

# **Federal Update**

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# Uncertainty Reigns in Federal Ed Policy

- ⌘ Will ESEA be reauthorized in this Congress? (If not, when?)
- ⌘ How will ESEA Flexibility waivers proceed? Further revision to teacher evaluation timelines? Will there be other waiver policy changes?
- ⌘ How will Congress handle education funding?

# House ESEA

- ⌘ House action likely tomorrow, partisan approval likely (but not 100%)
- ⌘ Chairman Kline significantly reduces the federal role in school-level accountability:
  - No performance targets;
  - No Focus or Priority %s or interventions
- ⌘ Messaging re: restoring authority to local communities, but
- ⌘ Does require teacher evaluation reform that incorporates test scores, and these evaluations SHALL be used for employment decisions

# Senate ESEA

- ⌘ HELP Committee partisan approval
- ⌘ Floor action uncertain
- ⌘ Harkin also reduces federal role from current law:
  - No AYP
  - Codifies waiver accountability, with a few tweaks
- ⌘ But adds a multitude of new reporting requirements
  - New cross-tabulation requirement for reporting – report by subgroups and intersections of subgroups when there are >15 students
  - New reporting on school athletics, foster children, pregnant and parenting students, school funding, etc.
- ⌘ Requires teacher evaluation reform, which districts MAY use for employment decisions.

# Waivers

- ⌘ 40 states currently approved
- ⌘ Round 3 implementation monitoring ongoing
- ⌘ Renewal process opens in August
- ⌘ Likely policy shifts
  - Teacher evaluation timelines
  - Other? Teacher PD alignment, e.g.?
- ⌘ Will any states withdraw from waivers or have their waivers pulled?

# Appropriations

- ⌘ Sequester is in effect - ~5.2% cut
- ⌘ Little hope of reversing sequester in the short run
- ⌘ House appropriations working with budget cap which would cut ~18% for FY14 (in addition to sequester cuts)
- ⌘ Senate approps marked up above the Senate FY14 cap (and above sequestration)
  
- ⌘ Likely Continuing Resolution for FY14 – at least through the end of 2013

# ConnectED

- ⌘ Administration call to provide adequate broadband access to 99% of students in their schools and libraries in the next 5 years
- ⌘ FCC action on E-Rate on Friday.
  - NPRM would open 90-day comment window
  - Order may be issued by the end of the year

# STEM Fund

- ⌘ The Senate-approved comprehensive immigration reform proposal would
  - Raise the cap on high-skilled visas
  - Charge a new fee to companies that use these visas
  - Dedicate this fee (estimated at ~\$200m - \$700 in mandatory funding) to a new state STEM program to improve standards, curriculum, and instruction
- See inSPIRE STEM USA website for more info.