

# What's Happening in Washington?

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# Agenda

- CEC's lens toward policy/advocacy
  - Legislative action
  - Messaging bills
  - Annual spending update
    - CEC's role in appropriations
  - How to advocate with CEC

# Vision/Mission connection to policy + advocacy

## VISION

- High-quality education that is inclusive and equitable for individuals with disabilities.

## MISSION

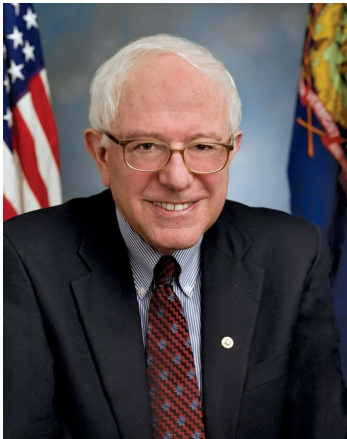
- Cultivating, supporting, and empowering education professionals who work with individuals with disabilities by:
  - Advocating for education professionals and for individuals with disabilities, and/or gifts and talents
  - Advancing professional practice and scholarly research
  - Promoting diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility
  - Building networks, partnerships, and communities

# CEC Policy Agenda, 118th Congress

- Protecting and supporting IDEA
- Protecting and expanding policies outside IDEA that support students with disabilities and/or gifts and talents
- Strengthening the professions that provide the specialized interventions, education, and services to infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents
- Advocating for ample funding for IDEA and other relevant programs
- Advocating for policies that promote safe, inclusive, and supportive schools

# Committees with Jurisdiction over Education

## Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee



Chairman

Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

Ranking Member

Bill Cassidy (R-



## House Education and the Workforce Committee



Chairwoman

Virginia Foxx (R-NC  
VA)

Ranking Member

Bobby Scott (R-



# HELP Committee Priorities

Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

- Workforce compensation
- Youth mental health

Ranking Member Cassidy (R-LA):

- Literacy
- Artificial Intelligence
- Youth Mental Health

Senate has a 60 vote threshold for approval of legislation

Joint philosophy:  
work together  
*whenever possible*

# HELP Committee Recent Action

## Advancing Research in Education Act

- Reauthorization of the Education Sciences Reform Act
- Adds special education to mission statement of IES
- Re-envisioning What Works Clearinghouse as a resource center for educators
- Supports engagement and collaboration between researchers, students, families, practitioners, education system leaders, and policymakers throughout research to practice
- Requires IES products to be high-quality, easily accessible, actionable, and timely

# House Education and the Workforce Committee

Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC)

- Parents Bill of Rights
- School Choice

Ranking Member Scott (D-VA)

- School climate
- Educational opportunity for all students (equity)

Bills pass by a simple majority.

Committee is typically partisan, hearings are polarized



# Education/Workforce

## Recent Action

- Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
  - Comprehensive, bipartisan product
  - Does not address Title IV, Rehabilitation Act
- Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act
  - Extend Pell eligibility to certain short-term workforce programs

\*Committee has advanced many partisan products that will not be considered in the Senate

# Bills of Note (Not a Comprehensive List!)

Bills that serve as advocacy tools (for now) for CEC and partners:

- Advanced Coursework Equity Act
- IDEA Full Funding Act
- EDUCATORS for America Act
- Keeping All Students Safe Act
- PARA Educators Act

“Messaging bills”

# Budget and Appropriations- Key Terms

**Federal Fiscal Year:** 12-month accounting period Oct. 1-Sep. 30

**President's Budget:** Annual spending recommendation for federal programs

**Appropriation:** Discretionary money directed at a federal program (Congress's "power of the purse")

**Continuing Resolution:** Extension of current funding levels for a specific amount of time

**Appropriations Committees:** House and Senate panels that craft spending bills

**Appropriations Subcommittee:** Subset of Committee that focuses on topical areas, i.e. Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Labor-H)

# Authorization vs. Appropriation

Legal authority	Funding authority
Create or update (reauthorization) programs	Fund the programs established through authorization bills
Spending levels optional, non-binding	Spending levels determined each fiscal year
Example: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	Funding varies from year to year

# Example: IDEA Grants to States

## Authorization

The maximum amount of the grant a State may receive under this section—

(i) the number of children with disabilities in the State who are receiving special education and related services—

(ii) aged 6 to 21; multiplied by (ii) 40 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure in public elementary schools and secondary schools in the United States;

## Appropriation FY

*\$14.2\* billion for Part B Grants to States an increase of \$20 million above the fiscal year 2023 enacted level*

\*The U.S. Department of Education estimates that for FY 2024, federal appropriations make up 10.7% of APPE



# Recent Congressional Action

## Fiscal Responsibility Act (June, 2023)

- Suspends debt limit until January 2025
- Freezes Federal discretionary spending for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024
- Allows for a 1% increase for FY 2025

\*Keep this in mind for later on in the presentation!

