Get the ball rolling: Back to school advocacy

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

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Topics to Cover

- NSBA Summer Recess Guide
- Update on status of Medicaid in healthcare debate
- Federal budget update
- Special Education Funding
- Policy Issues from 2017 Legislative Session
- Update on A-F and AZ Merit Scores
- Friends of ASBA Voting Record
NSBA Summer Recess Guide

- Congress is on its summer recess until after Labor Day (September 4).
- Good time to set up meetings with members of Congress.
- Use the NSBA Summer Recess Guide for talking points and communications tips.
- Use ASBA’s Resource Center for visual materials and infographics!
Medicaid
Impact on Schools

- $47 million in reimbursements in 2015, according to AHCCCS.
- The primary concern is reimbursement for eligible services provided to students with disabilities.
- The “per-capita cap” imposes a spending cap on a state’s current level of Medicaid spending, increased by inflation each year.
- The effect is to limit spending without controlling costs. Medicaid continues to be an entitlement, meaning fewer dollars/person.
Impact on Schools

- In addition, all versions have a reduction of Medicaid eligibility back to pre-2009 levels. Currently children are covered up to 141% FPL ages 1-5, and 133% FPL ages 6-18.

- Uninsured adults are covered up to 133% FPL. CHIP Enrollment also grew under the first enrollment period under expanded Medicaid coverage.
Impact on Schools

- Proposition 204 (2000) also expanded Medicaid eligibility for childless adults to 100% regardless of the ACA, but under ACA, match is 90%, saving the state money.

- ASBA’s primary concern with any healthcare overhaul remains cuts to Medicaid.
Senate Republicans unveil the BCRA, to underwhelming reviews. It would severely limit Medicaid spending in states like AZ.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, with some others, roll out amendments that are also not well-received.

The Senate announces it will proceed with the bill, to be voted on after 20 hours of debate. Sen. McCain votes yes on the motion to proceed.

The BCRA is deemed out of order, and the Senate considers the "skinny repeal."

Congress must now regroup and figure out what to do next. In the meantime, the ACA remains as-is.

Senator McCain seeks assurances that if "skinny repeal" passes the Senate, the House will take it to conference. Failing to get those assurances, he votes no, killing the bill.

Healthcare Legislation Timeline

6/22/17
Senate Republicans unveil the BCRA, to underwhelming reviews. It would severely limit Medicaid spending in states like AZ.

7/25/17
Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, with some others, roll out amendments that are also not well-received.

7/26/17
The Senate announces it will proceed with the bill, to be voted on after 20 hours of debate. Sen. McCain votes yes on the motion to proceed.

7/29/17
Congress must now regroup and figure out what to do next. In the meantime, the ACA remains as-is.
Impacts on Schools

Special education services must be provided as outlined in an IEP, regardless of cost to the district.
Impacts on Schools

$4.22 Billion
K-12 (ADE)

$1.9 Billion
AHCCCS/DHS

$705 Million
Universities

$2 Billion
Everything Else

$1.1 Billion
Corrections
Federal Budget Update
On July 20th, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee passed Health, Human Services and Education funding measure.

The measure cuts overall federal education funding by $2.4 billion.

Most of that ($2B) is due to defunding Title II(A) of the ESSA, for teacher professional development.
House Budget Resolution

- IDEA Part B sees an increase of $200M, while Title I, CTE, and state assessment grants are level-funded.
- The measure includes no provisions for expanded school choice.
- House Appropriations Committee Budget Blueprint
- Federal Fiscal Year 2017 ends on September 30. A new budget or a continuing resolution is needed by then to avoid government shutdown.
Federal FY18 Budget
K-12 Special Education Funding Gaps
Special Education Gap

- ASBA/AASBO Report on Special Education Funding Gap
- How does funding for students with disabilities compare to expenditures?
  - How large is the funding gap?
  - What accounts for differences across the state in the size of the funding gap?
Special Education Gap

- Preliminary Results:
  - Special education rates have remained steady; small decrease in rate of Group A is matched by slight increase in rate of Group B students.
  - M&O funding gap for students with disabilities was approximately $110 million in FY 2015 and $79 million in FY 2016. Reduction in the gap is a result of Proposition 123.
  - Funding of Group A students does not align with enrollment of Group A students and partially explains the differences in the funding gap.
Policy Issues from 2017 Legislative Session
Menu of Assessments

- SB1098 (Laws 2017, Ch. 137, §7)
  - Requires SBE to develop the menu of locally procured assessments for HS by the 2018-2019 school year.
  - Forces SBE to accept any assessment onto the menu that meets statutory requirements if it is in use prior to March 31, 2018.
  - SBE has 8 months to develop to avoid this issue.
SB1317 (Laws 2017, Ch. 337)

- Requires SBE to adopt new rules clarifying the definition of “specially designed instruction” in accordance with the bill.
- These rules must be adopted by November 15, 2017.
- SBE is also required to undertake a comprehensive review of SPED rules to “streamline processes” and “reduce administrative burdens.”
Teacher Certification

- SB1042 (Laws 2017, Ch. 245)
  - SBE must adopt rules to implement both the new “alternative teacher preparation program” rules, as well as “subject matter expertise” certificate rules, and reciprocity rules to implement the bill.
  - The board must also develop a process to implement the “classroom based preparation program.”
A-F Letter Grades
A-F Update

- SBE Special Meeting on 8/4
  - K-2 and K-3 schools will be labeled NR
  - New schools will be only be rated on indicators that apply
  - Draft public comment period for the 9-12 alternative schools
  - K-8 alt. draft plan will be reviewed in September
A-F Update

- SBE Special Meeting on 8/18
  - Set cut scores
  - Label the letter grades
- SBE FAQs and resources
A-F Timeline

August 18th – SBE will set the cut scores

Week of August 28th – Scores will be released to schools

September 18th - Letter grades will be made public

October – Letter grades for alternative schools will be released
Friends of ASBA Voting Record
2017 Voting Record

Ask your legislators if they support or oppose...

FRIENDS of ASBA
educating arizona

How Arizona Legislators Voted in 2017 on High Priority K-12 Education Bills

http://friendsofasba.org/legislative-impact/
Friends of ASBA Reception

- Save the Date: September 6, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m. at the J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge
- Celebration of public education
  - 2017 Voting Records – pick up your hard copy early!
  - Friends of ASBA summer activities
  - Membership information
Voucher Referendum

- Effort to refer SB1431 to the ballot in 2018.
  - Turned in 111,540 signatures on August 8 to Secretary of State’s office.
  - As a result, SB1431 has not taken effect.
  - A sample of 5% of signatures will be validated by Secretary of State and County recorders.
  - May be about three weeks until final declaration is made. Expect court challenges.
  - If successful, SB1431 will be placed on the November 2018 ballot.
Questions?

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