

# Advocacy for Public Education

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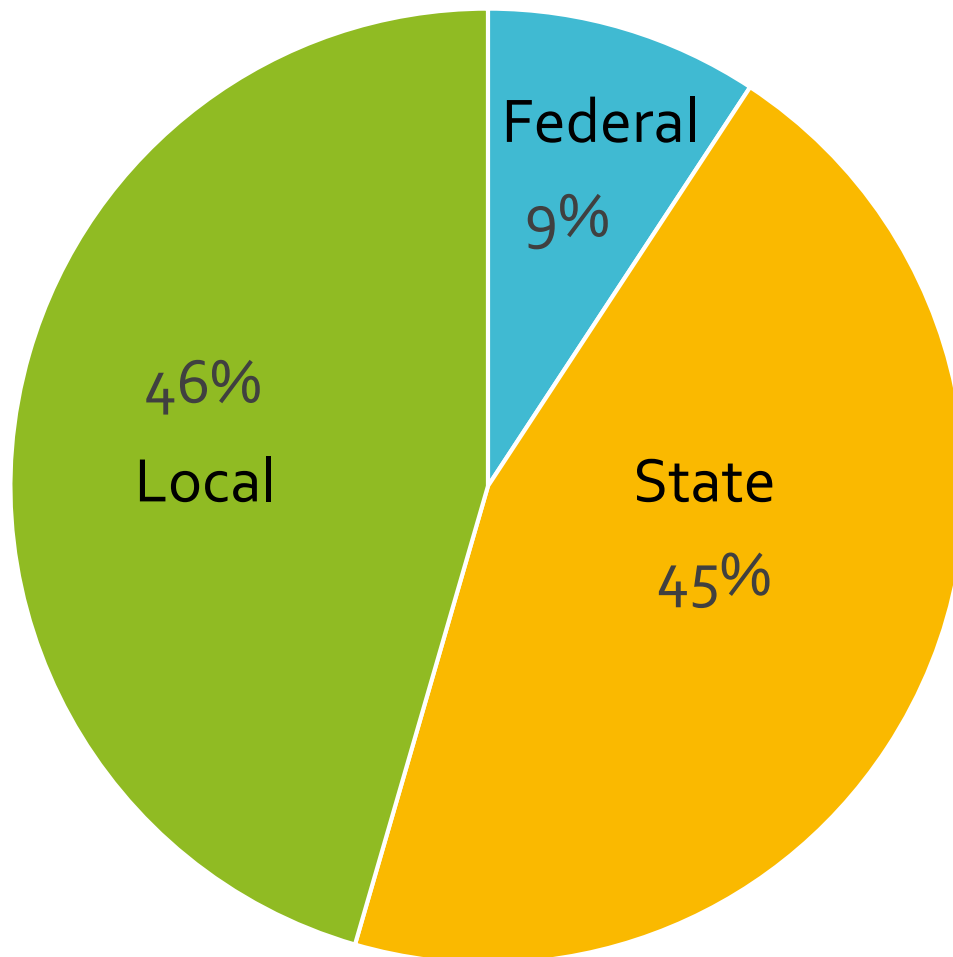
# Department of Education Secretary DeVos on Public Schools

- Recently, Secretary DeVos spoke to conference and said:
- "The reality is that there are still far too many kids being left behind. Every year that we fail to give parents the kinds of choices they need for their individual children is a tragic year for [each child] that is denied that opportunity."
- She also said to expect federal school choice legislation "in the not-too-distant future"

