million
- Impact Aid - \$1.45 million
- Title II Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants - \$28.2 million
- State Assessments - \$6.1 million
- Title III English Language Acquisition - \$4.5 million
- Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment - \$17.6 million
- Career and Technical Education State Grants - \$21.4 million

# Net Neutrality

- Senate passed S.J. Res. 52 last May to restore Federal Communications Commission Open Internet order
- Priority of House Energy & Commerce Committee for 116<sup>th</sup> Congress
- Impacts digital equity and rural broadband deployment

# Net Neutrality

- 2015 Federal Communications Commission Order
- Banned the blocking and slowing of Internet content by service providers
- Banned the practice of “paid prioritization” to allow online companies “fast lanes,” or faster delivery to Internet users' devices, particularly if it involves extra fees the websites must pay for the special treatment
- Established a “general conduct” standard for the FCC to investigate questionable broadband practices

# Net Neutrality

- Could impact Internet/broadband access and affordability, classroom instruction and curriculum content
- Effect could exacerbate the “homework gap” affecting millions of students
- Impact on E-Rate resources for schools and libraries

# Higher Education Act Reauthorization

- Urge Congress to continue investments and support for Title II programs for teacher/school leader preparation.
- Urge Congress to continue the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program for educators that helps districts attract and retain effective teachers and leaders.
- AIM Higher Act is legislative vehicle for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress in the House

# ***Teacher Shortages and Their Impacts on K-12 Schools and Educator Preparation Programs***

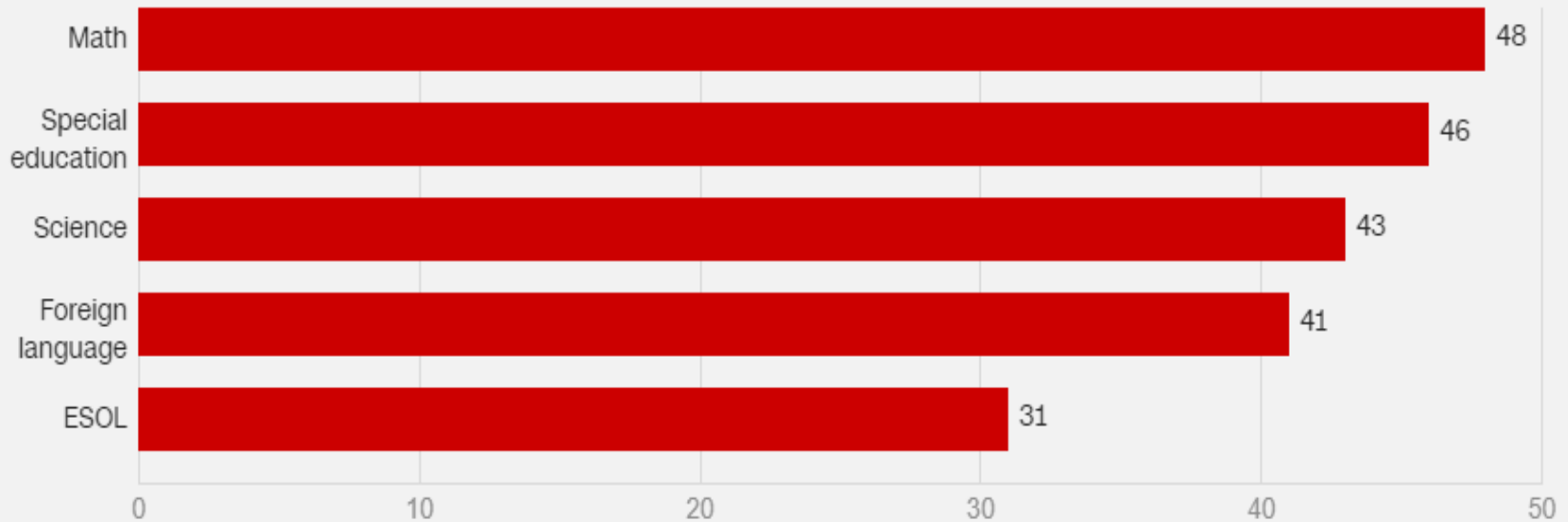
- **Costly:** When teachers leave, districts must hire and train new teachers.
- **Can negatively impact workforce quality and student learning:** Too much turnover can be harmful. To fill vacant positions, schools often resort to hiring inexperienced or unqualified teachers, increasing class sizes or cutting course offerings.
- **Can disrupt positive teaching cultures:** Persistent turnover can disrupt school stability, collegial relationships, collaboration and the accumulation of institutional knowledge.
- **Disproportionate impact certain student groups:** Staffing inadequacies and turnover are most common in high-poverty, urban and low-performing schools.



