AASA Federal Education Update

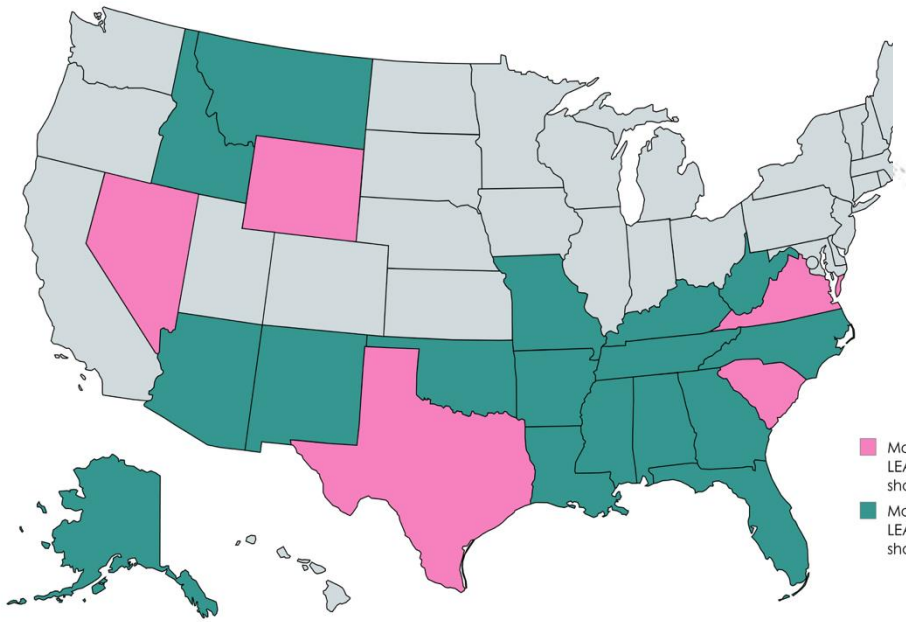
Noelle Ellerson Ng
June 2026

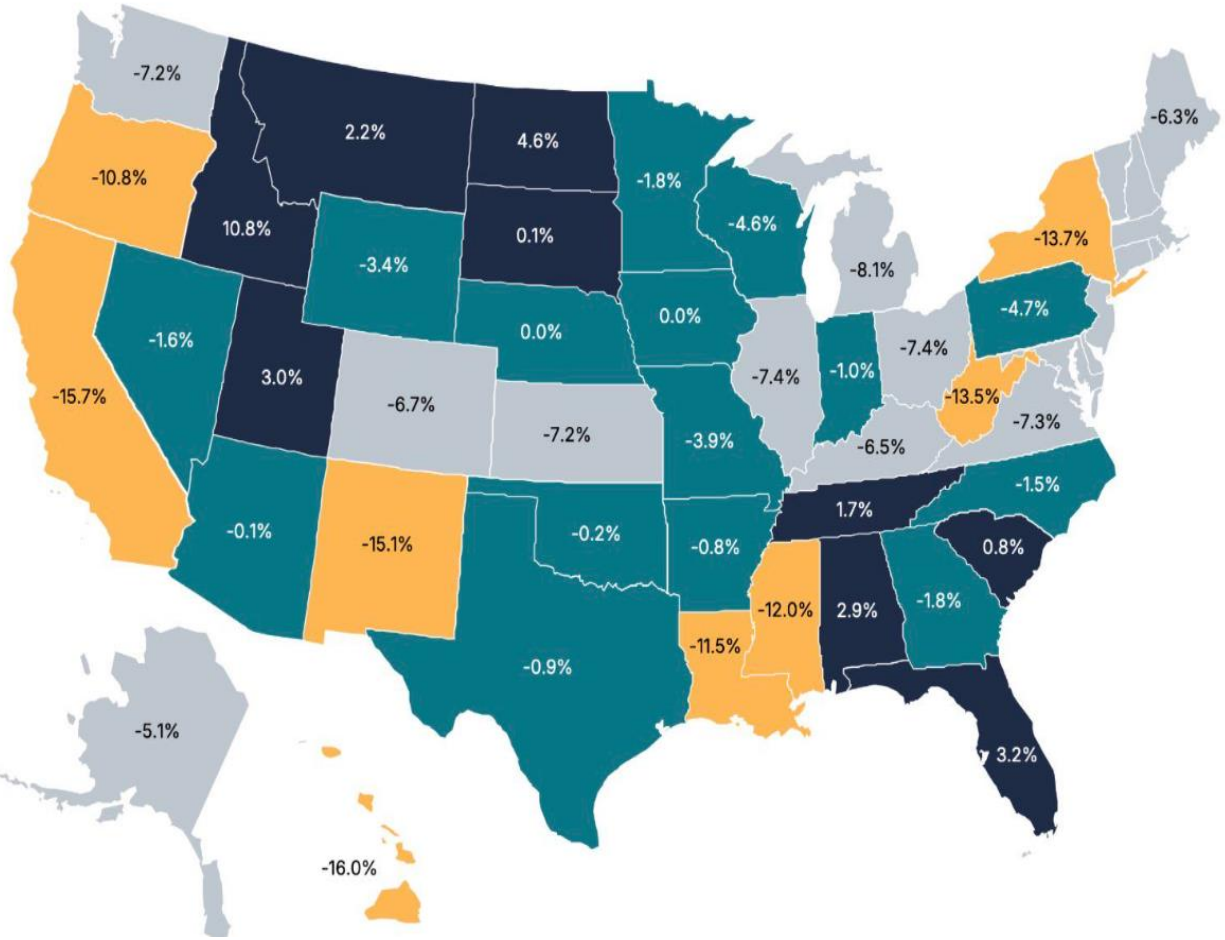
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This moment in time

