

# Federal Advocacy Update

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AASA/ASBO Legislative Advocacy Conference  
July 11, 2023  
Washington, D.C.



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ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS  
INTERNATIONAL

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# Today's Agenda

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Unpacking the FY24 funding context

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Quick review on the state of play re tech, privacy and connectivity

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Introduction of the IDEA Full Funding Act and The ACE Act

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Contextualizing and validating ARP

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Mental health funding

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School-based Medicaid expansion

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Child Nutrition/updates from USDA

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Policies to address teacher shortages

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Advocacy 101

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Q&A

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# Appropriations

## FY23 (School Year 2023 -2024)

- The bill included \$79.6 billion for the Department of Education, \$45 billion for K12 (+2.4 billion from FY22).  
Highlights:

- **\$18.4 billion for Title I** (+850 million)
- **\$14.5 billion for IDEA** (+934 million)
- **\$2.19 billion for Title II** (+20 million)
- **\$1.6 billion for Impact Aid** (+61 million)
- **\$1.3 billion for Title IV** (+100 million)
- **\$1.43 billion for CTE** (+50 million)
- **\$215 million for REAP** (+20 million)
- **\$115 million for IDEA Personnel Prep** (+20 million)
- **\$70 million for Teacher Quality Partnerships** (+11 million)
- **Community Schools** (+120m)

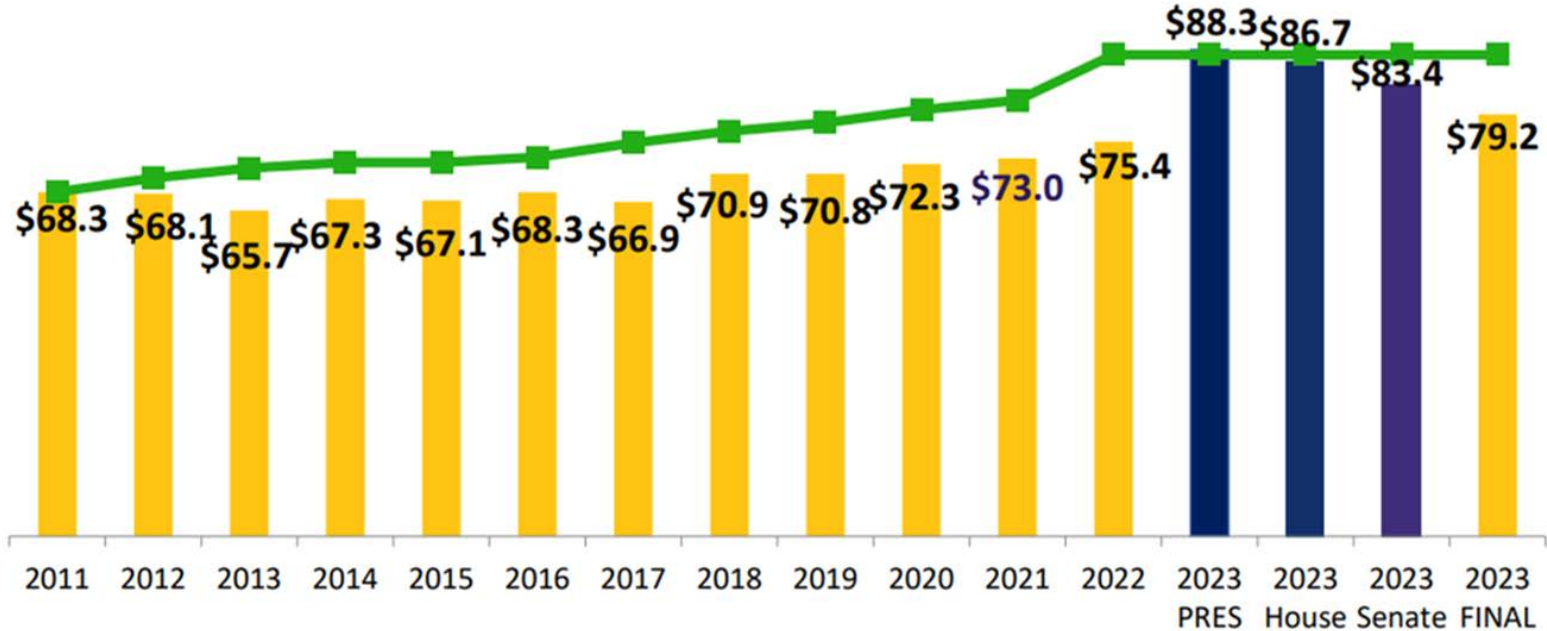
## FY24 (School Year 2024 -25)

