

Legislative Updates

Higher Education Act Reauthorization

NAESP is working with other K-12 groups in lobbying Congress to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA) - last authorized in 2008. NAESP and these groups have endorsed the PREP Act, introduced in March by Senators Kaine and Collins. The legislation updates Title II of HEA and focuses on educator recruitment, preparation, and retention. The bill also includes provisions focused on minority recruitment, "grow-your-own" initiatives, and provisions to address teacher shortages. Most importantly, the PREP Act includes measures to boost clinical oriented prep/residency models that are critical to preparing principals to be better meet the day-to-day challenges in schools.

FY2020 Appropriations

On April 30, the House Appropriations Committee passed a bill that would significantly increase funding for key federal education programs (graphic below shows the increases). The full House is expected take action on the legislation this week. NAESP will be asking members to contact their members of Congress to help push this bill across the finish line.



Budget Caps Legislation

Before Congress left for recess, the House Budget Committee this week advanced legislation that would raise defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) caps for FY20 and FY21. NDD would receive \$631 billion in 2020 and \$646 billion in 2021 – a 5.7% increase over current funding levels. Without Congressional action, NDD and defense programs for 2020 and 2021 would be governed by the 2011 Budget Control Act, which would force a 9% (\$55 billion) cut from the FY 2019 NDD appropriated level. House Democratic leaders attempted to bring the legislation up for a vote, but it was derailed by progressive House members who wanted larger increases in NDD funding and reductions in defense funding.

Bipartisan IDEA Full-Funding Bill Introduced in Senate and House

On March 26, a group of bipartisan Senators and members introduced an IDEA full-funding bill. The legislation would ensure Congress' commitment to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at 40% of average per pupil expenditure. Senate co-sponsors include Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-Md) and Pat Roberts (R-KS). In the House, cosponsors include Representatives Jared Huffman (D-CA), John Katko (R-NY), Joe Neguse (D-CO), David McKinley (R-WV), Dean Phillips (D-MN), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Glen Thompson (R-PA).