- First year of Trump 2.0
  - The President signed 57 bills into law in this Republican governing trifecta compared to 97 at the end of 2017.
  - The House had fewer votes and fewer bills that became law than almost any session in the last two decades.
- Trump has issued more than 250 executive orders
- There have been 650+ legal actions filed against the administration
- Department of Education programs cut & gutted
- Longest government shutdown in history…and then another short one.
- Broader national issues: wars, affordability, immigration

More Context via Maps





Percent Change in Projected Enrollme

- > 0%
- 0 to -5%
- -5.1% to -10%
- < -10%

CT	-9.4%
DC	-5.2%
DE	-7.7%
MA	-7.2%
MD	-8.1%
NH	-7.3%
NJ	-8.3%
RI	-6.9%
VT	-7.6%

Created with mapchart.net

FY26 (Money for SY26-27)

Program	House FY26 Proposal	Senate FY26 Proposal	Final FY26 Proposal
Title I, Part A	$14.626 billion (-$3.78 billion)	$18.457 billion (+50 million)	$18.427 billion (+20 million)
IDEA, Part B	$14.234 billion (+20 million)	$14.264 billion (+50 million)	$14.234 billion (+20 million)
Title II, Part A	$0 (-$2.19 billion)	$2.19 billion (level funds)	$2.19 billion (level funds)
Title I, Part C	$0 (-$376 million)	$376 million (level funds)	$376 million (level funds)
Title III, Part A	$0 (-$890 million)	$890 million (level funds)	$890 million (level funds)
Title IV, Part A	$1.385 billion (+5 million)	$1.380 billion (level funds)	$1.380 billion (level funds)
REAP	$225 million (+5 million)	$225 million (+5 million)	$225 million (+5 million)
Impact Aid	$1.630 billion (+5 million)	$1.625 billion (level funds)	$1.630 billion (+5 million)
Head Start	$12.272 billion (level funds)	$12.357 billion (+85 million)	$12.357 billion (+85 million)

Final Thoughts on FY26

- The language that funding be made available to districts ON July 1 was included. This is BIG win.
- But be prepared for it NOT to get to you on time.
- Finally, think about possible funny business: will the Grant Award Notices (GANs) be used to advance policy interpretations?
- FY26 appropriations package in March included language that funding be made available to districts ON July 1 was included…as a result…
- ED will not transfer funding to DOL until after July 1.

President's FY27 Budget Proposal

- Déjà vu proposal: Mirrors the FY2026 request—proposes cuts, block grants, and eliminations that Congress ultimately rejected.
- Topline funding: $76.5B for ED in FY2027 (↓ $2.3B / 2.9%); K–12 funding reduced by ~ $6.5B.
- Shifts within major programs: Title I held flat at $18.4B; IDEA Part B increased by $1.1B (partly by consolidating six programs).
- Major restructuring & eliminations: 17 programs ($6.5B) folded into a new $2B "MEGA" block grant; eliminates key programs including Migrant Education, English Language Acquisition, and Teacher Quality Partnership.

