



FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Elementary and Secondary Education Act

The New York State School Board Association (NYSSBA) urges Congress to fully fund all required programs and services associated with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), including Title I. Title I directs funding to local educational agencies with high numbers of students from low-income families. According to the National School Boards Association (NSBA), Title I and related programs have been underfunded by tens of billions of dollars since ESEA's reauthorization in 2002 (No Child Left Behind).¹

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

NYSSBA believes that all federally mandated programs should be federally funded. When the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted in 1975, the federal government committed to funding 40 percent of the average cost per pupil. Currently, NSBA estimates that federal funding fails to fulfill that promise, covering approximately 16 percent of the average cost per pupil nationally and less in high cost states, such as New York. NYSSBA urges Congress to dramatically increase IDEA funding.

Sequestration

NYSSBA urges Congress to permanently end sequestration of education funding. NYSSBA estimates that New York's schools lost an estimated \$102 million in federal funding during the 2013-14 school year due to sequestration. While the Bipartisan Budget Act in December 2013 provided a reprieve from sequestration for FY 2014 and FY 2015, public education must be permanently safeguarded from such funding cuts. NYSSBA encourages Congress to act before the start of the next fiscal year, which begins October 1.

School Safety

NYSSBA urges Congress to increase and sustain funding to support school districts' implementation of new and enhanced measures to improve school safety. Additional resources would enable more districts to invest in proven methods of improving school safety such as:

- Employing or collaborating with local police to have a School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to schools.
- Having school psychologists or social workers on staff who are trained to identify and avert potentially violent behaviors.

¹ Issue Brief: Federal Funding for Education. National School Boards Association. Oct 2, 2014. <http://www.nsba.org/issue-brief-federal-funding>



- Purchasing equipment proven to improve safety such as monitors, hardened doors and bulletproof glass.

E-Rate

NYSSBA requests the support of the New York Congressional delegation to further evaluate two recent changes made by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to E-Rate, a program which assists schools and libraries obtain telecommunications and Internet access:

- A formula change to the distribution of E-rate resources for internal connections and basic maintenance, based on a per pupil allocation rather than a needs-based methodology.
- A phase-out of eligibility for older technologies eligible to receive E-rate funding. For example, districts will no longer be able to use E-rate funding for telephonic services or email. Funds previously used for these services can be redirected to support additional broadband access.

Before any final decision is made, the FCC must evaluate their impact on schools

For additional information, please contact NYSSBA Governmental Relations at 518-783-0200.