Secret Service Releases Analysis of Targeted Violence in Nation’s Schools

The Secret Service released Protecting America’s Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence. Authored by the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC), the report builds on 20 years of NTAC research and guidance in the field of threat assessment and offers an in-depth analysis of the motives, behaviors, and situational factors of the attackers, as well as the tactics, resolutions, and other relevant details of 41 incidents of targeted school violence that occurred at K-12 schools in the U.S. from 2008 to 2017.

NTAC officials noted, “many of the tragedies could have been prevented” and emphasized the importance of schools establishing comprehensive targeted violence prevention programs whereby schools “identify students of concern, assess their risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities, and implement intervention strategies to manage that risk.”

When asked by the press which key factors stood out, the NTAC spokesperson noted, “It’s clear that suspension is not prevention, therefore, we make several recommendations including that the threshold for intervention should be low, so that schools can identify students in distress before their behavior escalates to the level of eliciting concerns about safety.”

To view the report, go here.
Congress Regrouping on Spending Ahead of November 21 Deadline

As a November 21 deadline looms for acting on Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 appropriations before the current continuing resolution (CR) expires, appropriators are coming back to the negotiating table.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) has been public about re-starting conversations with his House and Senate counterparts to iron out a final spending deal. “We’re going to talk about everything – any way to move the process,” he remarked. That means discussing top-line allocations for the 12 spending bills and discussing border wall funding, the two major partisan hurdles that are tying up progress.

Meanwhile, the White House suggested last week that President Trump would not oppose another short-term CR, as long as it does not include language that would prohibit the building of a border wall. The underlying partisan issues do not have a clear path to a resolution; thus, another short-term CR is increasingly likely.

“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world”

Nelson Mandela

Let Your Voice be Heard!

Until a final Labor-H bill is released, it is always a good time to weigh in on spending priorities. CEC encourages members to alert their Members of Congress.

CEC has developed a Call-to-Action so members can engage in a final push on Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 spending through a letter-writing campaign. The template letter calls for spending increases to the following programs:

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grants to States Program (Part B)
- IDEA Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program (Part C)
- IDEA Preschool Program (Part B Section 619)
- IDEA National Activities (Part D)
- National Center for Special Education Research, within the Institute for Education Sciences
- Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act

It is not too late to join in this call to action! Until FY 2020 spending is finalized, this letter is timely and relevant. Act now!
North Carolina had a STRONG Presence at SELS, 2019!!!

In July, 289 special education advocates from 46 states stormed Capitol Hill for the annual Special Education Legislative Summit (SELS)! North Carolina had a strong team and visited eight offices including both Senators, two Congresswomen, and four Congressmen. Our points of advocacy included education appropriations and the request for Congress to fully fund IDEA, keeping public funds in public schools, mental health, IDEA investments for young children, and shortages of special education teachers. Click here for more information about the summit along with the Issues Briefs. Interested in participating in 2020? Visit https://cec.sped.org/Policy-and-Advocacy or email Lynn Zubov @ Lzubov@triad.rr.com or Julie Bost @ jibost@uncg.edu.

The NC team visited the offices of Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis along with Representatives Virginia Foxx, Alma Adams, Mark Meadows, George “G.K.” Butterfield, Patrick McHenry, and Mark Walker.

One of the highlight of the summit included the opportunity to hear from Rep. Huffman (D-CA), Co-sponsor of the IDEA Full Funding Act (Part B) H.R. 1878. He was truly inspiring

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Bost

NC Team pictured left to right: Hollie Mason, Cathy Boshamer, Nancy Mamlin, Julie Bost, Lynn Zubov, Charmion Rush, and Debbie Holzberg.
EQUALITY

EQUITY