FY27: Recap

Programs Consolidated into $2 billion MEGA Grant Program	
Program	FY26 Funding
Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grants	$194 million
Innovative Approaches to Literacy	$30 million
Neglected & Delinquent (Title I, Part D)	$49 million
Supporting Effective Instruction Grants (Title II, Part A)	$2.190 billion
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Title IV, Part A)	$1.38 billion
21st Century Community Learning Centers (Title IV, Part B)	$1.33 billion
State Assessment Grants	$380 million
McKinney Vento	$129 million
Rural Education Achievement Program	$225 million
American History and Civics Academies	$23 million
Magnet Schools	$139 million
Arts in Education	$34 million
Alaska Native Education	$45 million
School Safety National Activities	$190 million
Promise Neighborhoods	$91 million
Javits Gifted & Talented Students	$17 million
Statewide Family Engagement Centers	$20 million
TOTAL	**$6.466 billion**

IDEA Proposed Funding and Consolidations		
Program	FY26 Funding Level	FY27 Proposed Funding
Grants to States	$14.234 billion	$15.401billion
Preschool Grants	$420 million	$0
State Personnel Development	$39 million	$0
Technical Assistance and Dissemination	$39 million	$0
Personnel Preparation	$115 million	$0
Parent Information Centers	$33 million	$0
Educational Technology, media and Materials	$32 million	$0
Infant and Families	$540 million	$590 million

Programs Eliminated (not a comprehensive list)	
English Language Acquisition (Title III, Part A)	$890 million
Migrant Education (Title I, Part C)	$376 million
Native Hawaiian Education	$46 million
Special Programs for Migrant Students (HEP/CAMP)	$52 million
Full-Service Community Schools	$150 million
Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Grants	$90 million
Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grants	$60 million
Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) Grants	$70 million
TRIO	$1.191 billion
GEAR Up	$388 million
TOTAL	**$3.313 billion**

FY27: Next Steps & Considerations

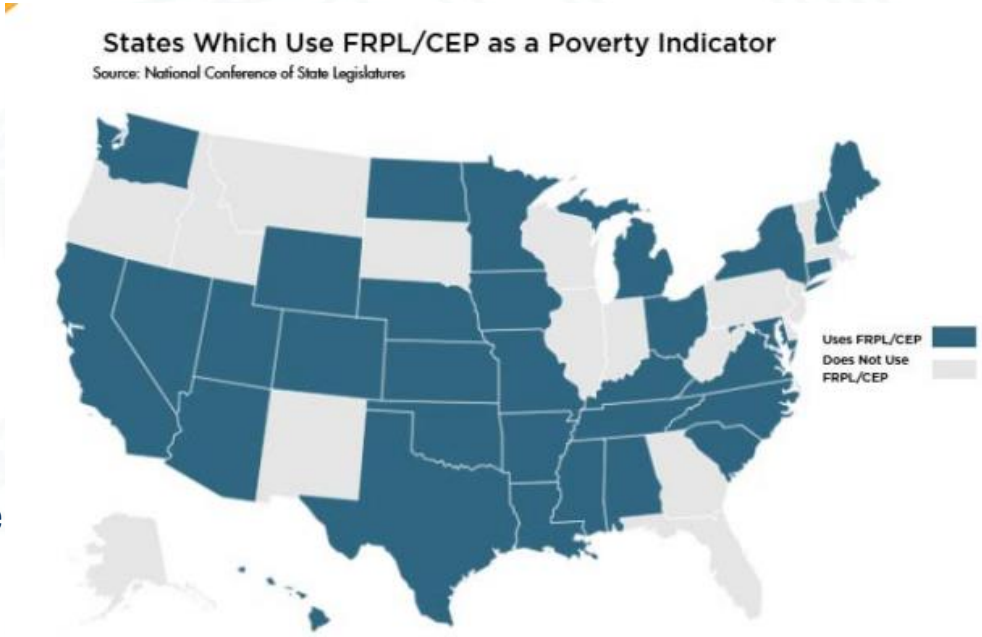
- It’s an election year, and this is a policy (messaging) document. The proposal can be seen as performative as it is substantive.
- We can be alarmed, but we don’t have to be alarmist. When so much of this budget is rinse/wash/repeat, we can look to recent proposals and how they shook out.
- This won’t be done ahead of elections. So much of the final funding levels will depend on election outcomes.