- Debt Ceiling deal (Fiscal Responsibility Act)
  - Allows for increase for defense but not NDD, and caps increases for both to just 1% in FY25
  - Bill includes automatic 1% cut (compared to FY23) if Congress is running on CR on Jan 1
  - House Cmte set levels to FY22 (\$119 below FY24 level in law, and \$131 below FY23, all with cuts to NDD)
  - Senate is set to move with FY24 caps
  - Path forward is not clear, but a CR is likely

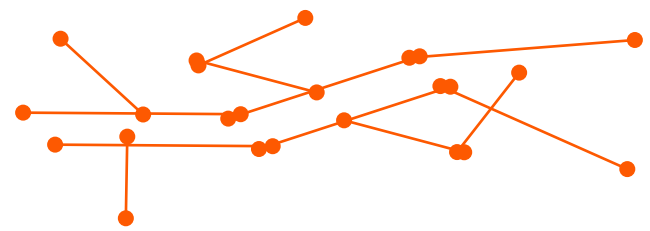


# But Remains Below the 2011 Inflation-Adjusted Level

(Department of Education Discretionary Funding in Billions of Dollars)



# Connectivity & Technology



## E-Rate

- Make sure your delegation knows what E-Rate is and why it matters!
- Ongoing conversation on how to use unspent funds in E Rate.
- Chairwoman will be at breakfast tomorrow!

## Emergency Connectivity Fund

- Funds have ended; schools have devices that no longer connect to internet

## Student Privacy & Data

- Increasingly popular topic
- Parent Bill of Rights included some provisions, and Kids Online Safety Act may get some traction

## Cyber & AI

- Federal policy should include support for schools, not rely on schools to drive the cyber solution
- Join the AASA Cyber Summit in Sept





# Legislation this week!



- We are very excited to have two of our top legislative priorities addressed in legislation being introduced this month:
  - IDEA Full Funding Bill (see your talking points!): This bill provides Congress with a ten-year glide path to end the unfunded mandate of IDEA.
    - **Encourage your Senators and Representative to sign the IDEA Full Funding Act. The leads are Senator Van Hollen (MD) and Representative Huffman (CA).**
  - All Children Are Equal (ACE) Act: This bill addresses a problem in the Title I formula that allows larger, but less poor, districts to get a disproportionately large share of funding. This bill would eliminate number weighting and ensure that all districts receive Title I funds based on concentration of poverty.
    - **Encourage you Representative to co- sponsor ACE. The bill was introduced by Glenn Thompson (PA).**

# The context for ARP discussion



- Congress continues to harshly judge districts' use of ARP funds (and ESSER more broadly). Republicans have decided it was an abject failure based solely on NAEP scores.
- Latest (June) AASA data shows top 3 short-term expenditures are: expanded summer learning and enrichment opportunities, investing in high quality curriculum and materials, and adding specialist staff to support students' needs. The top long-term funding opportunities for districts include providing greater whole child supports, renovating school facilities, and reengaging high school students.
- Meanwhile: no indication of what process will be for districts that need additional time to spend down ARP funding (beyond December 2024).
- ED continues to discourage infrastructure spending with ARP (despite \$84 b funding gap for school facilities).



# YOUR mission re: ARP

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Lead with the value of these dollars; this is an unprecedented investment and we need to demonstrate the value of this funding if we want additional funding



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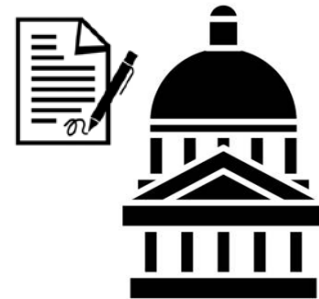
Share what you've done with the dollars and what will happen when the money runs out (What will go away? What do your students still need?)

AND..Share your struggles with spending down the funds (if you have them)



3

Ask your members to support language in FY24 appropriations bill mandating ED issue a streamlined, ARP liquidation process by December 2023.







