

News & Notes

In mid-July, the US Department of Education released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act's general assessment provisions and a second Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the law's innovative assessment pilot program. The proposed general assessment regulations reflect the work of the negotiated rulemaking committee, which ESSA required and ED convened earlier this year. Under the proposed rule on the pilots, states that apply commit to developing high-quality, valid, reliable assessments that "measure student mastery of challenging State academic standards, improve the design and delivery of large-scale assessments, and better inform classroom instruction." Public comments to both rules were due by September 9. At a July meeting for new NASBE members, ED adviser Anne Hyslop said ED hoped to release final rules by the end of 2016.

Education Secretary John King announced nonbinding guidance in July to raise "awareness, enthusiasm and support" for a more "well-rounded" education for all

students. The guidance focuses on identifying strategies and funding sources for an education that includes access to history, civics, government, economics, and geography; music and art; world languages; physics, chemistry, computer science, and biology; physical and health education; and career and technical education.

On July 7, the House Education and the Workforce Committee unanimously approved legislation to update the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, which would provide state and local leaders more flexibility in the use of federal CTE funds, streamline performance measures, and push for stronger engagement with employers in the development and evaluation of CTE. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has not yet considered a companion bill, so it is unlikely Congress will complete work on reauthorization until next year.

Few states have adopted learning standards in computer sciences, but that is likely to change as states increasingly

recognize standards and aligned teacher preparation as critical to eliminating the shortage of US students capable of entering the field. A new NASBE Policy Update by Eve Tilley-Coulson, "States Move toward Computer Science Standards," details multistate efforts to advance K-12 computer science instruction.

The House Appropriations Committee approved a bill for ED's fiscal 2017 budget in late July that would reduce the department's overall budget by \$1.3 billion. But in a significant victory for schools, the measure provides \$1 billion for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant (SSAEG). The bill decreases funding for Title II, which supports school leader and teacher professional development, including for effective use of technology. The Senate Appropriations Committee acted on companion legislation in late June, reducing the budget by \$220 million overall but providing only \$300 million for SSAEG (see table). Congress will not take further action until after the election, when education spending will likely be considered as part of a larger omnibus bill.

House and Senate Appropriations Proposed FY17 Education Investments

Program	FY16 Enacted	President's Request	House Committee	Senate Committee
ESEA, Title I	\$14.9 billion	\$15.3 billion	\$15.3 billion	\$15.4 billion
ESEA, Title II	\$2.3 billion	\$2.2 billion	\$1.9 billion	\$2 billion
School Leader Recruitment and Support	\$16.3 million	\$30 million	\$0	\$16.3 million
Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grants	\$230 million	\$250 million	\$200 million	\$213 million
Education for Homeless Children and Youth	\$70 million	\$85 million	\$70 million	\$77 million
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants	\$0	\$500 million	\$1 billion	\$300 million
IDEA State Grants	\$11.9 billion	\$11.9 billion	\$12.4 billion	\$11.9 billion
English Language Acquisition	\$737 million	\$800 million	\$737 million	\$737 million
Perkins Career and Technical Education	\$1.1 billion	\$1.2 billion	\$1.1 billion	\$1.1 billion
Preschool Development Grants (HHS)	\$250 million	\$350 million	\$250 million	\$250 million
State Data Systems	\$34.5 million	\$81 million	\$27 million	\$34 million