FY27: House Proposal

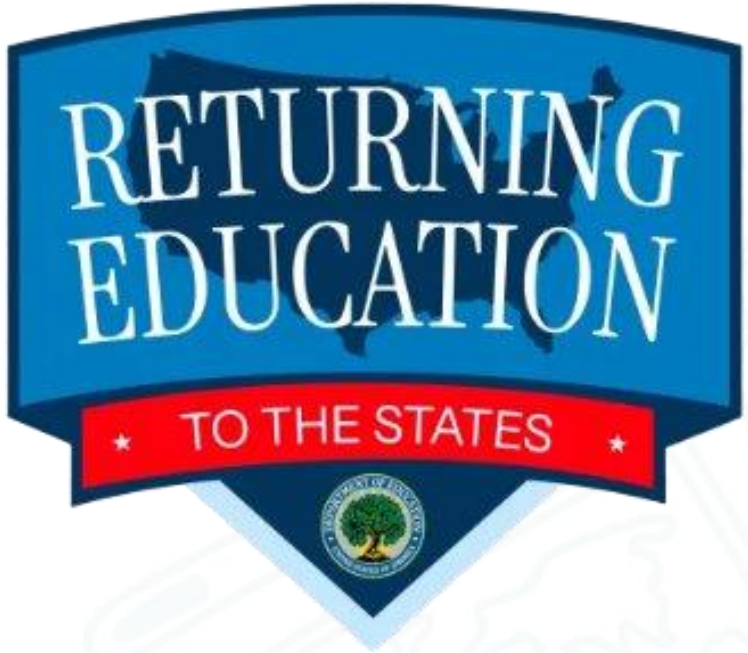
- House LHHS proposal provides $70.7 billion for the Department of Education (ED), cutting roughly $8.1 billion (10%)
- Includes deep cuts to K12:
  - Most notably, it cuts funding for Title I grants to LEAs by 10 percent (nearly $2 billion).
  - Eliminates funding for Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (approx. $2.2 billion).
  - Rescinds advanced funding provided in the FY 2026 appropriations bill ($1.6 billion) under School Improvement Programs.
  - Rejects the Administration’s proposal to consolidate k12 funding for various program into a block grant.

HR. 1 – The One Big, Beautiful Bill Act

- 3 big components for supts to be aware of:
  - Cost-shifting re SNAP
  - Cost-shifting re Medicaid
  - Creation of national voucher program
- Creates multiple financial issues for school meal programs:
  - Direct Certification numbers will go down given Medicaid and SNAP denials which could force districts to return to FRPL forms and could jeopardize CEP.
  - Beyond school meals, reduced direct certification and lowe FRPL completion could mean these measures no longer accurately reflect a district's level of economic need, creating potential ripple effects for state funding.
  - State education funding formulas rely on multiple indicators, and in 32 states, FRPL enrollment is used as one factor in determining allocations to districts.
  - Districts in these states should plan for the possibility that lower counts could affect need-based funding.



A bit of a contradiction…



- Governors and states that opt-in are reduced to rubber stamps.
- States will **not** be able to put bar to entry requirements on SGO including:
  - Exclusively awarding funds to public school and public school connected uses
  - Academic accountability, oversight, and reporting
  - Civil and disability rights protections
  - Parent right to know protections
  - Targeting to families with low-incomes in public schools or those that may require extra support
  - Fiscal controls to prevent states from being on the hook for unforeseen costs
  - Quality control and protections against waste, fraud, and abuse

ED Dismantling

McMahon: The shutdown proved just how little the Department of Education will be missed

The government shutdown proved an argument that conservatives have been making for 45 years: the Department of Education is mostly a pass-through for funds that are best managed by the states.

Linda McMahon Opinion contributor

6 Interagency Agreements

The big one for K12: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education would be at DOL

McMahon programs are being moved out of ED “on a temporary basis.” These are “proofs of concept” for Congress.

No timeline on transfer. Staff will be going w/offices. Many unanswered questions. No additional $ for states to develop new accounting measures and processes.

Most Republicans are on-board with trial run.

Language included in appropriations bill saying dismantling is unlawful

Is it unlawful? Possibly. Can it be stopped? Unlikely.

