



Federal Education Update

Noelle Ellerson

Florida Federal Program Coordinators

May 2015



Climates & To-Do List

- Funding
 - State and local budgets have yet to reach pre-recession levels
 - Sequestration at the federal level
 - Political
 -partisan, and battle of the wills between Cong and the admin
 - State Government
 - Trend in legislation and policy to undermine public education
 - Annual approps process
 - ESEA
 - IDEA
 - Higher Education
 - Early Ed (Head Start and CCDBG)
 - Perkins Career/Tech
- Other
- WOIA
 - ESRA



What is Going On?

- Activity vs. Productivity
- Authorizations and Reauthorizations
- Regulations
- Funding
 - Budget & Appropriations
- Hearings/Mark Ups



Things to Focus on...

- These decisions get made whether you weigh in or not
- It's a marathon, not a sprint
- Relationships, not just content
- Systems and information, not just lobbying and letter
- You are best positioned to tell your district's story
- Use your professional organizations!
- 15 minutes a month



ESEA: Things to Watch For

- **Where do things stand?!**
- **Portability & Vouchers:** Whatever happens re: vouchers/portability in Title I is what they will push for in IDEA and Perkins
 - OPPOSE vouchers and portability; Title I dollars must remain targeted on concentrations of poverty
- **Assessment:** AASA welcomes language that would reduce the amount of federally mandated testing, with continued focus on high-quality, rigorous assessments
 - Important to note that the burden of overtesting is most exacerbated at state/local level. Fed govt can reduce its role, but states/locals must do their part, too.
 - Proposal for grade span testing, random sampling (like NAEP!) or every year (with alternating subjects)
 - Alexander bill maintains annual testing requirement



ESEA: Things to Look For

- **Accountability:** Return autonomy to state/local level
 - Maintain current data disaggregation, oppose effort to expand accountability matrix
 - Reduce highly prescriptive turn around models
- **Funding:** Oppose funding caps; AASA prefers the language ‘such sums’, allowing appropriators to fund programs



ESEA: Things to Look For

- **Comparability:** AASA opposes any effort to include teacher salaries in the calculation of comparability. Keep current law.
- **Maintenance of Effort:** AASA opposes the elimination of MoE. We want to keep current law, with the 90% threshold.
- **Ed Tech:** AASA advocates a strong, stand alone ed tech program, currently Title II Part D.
- **Background Checks**
- **& Much More!**