# HEA Reauthorization & Title II

## Subject shortages 2017-2018

Here are the top 5 subjects and the number of states reporting shortages



Source: US Department of Education

# Title II Advocacy

- Convey local support to your members of Congress, especially with FY2019 appropriations process and HEA reauthorization
- Provide salient examples of success
- Note the possible impact on student achievement and school district accountability regarding ESSA compliance

# Child Nutrition

- Secured provision in House-passed FARM bill for USDA consultation with school boards for child nutrition programs
- Current efforts to include stakeholder engagement for school boards in upcoming USDA regulations to address operational burdens of school districts
- Will help rural school districts and other districts facing challenges for compliance

# Career & Technical Education Reauthorization

Career and Technical Education:  
**Building New Pathways  
into the Labor Market**



## *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act*

H.R. 2353 enacted July 31, 2018

# Perkins CTE Reauthorization

- Maintains formula grant structure
- Comprehensive needs assessment every 2 years
- Would become effective July 1, 2019
- Requires disaggregated data reporting for student subgroups
- Expands use of resources for CTE/career exploration in earlier “middle grades”

# Perkins CTE Reauthorization

- Encourages targeted services for at-risk students, effective counseling services and career readiness for students pursuing employment opportunities in non-traditional fields
- Focus is on performance of CTE concentrators (students taking 2 + courses in a specific discipline)
- Local grant applications must describe improvements for recruitment, retention, and training of CTE teachers, faculty, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, and career guidance and academic counselors, including individuals in groups underrepresented in such professions.

# Educational Choice/Voucher Opposition/Tax Reform 2.0

- Successfully opposed inclusion of voucher/education savings accounts (ESAs) amendments in National Defense Authorization Act for FY2019
- Proposals could have diverted \$400 million + from the Impact Aid Program to ESAs for military families without oversight or accountability regarding how the funds would be used.
- **Next steps** - Oppose any voucher proposals in upcoming tax reform debates re: measures to expand 529 education accounts.

# School Infrastructure

## Key areas for congressional action

- Reinstating advance refunding for school bonds/debt service payments
- Reinstating Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs) that were created for school repairs and modernization
- Providing targeted support for new infrastructure investments in underserved communities



# School Safety & Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

- FY2018 Appropriations \$1.1 billion (\$700 million increase).
- House/Senate Appropriations Committee Report: Funds can have a “wide range of uses, including to expand access to or coordinate **resources for school-based mental health services and supports**, which may include **trauma-informed practices and school counseling**; bullying prevention; and professional development for personnel in crisis management and **school-based violence prevention strategies.**”
- NSBA’s engagement with Federal Commission on School Safety

The logo for the National School Boards Association (nsba) is displayed in white lowercase letters on a dark blue background. The letters 's' and 'b' are stylized with horizontal lines through them. A yellow vertical bar is positioned to the left of the logo.

# FOSTERING SAFER SCHOOLS

A Legal Guide for School Board  
Members on School Safety

<https://www.nsba.org/fostering-safer-schools>

- Student emotional and mental well-being and threat assessment
- School safety planning
- Working with law enforcement
- Liability and insurance

# 2020 Census

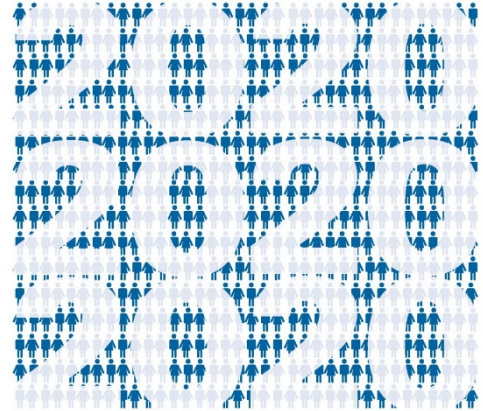
- Will be conducted primarily online
- U.S. Census Bureau promoting state/local Complete Count Committees
- Census data informs how Congress allocates more than \$47 billion in resources for education and related programs for children (Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, etc.)
- <https://www.census.gov/schools/>

# 2020 Census

“A fully inclusive, balanced, and well-executed population count is critical to upholding the civil rights of every person in the United States. If new technology is deployed in ways that overcome disparate internet and device access and strictly guard confidentiality, the 2020 Census—the next once-a-decade attempt to count everyone in the United States—could break new ground in efficacy, accuracy, and cost savings.”



## Counting Everyone in the Digital Age





Deborah Rigsby, Program Director, Lobbying & Federal  
Legislation

[drigsby@nsba.org](mailto:drigsby@nsba.org)



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

[www.nsba.org](http://www.nsba.org)