ED Waivers

- Two types of waivers available: assessment and accountability
- Missouri received assessment waiver in July
- Iowa granted accountability waiver in January
- Two other states in the queue re accountability– more states to come.
- ED cannot grant any waiver that would change or alter allocations of funding to states or districts.

Other stuff at ED

- ED is promoting how it can offer two types of ESEA waivers: assessment and accountability
  - Missouri received assessment waiver in July
  - Iowa granted accountability waiver in January
- Professional Degree Definition Regulations
  - Codifies significant changes made to higher education and student loans in H.R. 1
  - New regulation identifies graduate programs that should be considered a “professional degree” which will be eligible for higher federal loan limits
  - Professional degrees: $50K/year (Aggregate $200K borrowing limit) - NEW
  - Other graduate or doctoral programs: $20,500/year (Aggregate $100K borrowing limit - NEW)
  - **Explicitly not included** in the “professional degree” definition: Education, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, and Nursing

DOJ: ADA WCAG 2.1

In 2024, the Americans with Disabilities Act was amended to require municipalities (including LEAs) to adopt the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 AA standards

Municipalities larger than 50k must meet the new standards by April 2026; all others must comply by April 2027

The new standards require public facing as well as password protected content (including individual websites) to meet the new standards. This would encompass any school app, platform or teacher/class website.

AASA Concerns:

Awareness of the standards is far from universal, particularly for rural schools.

Compliance costs are unknown for many districts and considered untenable for those able to estimate costs. Imposing technical accessibility standards on the volume of teacher-created class content is operationally unsustainable. The cost simply to evaluate, monitor, and audit all teacher-posted and third-party content across the district to ensure continuous compliance would be astronomical for many districts.

The regulations are so broad that they cover dozens of platforms and apps for many districts. Many districts may be unable to change or verify Third-Party Vendor Compliance.

USDA: School Meals Regulations

- New school nutrition regulations are expected this year
- Will align with the new Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- What we're watching:
  - New limits on "highly processed foods"
  - Implementation timeline
  - Opportunities for flexibility



Education Technology

- We think of the following topics as an amorphous set of interrelated policy issues that move at the same time, but not always in the same direction or the same pace. They are a constantly changing set of Venn Diagrams.
  - E-Rate
  - Student Data & Privacy
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Cybersecurity
  - Screentime
  - Social Media
  - ‘Anti ed-tech’ sentiment

PEP TALK PODCAST

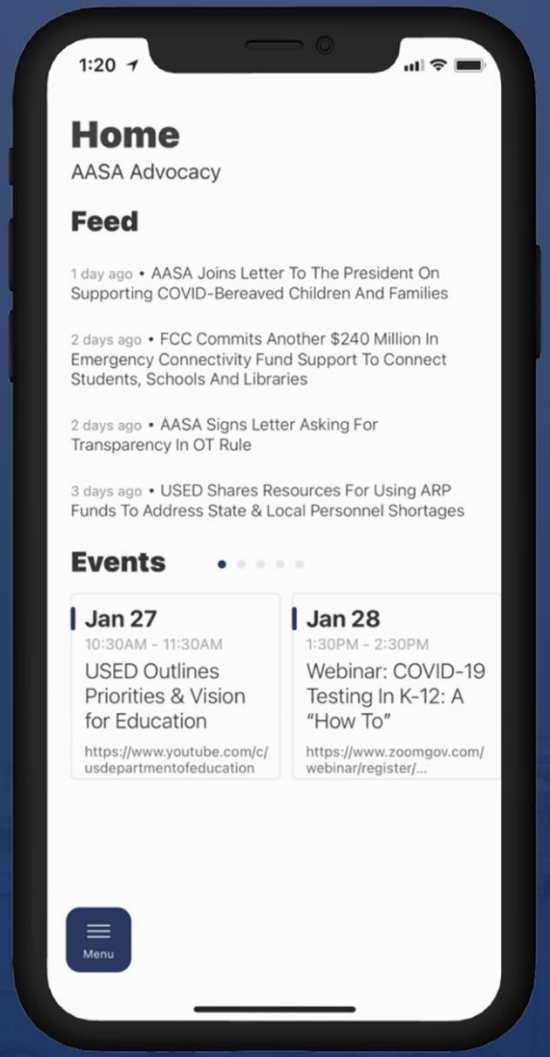
Public Education Policy

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Questions?

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