



Federal Education Update

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March 2018

School Safety, Gun Safety

- In light of the most recent school shooting in Florida, AASA has reaffirmed its commitments and priorities as it relates to school safety, mental health supports, and gun safety policies.
- We are part of the National Day of Action to Stop Gun Violence in Schools (4/20).
- We have posted myriad resources for school administrators to rely on as they work with their students, schools and community to navigate the conversations and healing that follow a school shooting:
- <http://www.aasa.org/policy-blogs.aspx?id=42161&blogid=84002>

ESSA

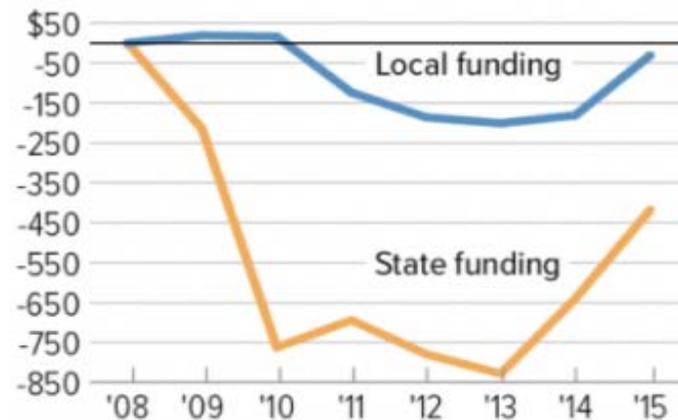
- What happened in 2017?
 - Rescission of accountability regulations
 - Approval of state plans
 - First year of implementation
 - NOT regs on supplement/supplant
 - NOT required reports (rural, homework gap, or Title I formula)
- What will happen in 2018?
 - Implementation
 - Revision to state plans?
 - Fiscal transparency requirement

A Punishing decade for school funding

- Twenty-nine states provided less overall state funding per student in the 2015 school year (the most recent year available) than in the 2008 school year, before the recession took hold.
- In 19 states, local government funding per student fell over the same period, adding to the damage from state funding cuts. In states where local funding rose, those increases usually did not make up for cuts in state support.

K-12 Funding Fell Sharply After Recession Hit

Change in funding per pupil compared to 2008, inflation adjusted



Note: Excludes Hawaii and Indiana due to lack of data.

Source: CBPP analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, "Public Education Finances: 2015."

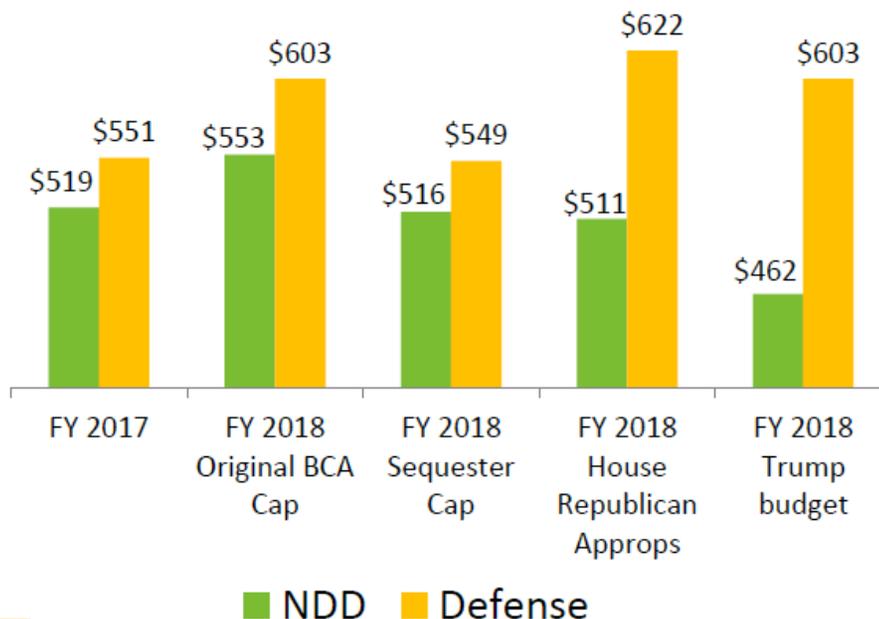
CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, A Punishing Decade for School Funding
<https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/a-punishing-decade-for-school-funding>

