

May 2016 Federal Update

Deborah Koolbeck
Director, Government Relations, AACTE

Questions will be taken at the end of the presentation.

Appropriations for FY17

Appropriations

The Republican leadership intends to move all 12 appropriations bills through the process via regular order in both bodies, *and* complete this process on time by September 30, 2016.

However, it is unlikely that this will happen.

- Presidential election year schedule
- Election year fights on contested issues

A Continuing Resolution (CR) is expected through either December or March – currently it is looking more like December as part of the lame duck session.

Labor-H Bill: the Outlook

Labor-H is one of the most contested of the 12 appropriations bills, especially in an election year.

Numerous conditions are putting more pressure on discretionary monies – there is an estimated \$7-12b hole in the Labor-H bill that will need to be filled.

Labor-H could also get a smaller allocation than it did for FY16, only creating more pressure on key programs.

There is concern for the TQP program which the House zeroed out last year and the Senate supported. The case must continue to be made to fund the only federal grant program dedicated to reforming and strengthening teacher preparation.

Labor-H Bill Consideration

It looks like the Senate will move first on the Labor-H bill, most likely during the first full week of June (nothing is scheduled yet).

Subcommittee on Tuesday

Full Committee on Thursday

The House usually moves Labor-H later in its cycle, as one of the last few bills given how contentious it is; it looks like the House will begin on Labor-H at the end of June.

It is unlikely that either the Senate or the House will consider the Labor-H bill on the Floor before the August recess.

Labor-H: What to Watch

Policy Riders/legislative guidance

The House will most likely have policy riders, and there is a good chance that one of them will be on the teacher preparation program regulations.

The Senate is less likely to have policy riders – the Dems in the Senate are taking the stance of no policy riders in any bills. The Senate is putting forth a lot of energy to work in a bipartisan manner so we are not expecting at this time to see a policy rider on the teacher prep regs in the Senate bill.

Labor-H What to Watch, continued

Funding Levels

Teacher Quality Partnership Grants

Current funding: \$43.1m

TEACH Grants

Note: TEACH grants are a mandatory program, the discretionary funds deal with the in essence administrative costs, expected to rise to \$12m

ESSA

With the new law, appropriations will need to adjust to match the structure of ESSA. This could get complicated due to the pending CR.

Legislation

Higher Education Act Reauthorization

A full reauthorization of HEA is not expected this year, especially given it's an presidential election year.

Groundwork will be laid for action in the next Congress.

Title II of HEA is the Teacher Preparation title containing:

- TQP
- Title II data collection
- State responsibility of identifying low performing programs
- Myriad of other programs that have never been funded

Conversations span from eliminating Title II to making some changes to it. In addition, the Administration may offer its own ideas on Title II.

Educator Preparation Reform Act (EPRA)

Introduced in Senate (S. 2419) and the House (H.R. 4471)

www.congress.gov

Supported by Higher Education and K-12

Amends Title II of HEA:

- Opens up TQP for principals
- Streamlines Title II data collection
- Deepens the incentives for states to hold teacher prep accountable by including ESSA Title II funds
- Amends TEACH grants

*Watch the **webinar** offered on March 21, 2016 on how to ask your Senators & Representative to cosponsor these bills.*

Proposed Regulations on Teacher Preparation Programs

Supplemental NPRM

THANK YOU for advocating on behalf of the profession!

There were 58 comments submitted, with minimal support at best for the proposal.

You can find my webinar on the Supplemental NPRM here:
<http://aacte.org/resources/regulations>

If you have not shared your comments on this supplemental NPRM with both of your Senators and your Representative, please do so! If you need guidance or assistance, please reach out via the email regs@aacte.org!

Yes, the Regs are Still Coming

The Department still intends to release the final regulation this summer.

We do not know what the final regulation will ultimately look like. For example, it is unclear if the Department has resolved the conflict between the regulation as proposed and ESSA (waivers, testing).

Our energy and attention is focused on crafting a congressional solution – it is not clear that the pending change in the presidency will have any effect on these regulations.

ADVOCACY

It is **vital** that you re-connect with your Members of Congress about the regulations, especially if you have not done so recently (out of sight, out of mind almost – their plates are very full and you have to stay in touch & keep them informed).

Given the latest action of the Department – the Supplemental NPRM, the references to the regs throughout the budget request, AND the pending release, it is an excellent time to remind your elected officials about the regulations.

If you advocated with others – the governor, your K-12 partners, your state elected officials – now is the time to also reconnect with them on this issue.

Implementation of ESSA

The Continuing Mad Scramble

The U.S. Department of Education and the states are scrambling to implement this new law.

