



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DC

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*During the 115<sup>th</sup> Congressional Session*



**PETER HOEPFNER, AASB PRESIDENT**

# OVERVIEW

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- Confirmation of Betsy Devos
- Secure Rural School Act
- Child Nutrition Act
- Carl E. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act
- Federal Education Investments
- Educational Choice
- Every Student Succeeds Act







# CONFIRMATION OF BETSY DEVOS SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

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- A historical vote on the senate floor with the tie breaking vote from Vice President Pence
- AASB did not take a stand on the confirmation hearing

# SECURE RURAL SCHOOL ACT TIMBER RECEIPTS

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- US Forest Service distributes funds to approximately half of Alaska's 53 school districts
- Necessary for operation of many school districts
- Funds reauthorized two years ago. Not yet entered into legislation for reauthorization







# CHILD NUTRITION ACT

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Advocating for Congress & Administration to enact bipartisan child nutrition programs reauthorization that grants flexibility and relief for school districts to successfully administer school meal programs by:

- Increasing reimbursement levels to cover compliance cost
- Authorizing local school districts to make implementation feasible with available federal resources



# CARL E. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT

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Advocating Congress for swift passage of reauthorization that includes:

- Strong academic component and credentialing programs that will help our nation's school districts continue efforts to advance 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills
- Knowledge to meet the needs of both students and employers
- Practical training through apprenticeships, other opportunities



# FEDERAL EDUCATION INVESTMENTS

APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2017-18

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Advocating for Congress to:

- Pass FY 2017 appropriations bill that maximizes investments in Special Education, Title I Grants and related programs
- Avert further across-the-board cuts to education in FY 2018 that impact the success of our students, school districts, and communities



# EDUCATIONAL CHOICE: SUPPORTING AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Advocating for Congress to:

- Support the range of choices offered by our nation's public school districts, which educate more than 50 million students.
- Advance a balanced dialogue on evidence-based choice options to prepare every child for college, careers and citizenship.
- "Level the playing field" so that all schools that receive public funds are held to the same accountability standards and can be appropriately compared.







# EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

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- The Idea: Adding additional funding to Title I schools with disadvantaged individuals above funds traditional schools received, rather than supplanting funding was clarified prior to Advocacy Institute.
- The ESSA WILL supplement funding to the Title I schools, and these funds WILL NOT be supplanted.

**ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS**



**ADVOCATES FOR ALASKA'S YOUTH**