



**Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska's Youth**

What's Happening in DC?

- **Reauthorization of ESEA – what next?**
- **Reauthorization of School Lunch Act**
- **Federal Intrusion on Local School Board Authority**
- **Reauthorization of IDEA**
- **Education Technology and Erate**
- **Vouchers**
- **Civil Rights and the Effects on Education**



Reauthorization of Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

Every Student Succeeds Act

Bipartisan Legislation

AASB was active in working with our delegation to shape a law that benefitted Alaska's students

Alaska' delegation supported AASB's positions and all three voted for passage of ESSA



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“Trickle Down” Effects of ESSA

- Joint statement to NSBA for inclusion in white paper for USDOE as the regulation process began.
- Statement requested flexibility for states to approve multiple assessments to give local districts options. Signed by Commissioner Hanley, Dr. Michael Johnson/Dr. Lisa Parady (ASA), Tiffany Jackson/Norm Wooten (AASB).
- As Alaska begins the transition to ESSA, AASB has nominated Tiffany Jackson (primary) and Michael Swain (alternate) to the ESSA State Planning Advisory Committee.



Reauthorization of the School Lunch Act

- Congress and the USD OA should restore local governance, provide sufficient federal funding, and address the cumulative impact of the current law on school district budgets and operations.
- Congress and the USD OA should provide local school boards with opportunities for meaningful input into emerging law and administrative policy.
- No policy should result in re-directing state and local funds from instruction or impose additional cost on school districts.



Federal Intrusion on Local School Board Authority

- The USDOE has taken action to reshape the educational delivery system in recent years. These actions have affected local policy and programs in ways that are beyond the scope and intent of federal authorizing legislation.
- These actions place a significant financial and manpower responsibility on local school boards.
- The actions also limit the flexibility of local school boards to make decisions that serve the best interests for their local districts.



Reauthorization of IDEA

- Local school districts will be forced to redirect more money from their general education budgets to cover the federal shortfall for special education.
- Full implementation of needed support such as professional development, curriculum development, course materials, and instructional changes needed to meet new standards and assessments, will be deferred.



Reauthorization of IDEA Cont'

- Currently, a deficit exists for special education funding. The average federal support per student under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has dropped to approximately 16 percent.
- Although costs for special education services continue to increase, many districts have extremely limited flexibility to generate the funding to meet them.



Education Technology and ERate

- E-Rate program is a vital source of assistance in maintaining Internet connectivity, bringing new learning opportunities to special education students, and enhancing distance learning in rural areas.
- Current E-Rate funding levels meet only about half the amounts being sought by eligible schools and libraries, which is \$4.9 billion.



Education Technology and ERate Cont'

- More funding is needed to ensure that schools can match the technology tools in today's workplace, so that students can be prepared for success in life after school.
- High-speed Internet connectivity is important for schools in low-income and rural areas, to provide distance learning that they would otherwise be unable to access.
- Teachers and school staff need enhanced technology and Internet connectivity for professional development to ensure that they are well-versed in the instructional use of technology.



Vouchers

- Congress has consistently underfunded federal education programs, such as Title I and special education, while placing new requirements and accountability standards on public schools.
- Limited federal education dollars should be invested in public schools, not diverted to private and religious schools that face no similar public accountability requirements.
- Research has found no conclusive evidence that vouchers improve student achievement.



Civil Rights and the Effects on Education

- Federal overreach – Schools have become the “new battleground” for expanding civil rights
- U.S. Office of Civil Rights increasing their “reach” into school buildings to implement civil rights rulings
- Transgender is the latest topic

