

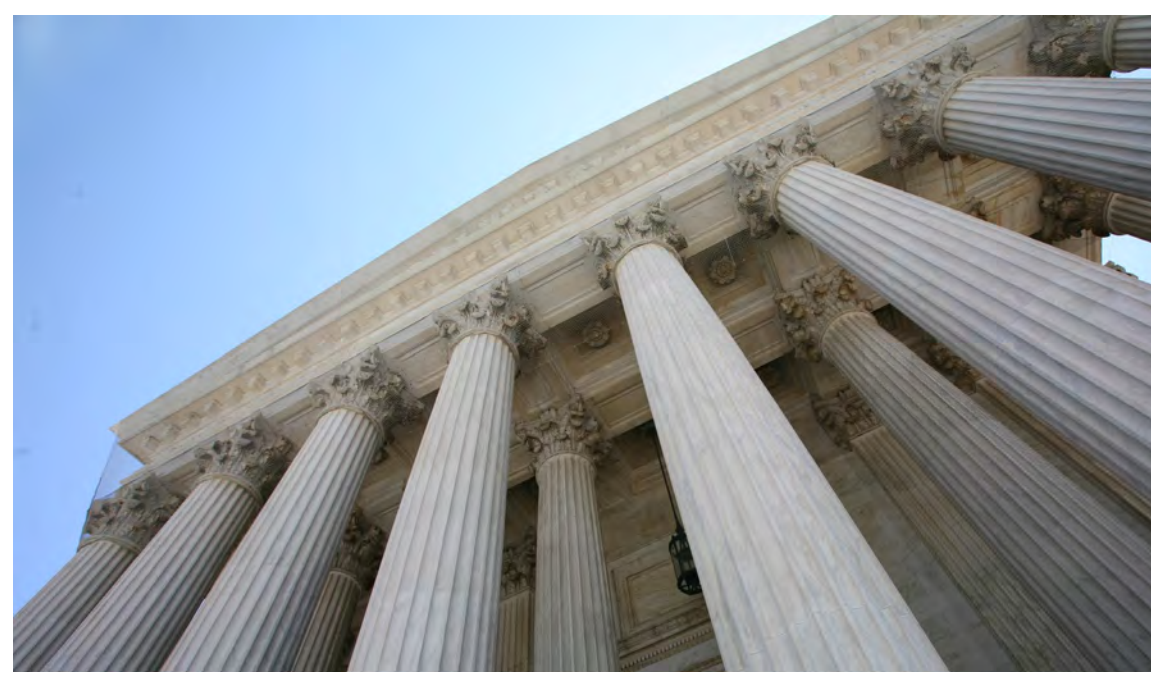
Federal Education Policy Update by AASA

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AASA





AGENDA

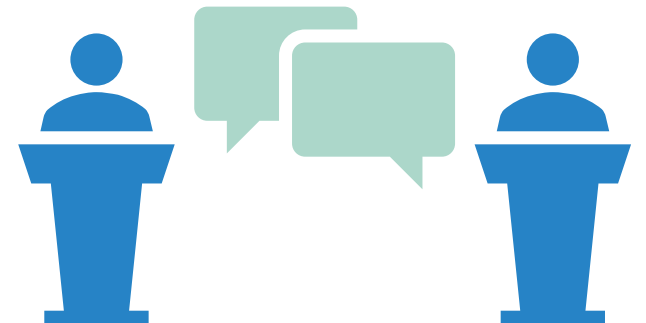


- Political Environment
- Appropriations
- Congressional Update
- Federal Regulations and Guidance
- AASA resources

Harris, Trump and Policy Positions?

- Abolish the U.S. Department of Education? Keep it?
- Ensure safe and healthy schools for students by rescinding/keeping Title IX protections
- Teach the facts/history (1776 project v stop book bans)

Of course, **VOUCHERS/CHOICE/EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM**