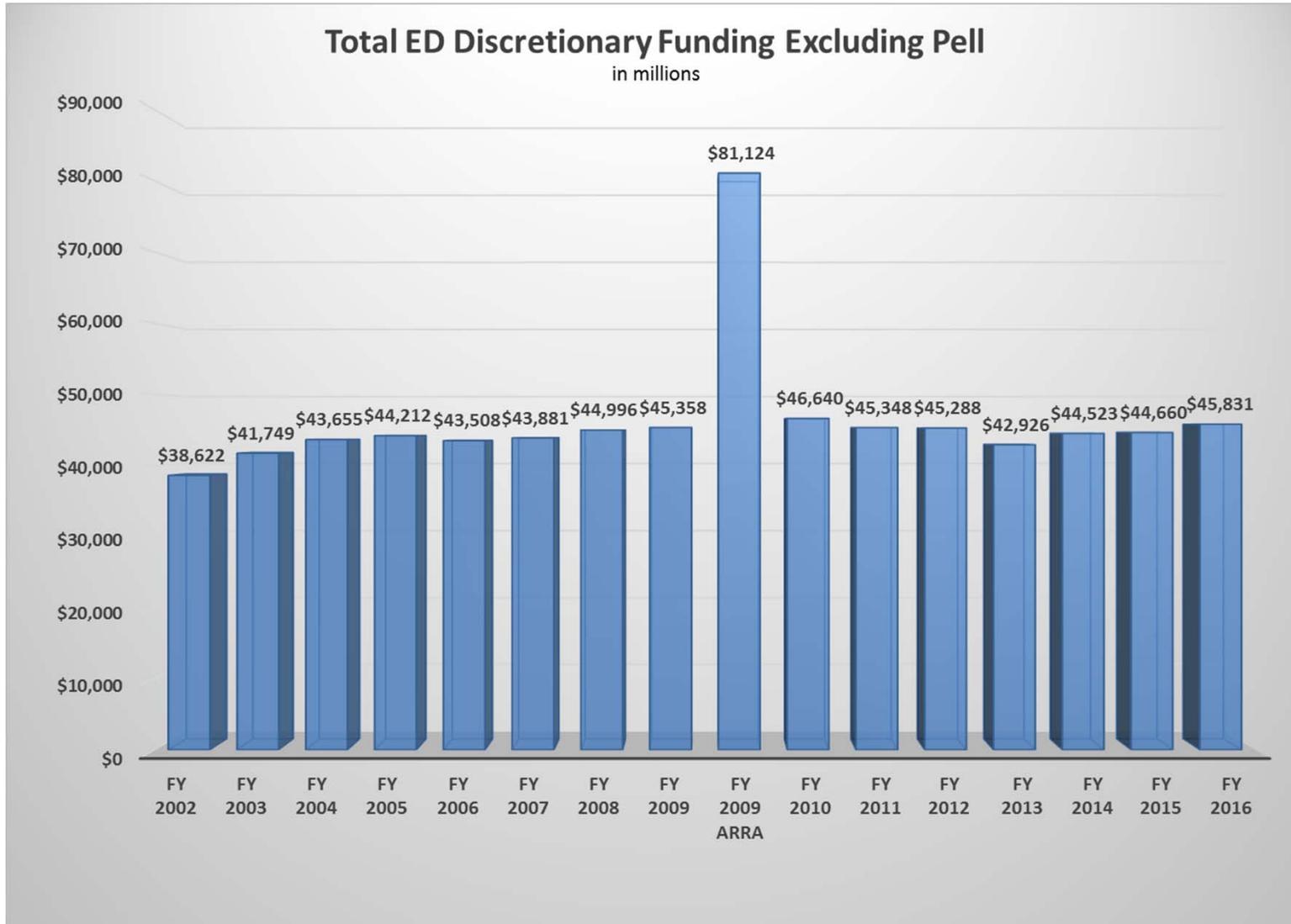
NDD and Education funding

Possible FY 2018 Nondefense Discretionary (NDD) and Defense Levels

(in billions)



FUNDING



FY18 Appropriations

- President proposal was bad, House proposal was less bad, Senate proposal was least bad
- Less bad \neq GOOD
- Current status:
 - Continuing Resolution (CR) through Mar 22
 - Politics of caps and debt ceiling resolved in Feb 8 bill
 - Must reconcile different starting numbers
 - Reality of potential mini-sequester b/c FY18 cap is below FY17 levels (relevant in CR scenario)
 - House and Senate are adopting budget resolutions will need to reconcile those numbers if we are to get a funding deal by Mar 22