# Mental Health



## The issues:

- Pediatric mental health crisis is far from over; one in three high school students and half of female students reported persistent feelings of sadness
- Lack of MH providers in schools
- Lack of funding to sustain MH services in our schools beyond 2024

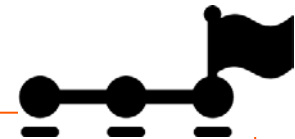
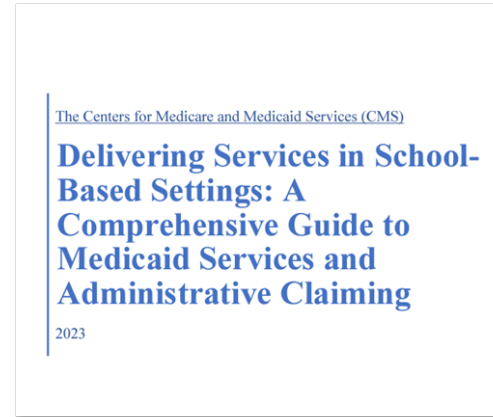
### 1 good solution:

Bipartisan MH legislation authorizing two programs initially included in BSCA that would ensure grants are available to districts to build the pool of MH professionals in schools and sustain current MH providers



# NEW! Medicaid School -Based Claiming Guide

- 21 states have expanded Medicaid to students without an IEP
- This guide encourages every state to do this, but also makes it much easier for districts to access Medicaid reimbursement and bill for services
- New option for Roster Billing and PerChild/Per-Month methodologies that do not require schools to submit a bill for each service.



**Next step: Remove the FERPA requirement to obtain parental consent to bill Medicaid so districts can bill Medicaid** like any other Medicaid provider. Congress must add this as a rider to FY24 appropriations. Draw parallel to FRLP consent to share PII that was lifted in 2010.





# School Nutrition



- Additional reimbursement from the Keep Kids Fed Act: \$0.15 per breakfast, \$0.40 per lunch, expired on June 30
- Helping Schools Feed Kids Act (H.R. 1424) would extend the reimbursements for SY23 24
- Use the [SNA Cost Calculator](#) to determine how much your district will lose without the increase



Ask your Representatives to support the Helping Schools Feed Kids Act and your Senators to support the introduction of a Senate companion of the bill.



## Updates from USDA

- \$1.3 billion in Supply Chain Assistance Funds for SY2324
- Proposed rule to lower CEP threshold from 40 to 25%
- Awaiting final rule on nutrition standards
- Non-congregate summer meal option in rural areas now available
- Summer EBT to begin next June, states must opt-in

# Addressing School Staff Shortages



- Pay Teachers Act
- American Teacher Act
- Respect, Advancement, and Increasing Support for Educators Act (RAISE) Act
- Preparing and Retaining Education Professionals (PREP) Act
- Preparing and Retaining All (PARA) Educators Act
- Sustainably Producing Renewable Often Underrepresented Teachers (SPROUT) Act
- Loan Forgiveness for Educators Act
- PATHS To Tutor Act
- Diversifying by Investing in Educators and Students to Improve outcomes For Youth (DIVERSIFY) Act
- Retaining Educators Takes Added Investment Now (RETAIN) Act
- Educator Down Payment Assistance Act



# 5 Components for Effective Advocacy

*(No matter what you're advocating for!)*



Relationships



Endurance



Logistics



Knowledge



Communication





# #1: Relationships

**Advocacy is all about relationships.**

- Relationships matter but take time!

**Who's your audience?**

- Who are you advocating to?

**Be confident.**

- Your perspective is important, and you are the expert!



# What Do You Bring to The Table?



## You are the expert!

- You know your students, staff, and community.
- You have a wealth of knowledge about your school district.
- You know the numbers and how schools \*actually\* operate.
- You know how a policy proposal will impact your schools.
- You can foresee potential unintended consequences that lawmakers can't.
- In the event you don't know something, you have a broad network and the means to get an answer.

You are an efficient constituent for lawmakers to meet with.

You are an important leader in your community, who represents more than one vote.

You are an advocate for those who otherwise would have no voice.







## #2: Endurance

Advocacy is a marathon, not a sprint.

- Big change doesn't happen overnight!

Reach out often.

- Ongoing communication helps build trust and relationships.

Commit to follow - up regularly.

- Can you do once a month? Once a quarter?





## #3: Logistics

**Who are you meeting with?**

- An elected official? Parent? Board member?