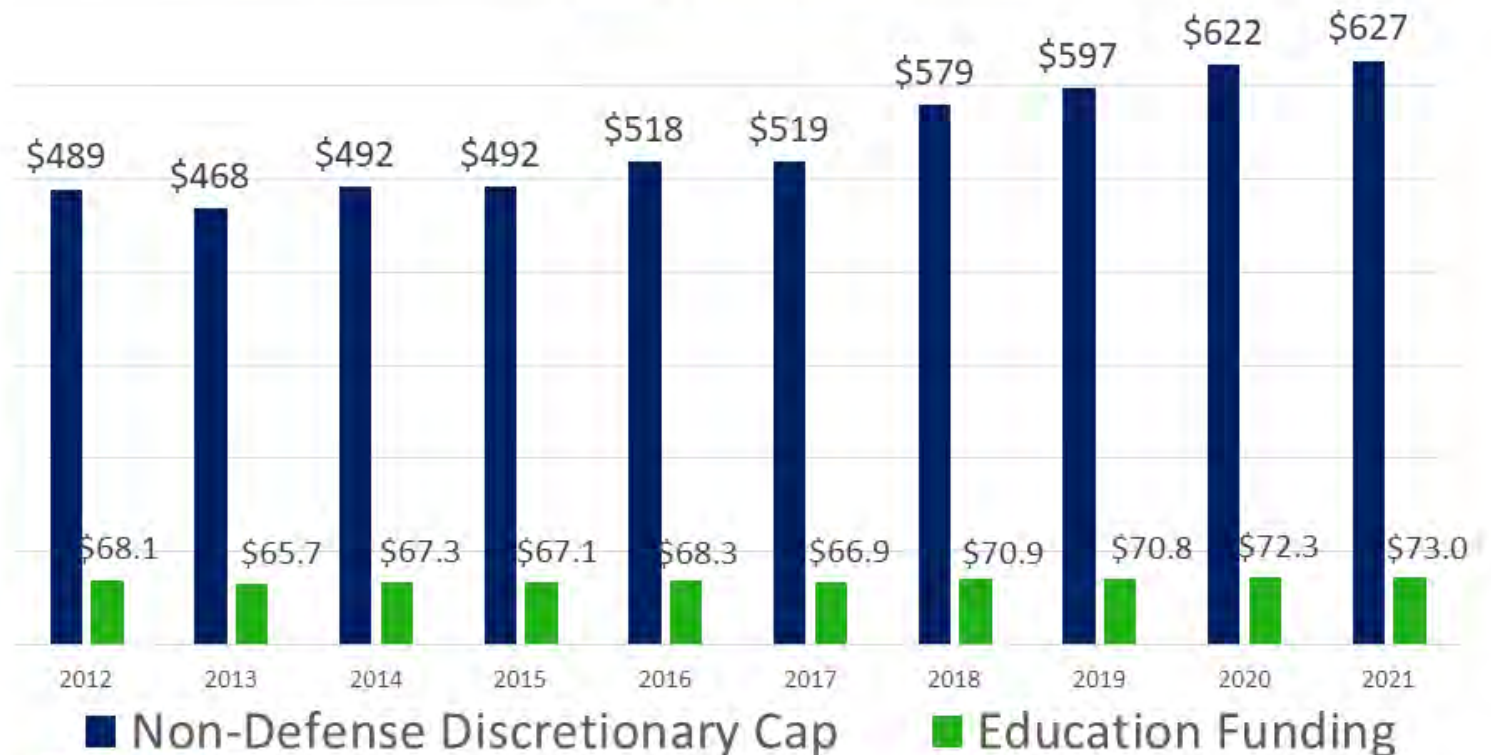


Fiscal Responsibility Act

Deal struck in 2023 to suspend the debt ceiling for two years in exchange for spending caps for FY2024 and FY2025

Education Funding Was Cut or Stagnant Under Caps from 2012 to 2021

(Dollars in Billions)



Education totals reflect rescissions of Pell Grant funding in various years

FY 25



- Under the Fiscal Responsibility Act, (without “budgetary adjustments”) FY25 will be \$75 billion less than final FY24 topline numbers
- Can kicked down the road until December 20th
- Republicans already saying they won’t do an omnibus?! C’mon guys.

FY25 & the less bad but still terrible House LHHS Education Proposal

Cuts Title I by 25% (-\$4.7 billion)

Eliminates Title II and Title III along with 15 other education programs

Only increases IDEA by \$30 million

“Reduces funding by \$4.7 billion (25%) for Title I grants for states with schools in which children from low-income families make up at least 40% of enrollment due to student test scores continuing to decline despite annual increases to Title I and a \$190 billion investment in schools during the pandemic.”

- House Appropriations Committee Majority Summary

FY25 Appropriations Proposals

Program	FY24 Final	FY25 House	FY25 Senate
Title I	\$18.407 billion	\$14.626 billion (-4.7b)	\$18.687 billion (+280 m)
IDEA	\$14.214 billion	\$14.239 billion (+25 m)	\$14.509 billion (+295 m)
Title II	\$2.19 billion	\$0 (-2.19 billion)	\$2.19 billion (level)
Title III	\$890 million	\$0 (-890 m)	\$895 million (+5 m)
Title IV, Part A	\$1.39 billion	\$1.39 billion (level)	\$1.39 billion (level)
Impact Aid	\$1.625 billion	\$1.630 billion (+5 m)	\$1.645 billion (+20 m)
REAP	\$220 million	\$225 million (+5 m)	\$230 million (+10 m)