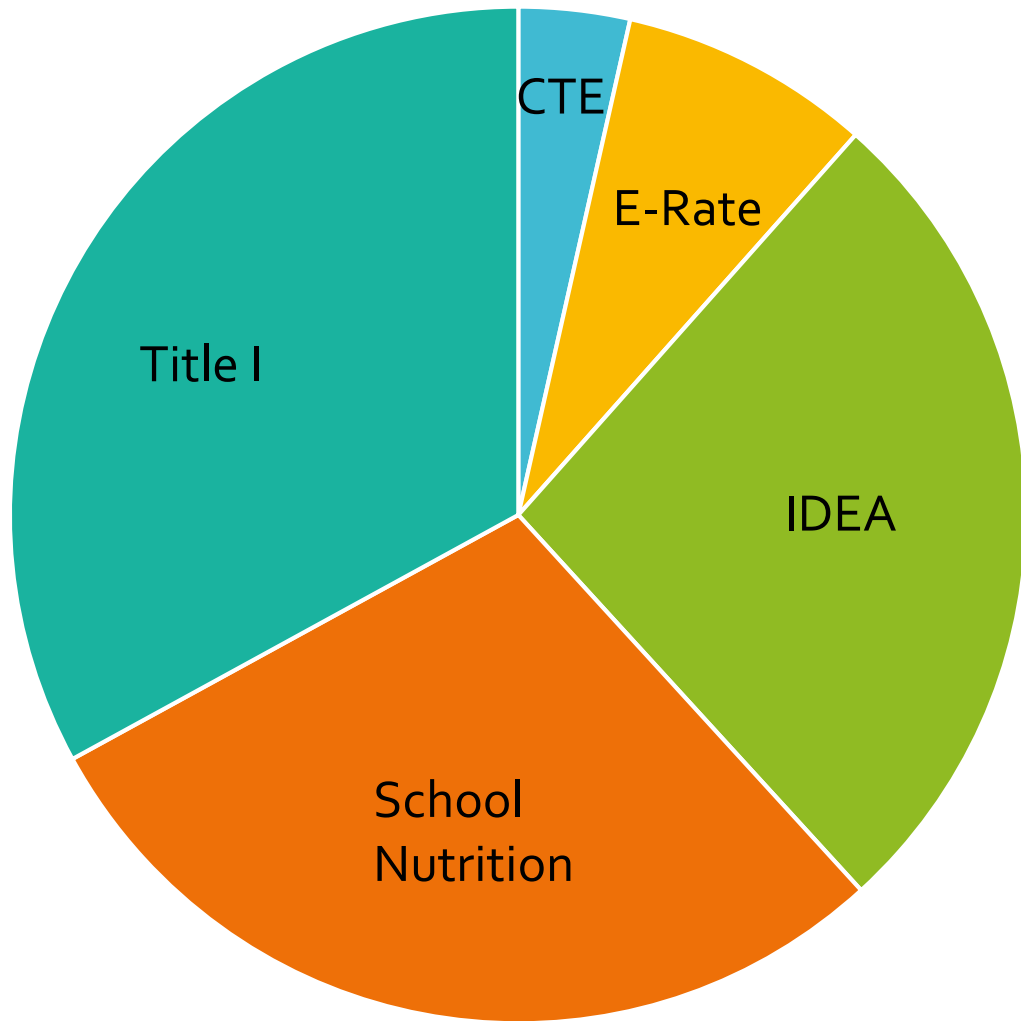
# Themes in Public Education Policy

- Money money money
- Privatization
- Every Student Succeeds Act

# Education Funding



# Federal K12 Programs



# Federal Funding Process

- Authorizing Committee vs. Appropriating Committee
- President's budget vs. Congressional appropriations