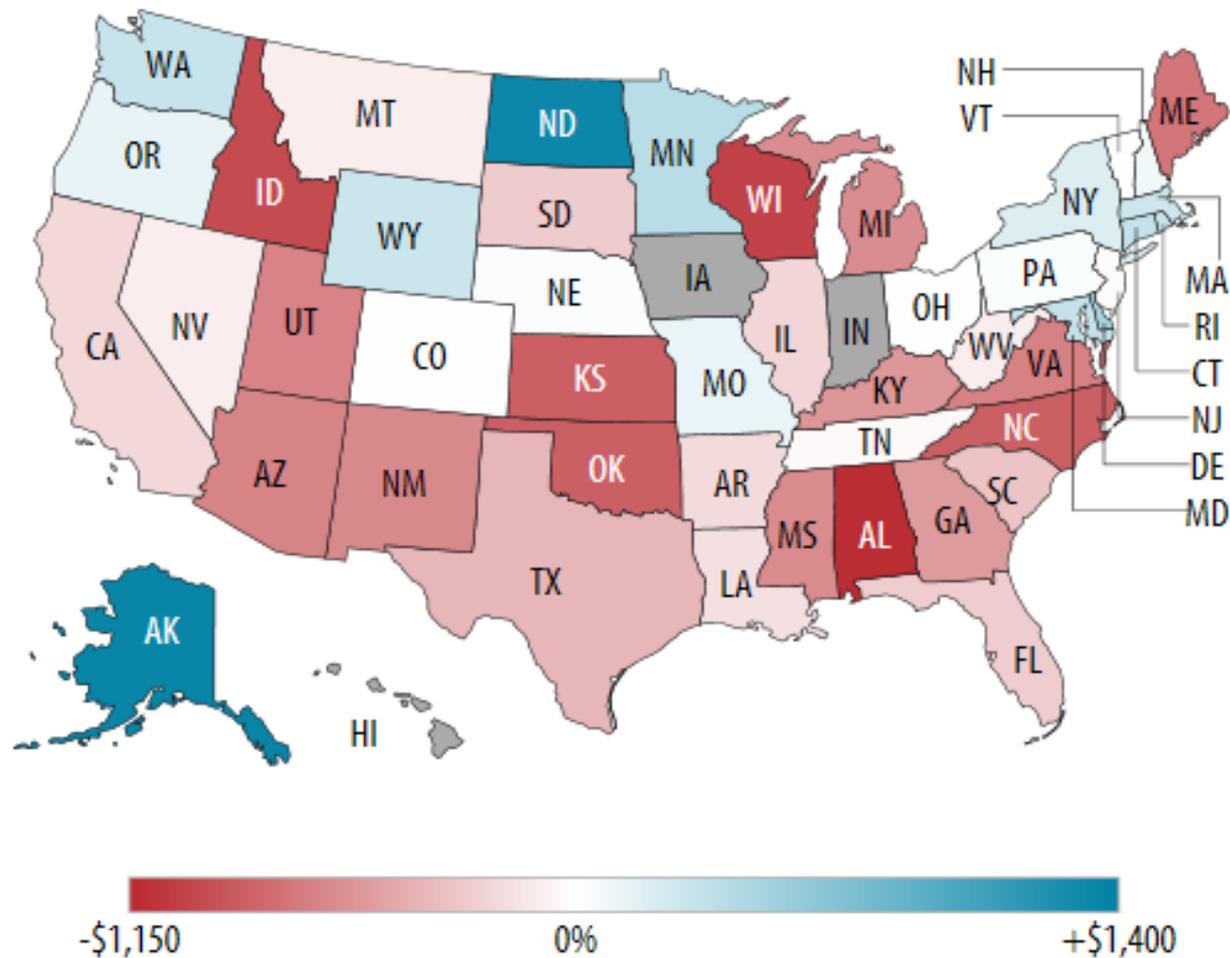


Rural!

- **Rural Education:** Included in both the House and Senate bills as stand alone program
- **All Children Are Equal Act:** Stand alone bill in the House; language in House base bill that opens up Title I formula
- **Rural Technical Assistance Amendment:** Instructs USED secretary to provide TA to rural LEAs as they navigate competitive grants AND allows rural LEAs to submit consolidated plans through ESAs
- **Office of Rural Education:** Filed, not accessed
- **Forest Counties:** 2 year funding extension

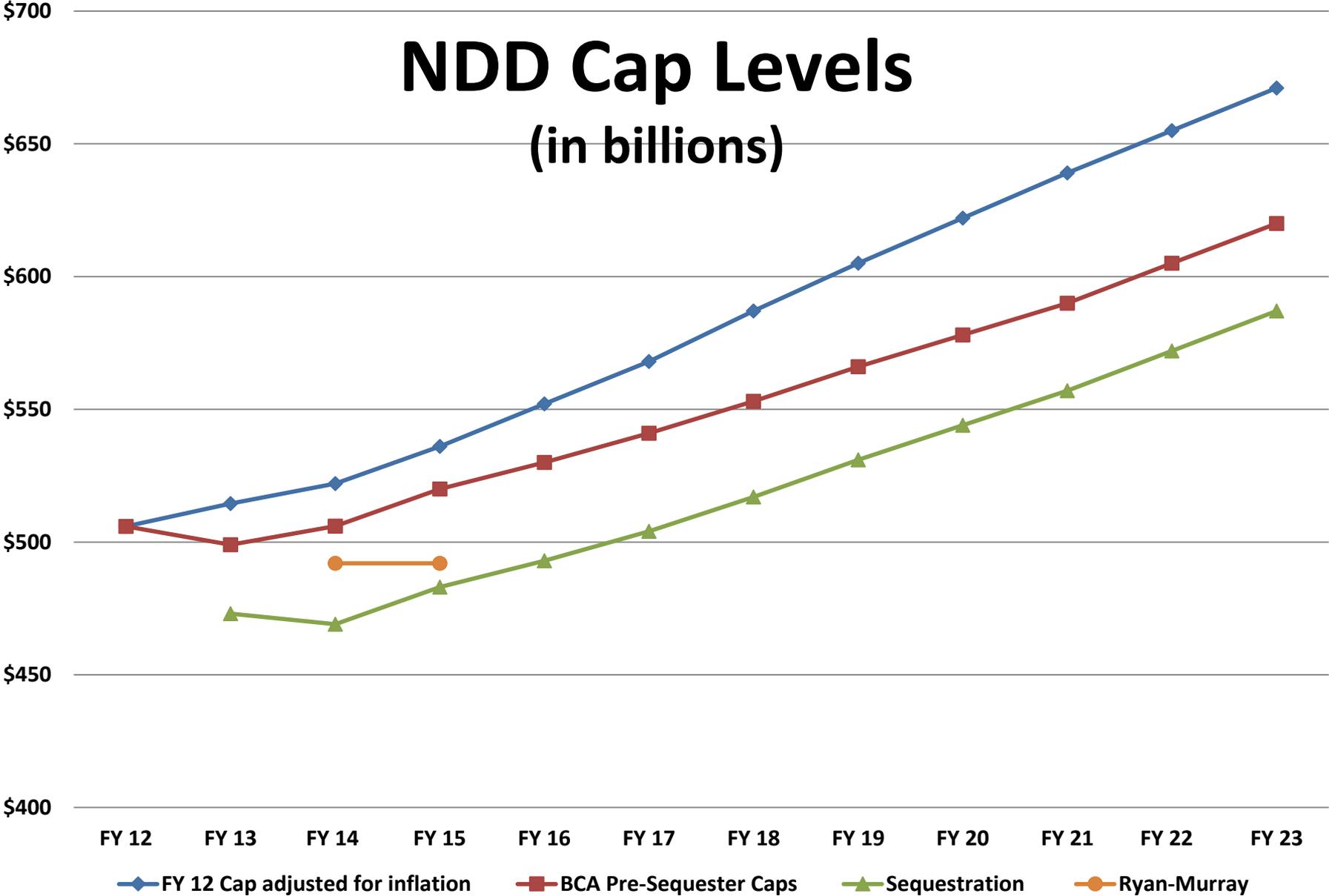
Most States Still Funding Schools Less Than Before Recession