FY18 Appropriations

- What was in that budget deal?
 - Education-related items in emergency funding
 - \$2.7 b for education recovery
 - Headstart: \$650m for recovery expenses
 - Extends debt ceiling through Mar 2019
 - Discretionary Caps
 - Raises caps for 2 years, but maintains sequester caps in 2020 and 2021
 - FY18 NDD cap is \$579 b (\$63b above sequester level)
 - FY19 NDD cap is \$597 (\$63 b above sequester level)
- What's Left?
 - Riders!
 - Big and Little 'P' politics

FY19 Budget Proposal

- President released his FY19 budget proposal on Feb 12
 - \$63.2 b to USED, a cut of \$3.6 b/5%)
 - Continues prioritization of privatization
 - Budget proposal was modified to reflect cap increases, but those additional dollars went largely to doubling the amount available for choice (from \$500 m to \$1 b)
 - Eliminates: Title II, Title IV, 21st Century, Teacher Incentive Grants, Comprehensive Lit Grants, Forest Counties
 - Cuts: Impact Aid, Medicaid, SNAP
 - Freezes Title I, nominal increase to IDEA, freeze REAP, small increase to Perkins, cut to program that would support opioid abuse prevention

Infrastructure

- As part of his FY19 budget proposal, President Trump announced details of his infrastructure plan
 - US would spend \$200 b to spur state activities, and state/local governments and private sector would raise the \$1.3 trillion balance
 - The pay-fors for the \$200b is within the FY19 budget
 - No explicit allocation for education, though states could choose to include schools
 - Lacks money dedicated to broadband
- Lead in school water remains a state-level issue
 - Proposals in Congress and the EPA to require water utilities to test all schools

Perkins CTE

114th Congress

- House passed bipartisan legislation in July 405-5 to reauthorize Perkins
- Senate didn't take action

115th Congress

- In June, the House passed a very similar bill
 - There is much to like in the bill
 - Addresses the onerous administrative requirements for Perkins funding
 - Addresses paperwork burden by allowing districts to fill out a simple, easy-to-complete local application
 - Streamlines the accountability system and align performance measures with those set by each state under ESSA
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Types of Vouchers



Traditional Vouchers

- All Students
- Targeted
 - Military
 - Disabilities
 - Poverty
 - Poor Performing Schools
 - Foster Child



Backdoor Vouchers

- Tuition Tax Credits
- Education Savings Accounts



Portability

- A Step Towards Vouchers
- Title I funds “follow the student”

Reasons to Oppose Voucher Schemes

Violate Principles
of Religious
Freedom

Don't Improve
Education

Don't Help
Students with
Disabilities

Don't Improve
Public Schools

Lack
Accountability

Students Lose
Rights

Schools Choose
the Kids

Vouchers Don't
Help Kids in
Poverty

Vouchers Aren't
Popular

Impact Aid Voucher or Other Voucher Program for Military-Connected Students

- Could be attached to NDAA (must-pass annual bill)
- Would assign families a set dollar amount from Impact Aid funding they could use as an education savings account and put towards tuition at private school, virtual school, homeschool, etc.
- Greatly undermine the Impact Aid funding stream and programs available for military-connected kids
- Very unpopular on the Hill to touch Impact Aid funding
- BUT, that's not all: What about a pilot program on 5 military installations for vouchers for military-connected kids or special education military-connected students?