IDEA Full Funding Act



- AASA Co-Chairs the IDEA Full Funding Coalition
- We held our first in-person IDEA Funding hill briefing in more than 5 years
- Successfully introduced stand alone bills in both chambers
- Democrat-only bill in the Senate (30 sponsors)
- Bipartisan Bill in the House (134, total: 123 D and 11 R)
- The bill provides a ten-year glide path to help Congress realize its funding commitment
- IDEA currently at 13%

Student data privacy/social media bills



- This Congress has seen a LOT of activity on the critical work of student data and privacy. What's relevant?
 - Senate
 - Passed the Kids Online Safety & Protection Act (KOSPA) in July 2024.
 - House
 - E&C committee passed the Kids Online Safety Act and COPPA 2.0 in September
- What next? Can we get the policy and timing right? Biggest threat would be to have KOSA or the House package folded into an appropriations package or other moving legislative vehicle, but first they need to be negotiated.



CARE for Student Mental Health (S.4041)

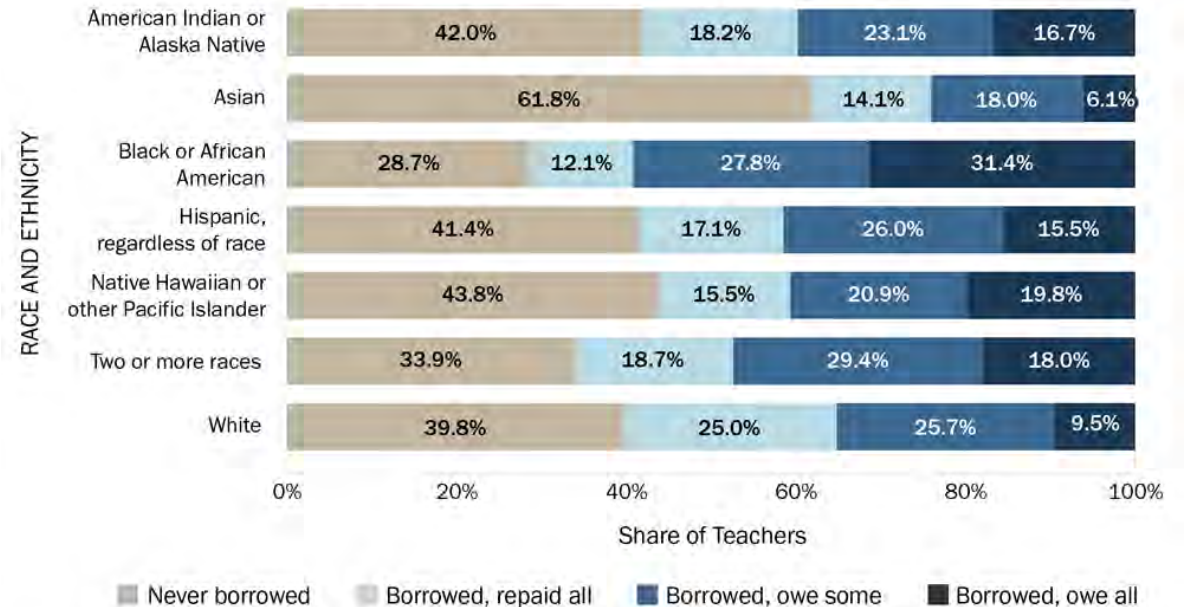
- The pandemic wasn't the beginning of the youth mental health crisis, nor are we anywhere near the end.
- Outside of Title IV funding, the only federal dollars to hire the school mental health personnel kids need to deliver comprehensive supports are through competitive dollars.
- The CARE for Student Mental Health Act– bipartisan legislation in the Senate tackles some of the biggest issues with the two competitive MH grants we have discussed for years:
- The rich don't get richer! This bill explicitly dedicates dollars to high-need, low-capacity districts (high-poverty and/or rural districts with high ratios of school mental health personnel to students)
- It requires ED to email districts that are prioritized for these awards and encourage them to apply (no more searching the federal register)
- It streamlines the application process for applying for these award
- It provides dedicated TA to districts in advance of these announcements



Loan Forgiveness for Educators Act (S.963/H.R.1757)

- Amends the Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF) program to provide full forgiveness after 5 years of service and pays monthly payments during the service period.
- Includes early childhood educators and principals.
- Fixes longstanding administrative problems.

Figure 5: Teachers' Student Loan Borrowing and Repayment Status by Race and Ethnicity



Note: All races and ethnicities outside the category "Hispanic, regardless of race" only include non-Hispanic-identifying individuals of that race and ethnicity. Racial and ethnic categories reflect those used in the original source. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Results are based on full-time, public school teachers who have at least a bachelor's degree.

Source: Learning Policy Institute analysis of the National Teacher and Principal Survey, 2020–21. (2023).

