Soon after Congress passed the 2018 budget bill in March, preserving Title II, Part A funding at $2.055 billion, attention quickly turned to the FY19 budget process. Over the past few weeks, NAESP has been on Capitol Hill advocating for robust funding for our priorities in the FY19 budget. As part of this effort, NAESP along with other educator groups, sent a letter to Congressional leaders urging Title II, Part A be fully funded at its authorized level of $2.295 billion. Appropriations Committees in the Senate and the House recently passed their respective education funding bills, which preserve Title II, Part A funding at $2.055 billion, and include critical funding for other education programs.

Why this matters: Title II, Part A is the only dedicated federal funding stream for principal professional development and support. States and districts rely heavily on Title II for professional development, mentoring programs, principal preparation, and boosting principal pipelines.

Don’t Forget: While Title II, Part A is a focus of NAESP’s advocacy efforts, federal budgets provide critical funding for other education priorities like Title I ($15.8 billion), Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants/Title IV-A ($1.1 billion), and IDEA ($12.3 billion).

What’s next? Congressional leaders have signaled a desire to complete and pass the FY19 funding bill before the November elections, but this remains a tall order due to a compressed legislative calendar. The smart money is on Congress passing a short-term extension (Continuing Resolution) in September to keep the government running and punting passage of the FY19 budget until after the elections.

House Democrats recently released a bill—the Aim Higher Act—which would update the Higher Education Act. The bill focuses on college affordability, student loans, and educator preparation programs. NAESP supports provisions in this legislation that would boost principal preparation programs, including expanding principal residencies and clinically oriented preparation opportunities. Federal support is critical for institutes of higher education looking to expand residencies or clinical preparation. The shift—including reimagining time, coursework, and partnerships with school districts—can be an expensive proposition.

Please let me know if you have questions related to any of these issues and I will be sure to send you a more detailed outline.

**UPDATE 10/15/2018**

On Friday, September 28, President Trump signed into law a funding bill that provides Fiscal Year 2019 federal funding, and keeps the rest of the federal government open through December 7. This bill provides funding for the 2019-2020 school year. Highlights include:

- Title I is increased by $100 million
- Title II and Title III are level funded
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers received an increase of $10 million
- Title IV-Part A funding for Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants receives an additional $70 million
- IDEA grants to states received an $87 million increase
- Career and Technical Education is increased by $70 million
- This bill also provides a $200 million increase for Head Start and Early Head Start

Thanks
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