# Recent Action: Fiscal Year 2024

Program	FY 2022	FY 2023	CEC request FY 2024	FY 2024
IDEA Part B grants to states	\$13.3 billion	\$14.2 billion	\$16.3 billion	\$14.2 billion*
IDEA Preschool grants	\$410 million	\$420 million	\$503 million	\$420 million
IDEA Part C	\$496 million	\$540 million	\$932 million	\$540 million
IDEA Part D personnel prep	\$95 million	\$115 million	\$300 million	\$115 million
Javits gifted and talented	\$14.5 million	\$16.5 million	\$32 million	\$16.5 million
National Center for Special Education Research	\$60 million	\$64.3 million	\$70 million	\$64.3 million

\*\$20 million increase for grants to states program in FY 2024

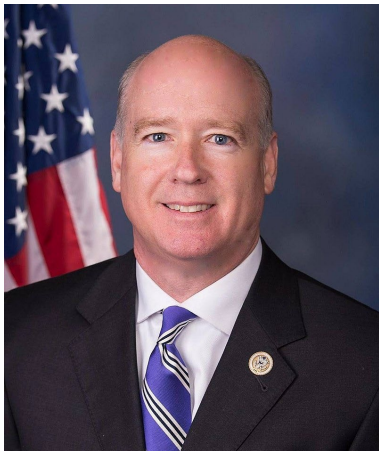
# Outlook: Fiscal Year 2025

Program	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	President's Budget FY 2025	CEC request FY 2025
IDEA Part B grants to states	\$13.3 billion	\$14.2 billion	\$14.2 billion*	\$14.4 billion	\$16.3 billion
IDEA Preschool grants	\$410 million	\$420 million	\$420 million	\$425 million	\$503 million
IDEA Part C	\$496 million	\$540 million	\$540 million	\$545 million	\$932 million
IDEA Part D personnel prep	\$95 million	\$115 million	\$115 million	\$125 million	\$300 million
Javits gifted and talented	\$14.5 million	\$16.5 million	\$16.5 million	\$16.5 million	\$32 million
NCSER	\$60 million	\$64.3 million	\$64.3 million	\$64.3	\$70 million



# Committees with Jurisdiction over Education Spending

House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related  
Agencies



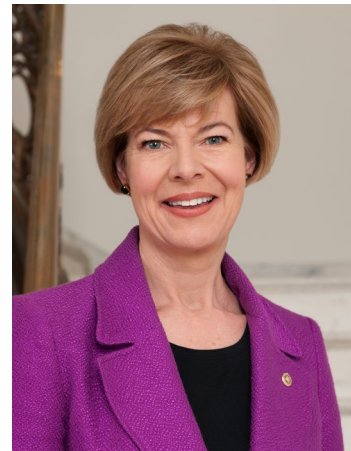
Chairman

Robert Aderholt (R-AL)  
(D-CT)

Ranking Member

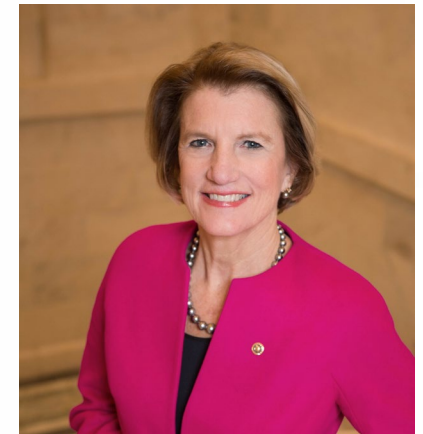
Rosa DeLauro

House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education,  
and Related Agencies



Chairwoman  
Member

Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)  
WV)



Ranking  
Member

Shelley Capito (R-  
WV)

# The Theoretical Annual Appropriations Process

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\*Recently heard from Secretary of Education Cardona

Fun Fact:

"Regular order" hasn't occurred in more than two decades.

# CEC April/May Appropriations Actions

- Supporting Congressional “Dear Colleague” letters for IDEA funding
- Drafting and circulating sign-on letters with national partner organizations
  - ❖ IDEA Full Funding
  - ❖ Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities
  - ❖ Coalition for Teaching Quality
- Meeting with key Congressional offices

# What can you do?

Check out our CEC resources!

[exceptionalchildren.org/policy-and-advocacy](http://exceptionalchildren.org/policy-and-advocacy)

Participate in our Legislative Action Center

[www.specialeducationlegislativesummit.org](http://www.specialeducationlegislativesummit.org)

# Questions?

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\*Please feel free to reach out!

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