U.S. Department of Education – Lots of NEW guidance

School Improvement
Guidance



21st Century Community
Learning Centers

504 Guidance for Students
w/Anxiety, Depression,
Eating Disorders, Bipolar
Disorders

*What else could be coming down
the pike this month/next?*

Guidance on Maintenance of
Effort for IDEA

Guidance on how to conduct
appropriate school shooting drills
in a manner that reduces trauma

E-Rate

- Court Cases: Is the program constitutional?
 - Short answer: TBD.
 - What can I do: Stay tuned, but for now focus on getting your district's E-Rate story together
- Learn Without Limits Initiative
 - Allows E-Rate to pay for Wi-Fi on buses
 - Allows E-Rate to pay for hot spots
 - Creates \$200 m, 3-year pilot using USF Funds- apply beginning 9/17
 - All three prongs of the program are live, including recently launched application window for E-Rate Cybersecurity Pilot



Nutrition Regs

- Released April 24 – See summary [here](#).
- Schools will not be affected for SY24-25
- Sodium limits will be slightly reduced, but far more reasonable than the initial proposed rule
- For the first time ever, USDA is limiting added sugars
- Whole grains and milk regulations remain the same.

FINAL RULE FOR SCHOOL MEAL STANDARDS

Updated School Meal Standards: working towards a common goal of healthy children and helping them reach their full potential.

School meals are the main source of nutrition for millions of children every school day. USDA is ensuring these meals are even more nourishing, while keeping them appealing to kids.

Key Provisions



Whole Grains

Schools may continue to offer a variety of nutrient-rich whole grains with options for some enriched grains (no changes in standard)



Milk

Continue to allow flavored and unflavored milk (no changes in standard) with new limits on added sugars



Added Sugars

Limit using a phased approach:

- **Phase 1:** Limits on specific high-sugar products (cereals, yogurt, flavored milk)
- **Phase 2:** Overall weekly limits



Sodium

Gradually phase in one reduction of weekly limit





Overtime Regs

- Released April 23 – See rule [here](#).
- The rule increases the threshold for employees eligible for overtime:
 - Effective July 1, 2024 - \$43,888
 - January 1, 2025 - \$58,656.
- Implements automatic increases to the threshold, every 3 years
- Does not make any changes to the professional exemption, meaning teachers and administrators will continue to be ineligible for OT

What Else?

Other regulations:

- ADA Website Accessibility–
New rule says school districts must meet level AA of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (“WCAG”) Version 2.1
- Lead in water regs are final.



A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FULL, PERMANENT FUNDING OF IDEA

WHEREAS, public education is the cornerstone of our democracy, providing fundamental skills and opportunity to nearly 90% - 50 million - to children across the United States; and,

WHEREAS, In the decade following the Great Recession, students across the U.S. lost nearly \$600 billion from the states' disinvestment in their public schools; and

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, both state and federal funding for public schools failed to meet the critical needs of students across the country; and,

WHEREAS, the federal government provided nearly \$200 billion through three issuances of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Act (ESSER) to states and school districts, including [\$\$\$] to the [SCHOOL DISTRICT]; and,

WHEREAS, the realized impact of ESSER funding is that it has benefited students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs through targeted programming and additional personnel, enhanced professional development opportunities, new technology as well as critical updates to school facilities; and

WHEREAS, research has consistently shown that increased education funding positively affects academic performance, increases graduation rates, and impacts future earnings; and,

WHEREAS, without an infusion of federal public education funding by Congress, it is estimated that districts will have to cut an average of \$1,200 per student from their budget; and,

WHEREAS, the systematic and chronic underfunding of public schools is a strategy by those who want to dismantle the public education system to decimate the quality of education that public schools can provide;

WHEREAS, when Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was passed in 1975, the federal government committed to pay 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for special education to ensure that every child with a disability has access to a high quality education; and,

School Board Resolutions

AASA is sharing two template school board resolutions that your district could consider passing:

1. Urging full federal funding for IDEA
2. Opposing state and federal funding for private school vouchers

Find them here:

<https://www.aasa.org/resources/resource/template-resolution-fund-idea>

Federal School Law Certificate

In AASA's new Federal Education Law Certificate program, you'll learn from distinguished school attorneys who will help you gain the understanding to navigate complex regulations, protect your district, and focus on what truly matters: providing the best possible education for your students.

Learn more: <http://aasa.org/ed-law>

new!

FEDERAL EDUCATION LAW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Equip your district with the knowledge
to lead confidently

In partnership with:



**The 2024-25
Superintendent
Salary & Benefits
Survey is now open**

Please complete the survey
by November 26

*If you have any issues, contact Tara Thomas at
tthomas@aasa.org*



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Questions? Gripes?

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