

Getting Past ESEA! AASA Policy Priorities for IDEA, Perkins, Child Nutrition, Higher Education and FERPA Reauthorizations

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IDEA Reauthorization

AASA has 7 Priorities:

- Re-envision the special education due process system
- Build on local district flexibility in the maintenance of effort provisions
- Clarify the burden of proof in disputes
- Put reasonable parameters around requests for independent education evaluations
- Address racial and ethnic disproportionality more effectively and flexibly
- Ensure school leaders can keep students and school personnel safe
- Reduce the paperwork burden by permitting parents and districts to opt-out of processes and paperwork related to IEPs to allow more time for teaching and learning.

Re-envision the Special Education Due Process System

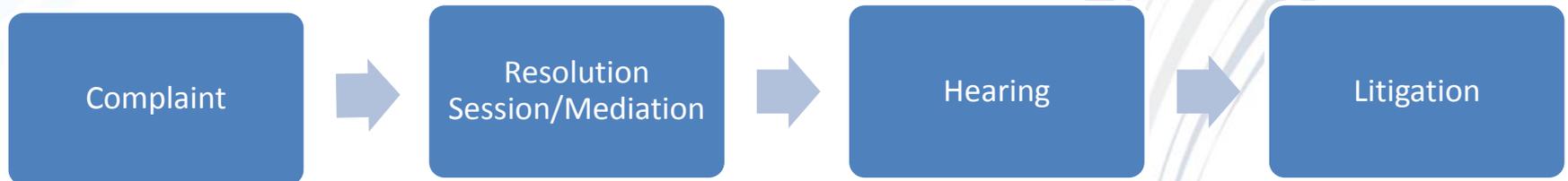
AASA 2013 Report: *Rethinking Special Education Due Process*

Problems with current complaint/hearing process for dispute resolution

- It's inequitable and unpopular
- Drives out special education personnel
- Fewer hearings \neq fewer problems
- Few parents stay with district after litigation

AASA Proposal for Due Process

CURRENT SYSTEM



AASA SYSTEM



Fix IDEA Maintenance of Effort

- AASA's #1 legislative priority is full funding of IDEA
- IDEA's MoE requirements are untenable, inequitable, and need to be modified
- AASA's Solution? The **BOLD Flexibility in IDEA Act** (HR 2965)
 - Districts can reduce MoE if they can demonstrate that:
 - they are increasing the efficiency of their special education programs and there is no impact on the provision of special education services to students
 - the reduction in expenditures is related to employment-related benefits provided to special education personnel (such as pay, retirement contributions, health insurance, etc) as long as the reduction does not result in a reduction in special education services to students.
 - Districts can apply to the State for a waiver to reduce MoE if they are facing a serious financial crisis.
 - Grants waivers to districts only if they provide evidence they are providing a free appropriate public education to all eligible students.

Perkins CTE Reauthorization

- AASA Policy Priorities (see aasa.org/Perkins)
- No new mandates given Perkins funding is 5 cents on the dollar
- Support greater efforts to engage business and industry sectors in our CTE programs.
- Supports districts to direct greater funding to providing career planning and counseling to all students.
- Less emphasis on compliance and reporting and more on incentivizing best practices and relevant secondary program performance goals.
- Streamline accountability and reporting: no new accountability measures that are neither easy for districts to collect nor easily comparable between districts and states.

Fights we expect in the CTE Reauth

- Attempts to expand accountability system around
 - Nontraditional students
 - Work-based learning metrics
- Efforts to mandate funding set-asides for post-secondary at the federal or state level or allowing regional entities the discretion to determine the secondary/post-secondary allocations.
- Major re-write of Perkins funding formula

School Nutrition Reauthorization

- Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act up for reauthorization
- AASA priorities:
 - 10 cent per meal increase in reimbursement
 - Reduce whole grain requirements from 100% to 50%
 - Keep sodium requirements at Target 1 – cancel increase to Target 2 and 3
 - Allow any part of the reimbursable meal to be served a la carte
 - Change fruit and vegetable from “must take” to “may take”
- Problems to watch for
 - Expanded verification
 - Changes to Community Eligibility Program

Progress on School Nutrition

- Senate Agriculture Committee passed bill to the floor
 - No new money
 - Addressed some of the nutrition standards issues
 - Increased verification – up to 10 percent
 - Changes review period from three to five years
- House bill expected before March

Higher Education Act Regulations

- In December of 2014, USED released new proposed regulations regarding teacher preparation programs
- Would require states to create rating systems based on graduates' placement and retention rates and student outcomes
- These regulations ask too much of districts leaders – would require a lot of data to be delivered to the HEA with no support or additional funding to the LEA
- Comments were overwhelmingly negative, but USED plans to continue

FERPA Reauthorization & Student Data Privacy

- FERPA was authorized in 1974 and hasn't been reauthorized
- Student data/privacy has been an issue that played out at the state and local level, and recently started bubbling up at the federal level.
 - In the past two years, nearly 300 bills were introduced in 47 states focusing on education data privacy, and 33 states passed some of those bills into law.
 - 8 bills were introduced in Congress in 2015
- While FERPA stands due for reauthorization, the odds are long that it is completed in 2016.
- Provide coherent and easy-to-understand guidance for parents and educators regarding federal privacy statutes (including 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.

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...)

Stay in Touch with AASA's Policy & Advocacy Team

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