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Federal Update for the State Board of Education

Secretary DeVos - Stated goals:

- Intends to “improve options and outcomes for all U.S. students”
- Supports limited federal role, is committed to “returning power to the states whenever and wherever possible”

ESSA Regulations:

- Title I Assessments – Finalized in 2016
- Innovative Assessments Pilot – Finalized in 2016
- Supplement, not Supplant – Never finalized; withdrawn
- Accountability, Reporting, State Plans – Finalized in 2016; *rescinded*

Rescinded by Congress and the President under the Congressional Review Act
 Regulations “shall have no force or effect”

US ED cannot publish substantially the same regulations (but can release non-regulatory guidance as needed)

ESSA State Plan Submission

March 13 letter from Secretary DeVos to chief state school officers:

- Revised ESSA consolidated state plan template (includes only information from ESSA statute, “absolutely necessary” for US ED approval)
- States can also use alternative, state-developed templates
- Affirms submission timeline, with SEA flexibility for 30-day Governor review for April states
- US ED will send updated ESSA assurances document by June, required for receipt of FY 17 funds; FY 17 funding not contingent upon state plan approval

President Trump’s “Skinny Budget”

With his budget, President Trump is delivering on a series of campaign promises. This skinny budget is to large extent a political document with which the president intends to frame the debate in Congress. In the extremity of cuts on the non-defense side, the proposed budget has, in the words of CCSSO’s legislative lead Peter Zamora, “Shifted the parameters of budget process fairly significantly.” That said, there are a number of prominent Republicans that have come out in strong opposition to some aspects of the proposed budget, and, some of the proposed items were defeated in the ESSA process by a Republican majority, so it is unclear if they will be sustained in this budget. In short, we need to understand the proposed skinny budget as the first step in a negotiation, and stay focused on VT goals related to quality, equity and sustainability.

Here are some highlights:

- \$1.065 trillion total
- \$603 billion for defense/security
- \$462 billion for non-defense discretionary

Would shift \$54 billion from non-defense discretionary to defense

- Congress would need to adjust FY 2011 budget caps
- Would require a 60-vote threshold in the Senate

Overall intent - shift resources from non-defense to defense:

- Defense Department +10%
- Homeland Security +7%
- Labor -20.7%
- HHS -16.2%
- Education -13.5%

The Skinny Budget identifies several cuts specific to Education, including:

- \$9.2 billion reduction in discretionary ED funding, would eliminate or reduce funding for 20 categorical programs
- Would eliminate (among other programs):
 - ESEA Title II, Part A - Supporting Effective Instruction (-\$2.35 b) - (supports professional development in public and private schools)
 - ESEA 21st Century Community Learning Centers (-\$1.17b) - (supports extended learning primarily for children who live in poverty)
 - Teacher Quality Partnerships (-\$43m)
 - Striving Readers (-\$190m)
 - Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (-\$733m)
 - Would reduce (among other programs):
 - TRIO (-\$92m), GEAR UP (-\$105m)
 - Impact Aid (-\$66m) - (would affect towns like Woodford and Sunderland that are heavily subsidized by that aid in their current budgets)
 - Pell Grants (- \$3.9b)

The Skinny Budget includes some new money:

- Approx. \$1.4 billion total in new funds for school choice
 - ESEA Title I +\$1 billion, but must use funds for public school choice (Title I portability)
 - New \$250 million private school choice program
 - ESEA Charter School program +\$168 million

The Skinny Budget is silent on:

- ESSA Title IV - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants program
- Perkins Career and Technical Education
- Where additional programmatic cuts (~\$4b) will appear in the full budget, expected later this spring