# Appropriations Buckets

## Mandatory

- Medicare, Social Security, debt

## Defense discretionary

- Most military funding

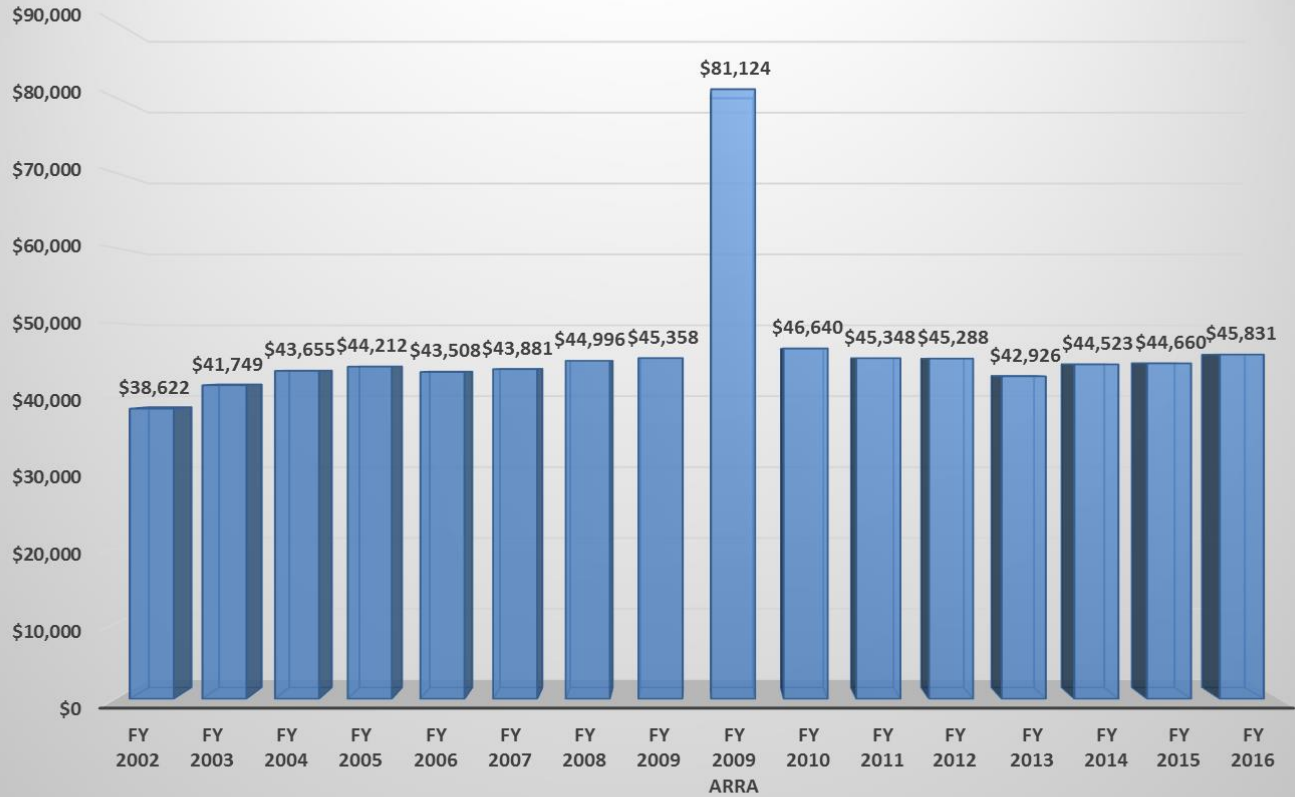
## Non-defense discretionary

- *Everything else* – including education

# Federal Funding

## Total ED Discretionary Funding Excluding Pell

in millions



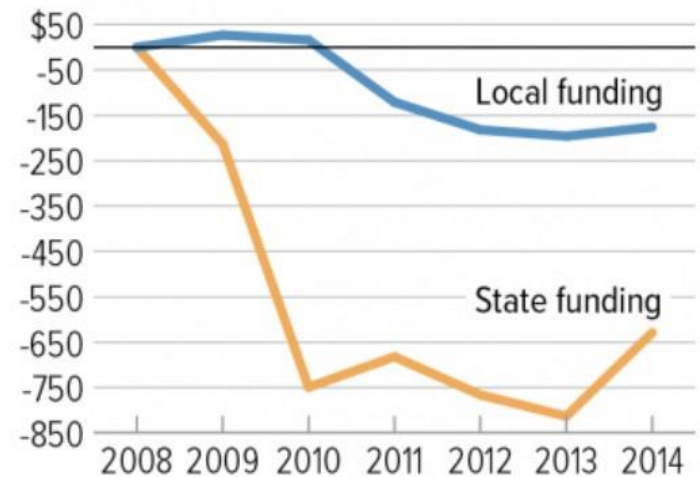


# State and Local Funding

- 35 states provided less overall state funding per student in 2014 school year than in 2008 the year the recession took hold
- In 27 states, local government funding per student fell over the same period, adding to the damage of state cuts