**When are you meeting?**

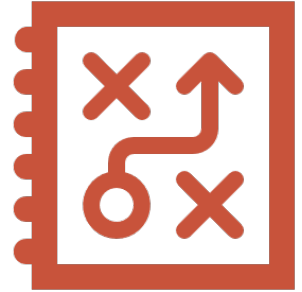
- Don't be late!

**Where are you meeting?**

- An office? A hallway? A public place? On Zoom?

**Day-of-meeting details matter.**

- Overlooking logistics can ruin first impressions.





## #4: Knowledge



**Remember: YOU are the expert!**

- You know your students' needs.

**Share information about your district/schools.**

- Location, demographics, finances, challenges, and the great work your schools are doing!

**Be honest about how a decision, policy, or action would affect you.**

- E.g., your district, schools, staff, students, profession, etc.

**Ask if you have questions!**

- If you don't know, that's okay.



## #5: Communication

Advocacy is not a one-time thing.

- Follow up often!

After meeting, follow up with extra information.

- Talking points, brochures, contacts, resources, etc.

Don't just reach out when you need something.

- Offer to be a resource.

Invite your community members, leaders, elected officials, etc. to visit your schools.

- Get a photo op!



# Know Before You Go



## Before the Hill Meeting

- Know what you want to talk about. Rehearse your “elevator speech” in advance.
- Do your homework and compile relevant information. Use our talking points to help you!
- If you’re going as a group, plan who will talk about which issues.

## During the Hill Meeting

- Don’t be discouraged if you’re meeting with a staffer instead of your member of Congress. Staffers often know more about the issues than the member, but you may still know more than anyone you meet with!
- Regardless of who meets with you, start to build a relationship. Be friendly! Break the ice and establish some commonality.
- Share stories and relevant stats/data, but don’t rely too much on numbers; stories are more persuasive. Highlight the great things your schools are doing!
- Be honest. If you don’t know something, tell them you’ll find out and get back to them.
- Ask them for information, then ask how you can be a resource and help them.
- Get their email/business card and thank them for their time.



# Know Before You Go

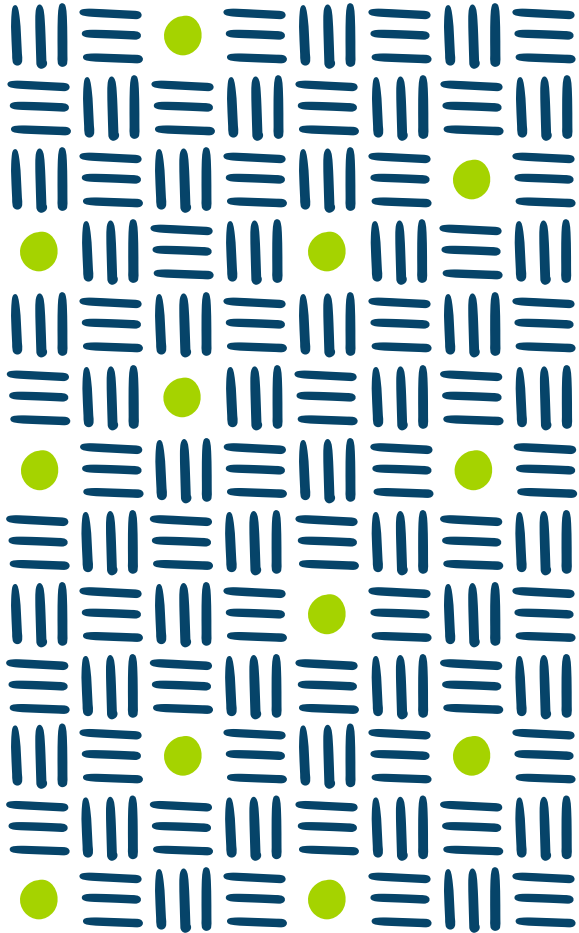
## After the Hill Meeting

- Follow up and thank them for meeting with you.
- Share any supplemental data or resources if appropriate.
- Encourage them to reach out if they have questions.
- Check in regularly, it only takes a few minutes to send an email. Thank them for their ongoing work or ask how you can continue to help them.
- Invite them to visit your school district.

## Don't forget!

- Let the AASA/ASBO team know how your Hill meetings went. We're here to support you! Ask us questions or tell us where we should follow up if an office is interested in a particular issue.





# Contact Us!

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