Dollar Change in General K-12 Spending Per Student Since Fiscal Year 2008, Adjusted for Inflation



Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities [How Has State K-12 Funding Fared in Your State?](#)

NDD Cap Levels (in billions)



Source: CEF Calculations based on CBO and OMB data



Appropriations: FY14, FY15, & FY16

- The final FY14 appropriations package restored roughly 80% of all sequester cuts. USED received an amount that covered roughly 65% of its cuts.
 - Impact Aid: fully restored
 - Title I and IDEA have most of cuts restored (~90%)
 - REAP left at post-sequester level
- For FY15, the final deal was essentially level funding, with nominal increases for Title I and IDEA.
 - FY16 (as indicated on the previous slide) is the third consecutive year of level funding.
- Pres Obama's FY16 budget included \$2.7b increase for ESEA
- House and Senate committed to timeline budget process (relates to pressure on ESEA)



Federal Funding: Sequestration

- Unless rescinded, sequestration cuts return in FY16
- FY15 reality is such that most programs are still not to pre-sequester levels
- No across-the-board cuts in FY16, unless Defense is exempted.
- Continued push to isolate cuts to non-defense discretionary
- Important to keep the pressure on Congress to protect education funding, preferably through avoiding sequester, if not at least ensuring cuts are to ALL of the budget



IDEA: Full Funding, Maintenance of Effort and Reauthorization

- AASA’s #1 legislative priority is full funding of IDEA
- IDEA’s MoE requirements are untenable, inequitable, and need to be modified
 - Treat IDEA MoE like that of Title I, both with ‘wiggle room’ and local waiver
 - Expand list of exceptions
 - Current provisions do not incentivize additional investments in special education when districts budgets improve
 - More flexibility is needed in IDEA to encourage districts to invest in special education when budgets are good, and ensure districts can utilize optimize efficiency when budgets aren’t as good
- Reauthorization: Jan 2016?
 - Fixing Due Process
 - Rate of due process continues to decrease, but not because system is working
 - Due process drives good teachers away from special education
 - Due process is incredibly costly



Perkins/CTE

- Administration's Perkins Blueprint
 - Removes the basic state grant guaranteed to any school district with a CTE program
 - Requires districts to partner with post-secondary institutions for Perkins funding
 - Creates a “Pay-to-Play” system for Perkins funding
 - Mandates a set-aside within current Perkins allocation for innovative programs
- Themes for Reauthorization
 - Common definitions for Perkins
 - Requirement for consortium application
 - Increased reporting requirements
 - Career counseling



E-Rate: Impacting Schools

- The core of the program is still the same. Category One and Category Two remain in place, with comparable functionality.
- Poverty indicator is now district level (not school-based).
- Legacy services will be phased out (phone, webhosting, paging, etc...).
- Reduction of top-level discount (from 90% to 85%)
- FCC voted on Dec 11 to raise the E-Rate cap (permanently!) by \$1.5 billion.



Student Data & Privacy

- FERPA, COPPA, CIPA, but not in ESEA!
- Provide coherent and easy-to-understand guidance for parents and educators regarding FERPA, PPRA, and COPPA and their protections of the privacy and security of student data.
- Update definitions to address the realities of the digital age, making it possible to protect data while ensuring appropriate use of student data for legitimate educational needs and reforms.



Other Topics

- Charters
- Higher Education Act
- Affordable Care Act
- School Nutrition
- Early Learning
- Educational Broadband Services
- More?



Questions? Comments?

- Become an AASA Member.
- AASA Website: www.aasa.org
- AASA Policy Blog: www.aasa.org/AASABlog.aspx
- AASA Advocacy on Twitter (next slide!)
- Annual AASA Advocacy Conference
- Weekly Update: *Legislative Corps*
- Monthly Update: *Advocacy Alert*
- *Policy Insider*
- *Legislative Trends*
- Toolkits (E-Rate, ALEC, etc...)



AASA Policy & Advocacy Team

Noelle Ellerson

nellerson@aasa.org

@Noellerson

Leslie Finnan

lfinnan@aasa.org

@LeslieFinnan

Sasha Pudelski

spudelski@aasa.org

@Spudelski

Francesca Duffy

fduffy@aasa.org

@fm_duffy

Join AASA today! <http://aasa.org/join.aspx>