[Negotiated Rulemaking](#) on assessment made consensus, but no consensus was reached on supplement not supplant. This is now a contentious subject between the Department and the Congress.

The Department's [resources webpage](#) contains a vast amount of information on rulemaking and implementation.

Please check my blog for additional updates as things unfold.

Key Items to Note

The Highly Qualified Teacher definition (aka HQT) is gone – that determination will be done at the state level, state by state.

It is the same for what it means to be an effective teacher – each state will determine what it means to be an effective teacher within its borders.

The waivers, which included testing or assessment for all grades, all subjects, are dissolved as of August 1, 2016. This has direct implications on the proposed regulations on teacher preparation program regulations.

Title II of ESSA: Preparing, Training, & Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Principals and other School Leaders

Major location for AACTE members to engage and partner with K-12 and other stakeholders.

Two Main Parts of Title II:

- State Allotments
- National Activities

Key Definition to Check

How does your state define “alternative route”?

You might already be offering alternative route programs and know it, or you might learn once you check out your state’s definition.

This is key as you examine the pieces of Title II to see opportunities for you to engage.

National Activities

Competitive Grant Programs where you could partner:

- Teacher and School Leader Incentive Programs
- Literacy for All
- American History and Civics Education
- Programs of National Significance:
 - Supporting Effective Educator Development (focused on alternative routes to certification or licensure)
 - School Leader Recruitment and Support
 - Technical Assistance and National Evaluation
 - STEM Master Teacher Corps

State Allotments

Your state can apply for its portion of the \$2.3b available for this part of Title II.

After some administration money is taken off the top, the allotment is then divided into 2 parts:

5% for State Activities of which there are 21 allowable uses of funds

95% for LEA Activities of where there are 16 allowable uses of funds

Guidance vs Regulation?

Currently we expect the Department to issue guidance and technical assistance on Title II.

May 25 is the deadline to offer input to the Department on what the guidance for parts of ESSA, including Title II, should include. AACTE is currently drafting a response to the Department.

We do not know when the Department will release its guidance on Title II.

Timing on Implementing Title II

Some states have started to gather stakeholders to begin to select options for the State Activities of Title II. Some states have not even considered starting work on that part of ESSA at this time.

There is no timeline on Title II implementation from the Department.

AACTE advises reaching out early and engaging early so that teacher preparation and higher education are at the table.

YOUR Engagement

*Don't let it be done to you, get in and **ENGAGE***

Title II is fraught with opportunity!

- Go through allowable uses of funds to see what you are already doing and what you want to do – be creative and innovative!
 - Connect with colleagues around the state to see what state level activities you could engage in together.
 - What programs are successful that you could scale up that are in the allowable uses of funds?
- Connect with your LEA's – what do they need?

Partnering: My Colleague Needs To Be Here

There is a saying:

*If you are not at the table,
chances are you are on the menu.*

While it may not be obvious throughout Title II of ESSA that teacher preparation needs to be at the table, building partnerships and collaborations to engage on opportunities in Title II will help you get to the table.

Being at the Table, PT 1

With 21 allowable uses of funds for state level activities and 16 allowable uses of funds for the LEA's, there are bound to be opportunities that you are enthusiastic about and some that you are unsure if they will meet your state's needs.

As you know, to have ANY affect on both of these situations you need to be at the table in particular with things to offer.

Being at the Table, PT 2

EXAMPLE:

The GREAT Act (teacher academies) is one of the allowable uses of funds in Title II as a state activity. It is one of the most prescriptive of the 21 allowable uses of funds and in some states could require changing state law.

If you & your K-12 colleagues come to the table with excellent options of the other 21 allowable uses of funds, focused on meeting state needs including addressing the teacher shortages found in most states, you could focus the state elsewhere than on implementing the GREAT Act.

If you are not at the table or at the table with no ideas, it is hard to convince others to change direction.

Actions and Engagement

Advocacy Actions

Appropriations – support maintaining TQP funding

Cosponsors on EPRA – Review **webinar**

Teacher Prep Regs – Engage with your Members of Congress

ESSA – Title II engagement with K-12 and higher education colleagues – what opportunities are you creating?

Relationships – build and maintain relationships with elected officials for your advocacy.

Continue to tell your story – you are doing fantastic work and it needs to be shared!

Resources

We have resource to support you in your advocacy work and to keep you up to date on important issues and activities happening at the federal level.

- Blogs
- Tweets
- Website
- Documents posted in resource library
- Monthly Federal update webinars
 - 2 days of the week
 - 2 different times to accommodate time zones
- Webinars on advocacy campaigns
- Webinars on immediate action needs



Questions?

dkoolbeck@aacte.org
202.478.4506