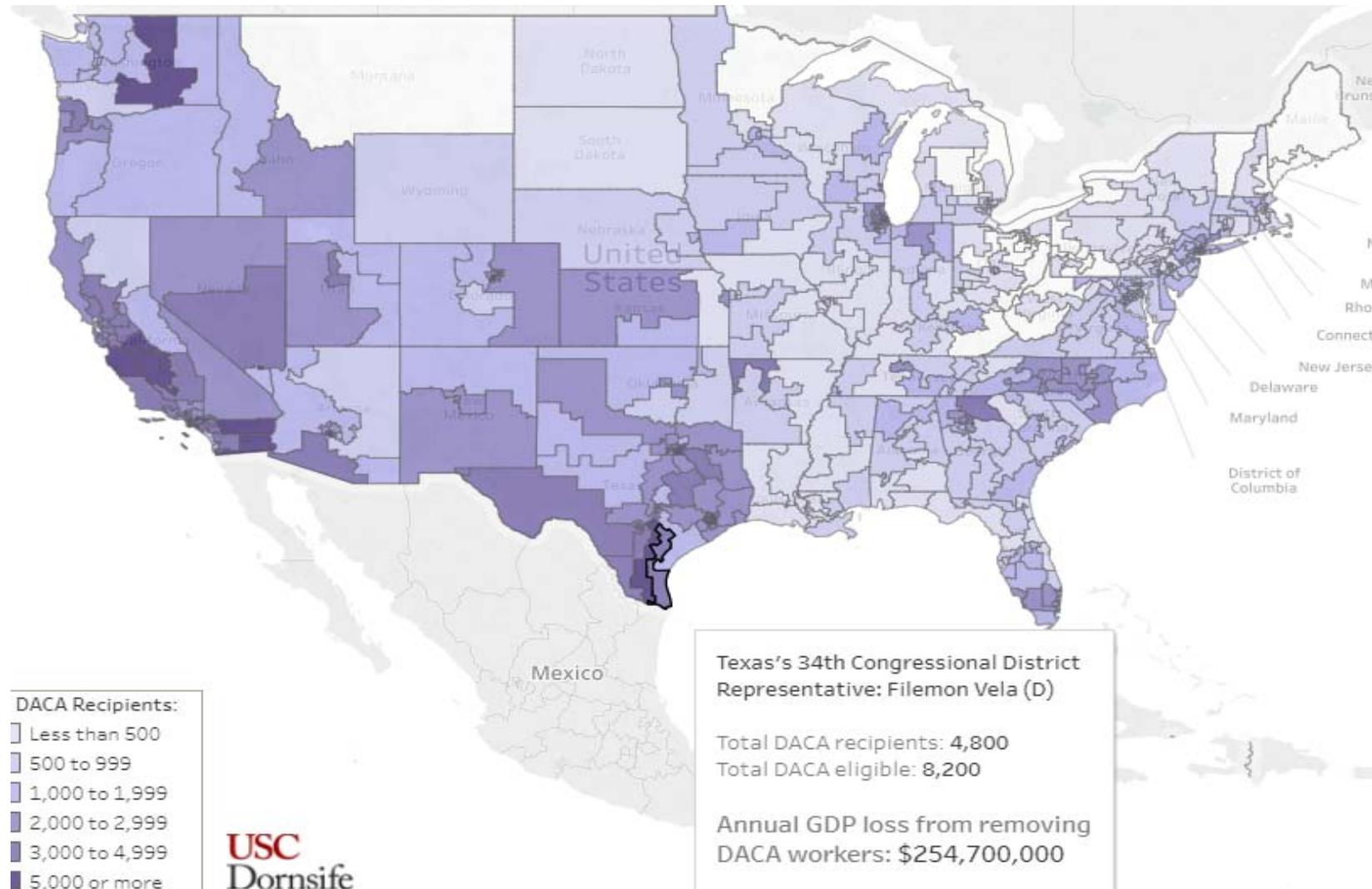
Education & the FCC

- FCC Chairman Pai has advanced a set of policy priorities that demonstrate either a lack of understanding of, or regard for, the importance of connectivity for schools and students
 - E-Rate: proposed policy that would eliminate/cut funding for internal connections
 - Lifeline: reversed policy that would allow the program to help address the homework gap
 - Network Neutrality: voted to eliminate NN protections
- Collectively, these changes undermine what should be an obvious focus and priority for these FCC programs: ensuring continued affordable and equitable access to connectivity and related content

Education & Immigration

- Historically, AASA engaged in efforts to ensure that educators are not agents of enforcement, and that schools are not sites of enforcement.
- AASA policy expanded to support DACA protections
- The approaching end of DACA forced another policy change for AASA, and we endorse the DREAM Act (pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients)

DACA: Impacting Your State



Source: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/daca-map/>

AASA Legislative Agenda

- ESSA
 - School Nutrition
 - Perkins Career/Tech
 - IDEA
 - Rural Education (REAP, Forest Counties, Impact Aid)
 - School Vouchers
 - E-Rate/Lifeline/EBS
 - Student Data & Privacy
 - Medicaid/CHIP
 - Higher Education Act
 - Early Education
 - Affordable Care Act
 - Regulations: DoL and EPA
 - Immigration / DACA
 - Taxes
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Questions?

