



219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641 (p) 802-479-1030 | (f) 802-479-1835

Item M

Board of Education Update- Federal Initiatives 2016

On August 8, 2016, I attended the CCSSO Federal Liaison meeting where we had the opportunity to discuss the federal policy landscape and provide input to staffers from the House and Senate education committees. Included below are the key education priority issues which we are following.

ESSA Implementation

- Both committees are following implementation of the Every Student Succeeds closely. They continue to have oversight hearings on issues of concern raised by constituents.
- Guidance and proposed rules related to other sections of Title I, Title II, and Title IV are forthcoming.
- **Vermont AOE Priorities:**
 - Respond to requests from the Vermont Delegation regarding the impact of proposed rules, regulations and guidance on our plans for implementation.
 - Work with national organizations in promoting adherence to the statute, preserving state flexibility and supporting states in their pursuit of equitable outcomes for students.

Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations

- Appropriation proposals are before Congress and they vary greatly between the Senate, House and Presidential proposals.
- **Vermont AOE Priorities:**
 - Work with national organizations to promote
 - Adequate Title I, II, III and IV funding so that we have the necessary resources to implement new and changed requirements of ESSA
 - Adequate State Assessment funding to ensure we have the resources to conduct our current required assessments for ESSA and to improve them.
 - Adequate IDEA funding to ensure we have the resources needed to meet requirements to serve students with disabilities.

Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act (Perkins / CTE)

- Both committees believe that Perkins will be re-authorized this year as the two versions in both the House and Senate are similar and likely to advance in 2016.
- **Vermont AOE Priorities:**
 - Advocate for increases in the "small state minimum."
 - Work with national organizations to promote
 - Maintaining the current Perkins governance structure
 - Providing additional flexibility in determining the outcomes and Vermont performance indicators connected with Federal Perkins funds

Higher Education Act

- Both committees anticipate bills related to higher education, and specifically focused on outcomes for college youth, to be priority topics in the next congressional session. At this stage, the ideas and beliefs about what those bills will include is varied.
- **Vermont AOE Priorities:**
 - Participate in state level consortia as the bills surface or are discussed to understand linkages (ex- impact on dual enrollment, early college, grants and loans, educator preparation programs, etc.).
 - Work with national organizations to promote
 - Ensuring that the asks of AOE in terms of reporting requirements connected to teacher preparation programs are
 - supported with adequate funding,
 - are not administratively burdensome, and
 - they do not require “value-added” type assessments in the reported outcomes.
 - Advocate for funding structures that would support the ability of more students, particularly first-generation students to attend college with minimal debt upon graduation.

School Meals

- It appears unlikely that the Child Nutrition bills will move forward this year as there is great distance between House and Senate versions.
- **Vermont AOE Priorities:**
 - Advocate for increases in the “small state minimum.”
 - Work with national organizations to promote
 - Reducing Audit and Administrative burden for SEAs- specifically return to an every 5 year audit rather than the current 3 year audit cycle.
 - Increasing reimbursement rates for school meals.
 - Maintaining the commitment to nutritious food choices and farm to school programs that have been highly successful in Vermont.

Student Data Privacy (FERPA)

- Both committees mentioned that FERPA is due for a renewal but it is unclear how much of a priority this is in context of other needs.
- **Vermont AOE Priorities:**
 - Work with national organizations to promote
 - Bills that strengthen protections and ease state administrative requirements relative to student privacy and data requirements.

Early Education

- Some staff indicated an interest in re-authorization or attention to PreK and Head Start but this was not universal.
- **Vermont AOE Priorities:**
 - Ensure that the delegation is aware of Vermont efforts to support PreK and minimize the disruption to state implementation as a result of federal legislation.