## 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: 2014"

# Future of Education Funding

- President Trump's proposed budget cut the Department of Education by 13% - \$9 billion
- Congress won't do as much – still cut by \$1 billion for next year
- Budget caps aren't going anywhere
  - Increases in one side lead to decreases in the other
  - Likely to see more cuts to education in the future

# American Health Care Act (AHCA) and Schools

- House passed their version in May
  - Changes Medicaid to a per capita devolution to states
  - States may decide to not reimburse schools, and funding would not keep up with demand
- Senate version is out
  - Includes the same changes to Medicaid
  - May be voted on as early as this week
  - **REACH OUT NOW!**

## Quick Primer on School- Based Medicaid

- Since 1968, districts can provide EPSDT services for Medically eligible children and be reimbursed.
- Since 1988, districts can bill for medically-necessary services related to IEP
- 1% of all federal Medicaid dollars go to schools
- 46% of Medicaid beneficiaries are children
- 19% of the costs of Medicaid are incurred by children.

## Consequences of House and Senate Bills

- With block grants, schools could be excluded completely from Medicaid funding.
- Cuts or changes to Medicaid funding could undermine Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT).
- Block granting Medicaid could result in reduced eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP, coverage of fewer services, lower payments to providers, or increased cost-sharing by beneficiaries—all of which would reduce access to care.

# Privatization Schemes



## 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"

# Perkins Career and Technical Education Act

- On Thursday, the House passed a bill to reauthorize Perkins CTE
- There is much to like in the bill
  - Addresses the 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
- No money is attached – this is an authorizing bill, not an appropriating

# Every Student Succeeds Act

- ESSA was passed in 2015 – goes into effect next school year
- Replaces No Child Left Behind
- Returns control over many decisions to the state and local level – like before No Child Left Behind



# Advocacy 101



Relationships



Endurance



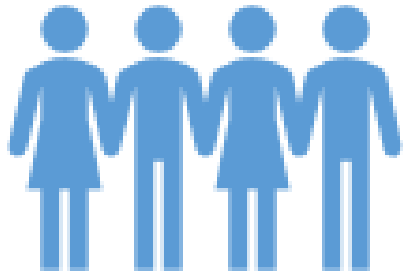
Logistics



Knowledge



Communication



# Relationships

- Advocacy is all about relationships
- Congressional staffers range from experts to novices
- Be confident that you are an important constituent



# Endurance

- It's a marathon – not a sprint
- Reach out often – not just when you need something
- Once a month – check out our 2017 Year of Superintendent Advocacy Challenge



## Logistics

- When you have meetings, they may be with your member of Congress, but they may just be with their education staffer
- The education staffer often knows more about our issues than the member
- Congressional offices are crowded – your meeting may be in the reception or hallway – that doesn't mean they don't take you seriously, so don't be insulted



# Knowledge

- YOU are the expert in the room
- Be sure to share information about your school and your experiences
- Be honest in how you think a policy would affect you or your community
- If you have questions, be sure to ask



## Communication

- Advocacy is not a one-time thing – be sure to follow up often
- After your meeting, follow up with the staffer – promise them some information or a resource and send it along
- Don't just be in touch if they sky is falling. Constant communication keeps you on their mind.
- Talk to your teachers and principal about inviting your member of Congress to your school – show off your work!

# Get Involved, Stay Engaged

- AASA Policy Blog The Leading Edge
- AASA Advocacy on Twitter (@AASAhq)
- Websites & Newsletters
  - EdWeek
  - [Politics K12](#)
  - [Morning Education](#) (Politico)
  - [Real Clear Education](#)
  - [Cabinet Report](#)

Contact me!

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# Questions?

Thank you and HAVE FUN!