

Advocacy Issues for Consideration of the SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee Under Urgency of the COVID-19 Pandemic

5/6/20 5:30 PM

From AASA (MASS national affiliate) but also points to the work of NASSP, NAESP most all of these same issues.

Advocacy Items and Information

- Template Letter for State Associations: You'll recall that last month we coordinated a [sign on letter](#) for the seven local education groups (NEA AFT NSBA NASSP NAESP and the Great City Schools) outlining our funding priorities for the next COVID package. Given the level of engagement the state associations are demonstrating, and requests we have received to help the state associations engage, I have attached a draft/TEMPLATE letter related to funding priorities for the next COVID-19 package, as drafted by Sasha. You can use it for your state affiliate alone, or reach out to other state affiliates to get a group sign on, and send the letter to your Congressional delegation. As is always the case, the document is in word format and you can edit/personalize as you see fit for your work and association. As you send these letters, make sure to copy me and Sasha, and let us know (contact Jasmine) if you would like updated contact information for your Congressional delegation, so you can make sure the letter gets to the right people. (When you send me your letter, I also share it with the appropriations staff, who write the bill).
- 2nd AASA COVID Survey: As part of our ongoing advocacy efforts specific to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, AASA has released the second iteration of our nationwide survey, which will provide data that better illustrates the impact of COVID-19 in schools in terms of the effect of the pandemic itself and the resulting economic downturn. The data from this survey will be used to track how districts are responding to federal and state pressures to re-open schools and deliver equity-based services during the crisis. Moreover, the survey will help detail the fiscal impact of COVID-19 on our nation's public schools. Thanks in large part to support from state associations, AASA's last COVID-19 survey received more than 1,600 responses from 48 states and produced valuable data that has been integral in our advocacy efforts on IDEA, the homework gap, and the federal Coronavirus emergency relief legislative packages. I ask that you, if possible, disseminate the survey to your members for their responses. Thank you in advance. You can [access the survey here](#).
- Equitable Services and Allocations: As mentioned in Monday's update, Sec DeVos issued a problematic set of guidance related to equitable services for CARES Act funding last week. We wrote about it [on the blog](#). I had emailed yesterday to ask for your help in terms of projected state impact (Thank you to those that have been able to send numbers). I wanted to flag one additional angle for you: given the wide spread nature of the concern and opposition (we are leading the letter with NSBA NEA AFT NASSP NAESP and Great City Schools, and [CCSSO sent their own](#)), I am starting to be concerned that some districts may move forward with allocations to private schools. If we are successful in getting the clarification, this could set up a scenario where the final allocation to private schools will be lower than the current DeVos guidance expands it to be. Knowing it can be difficult to get money back, it may be worth a conversation with your supts and your state education agency about how best to proceed to ensure both accuracy in allocation (while we await the fix) AND avoiding a potential need to ask for funding back.
- E-Rate Homework Gap Letter: AASA has drafted a letter, to be sent to all members of Congress, urging them to take immediate action to support all students displaced from their classrooms, and we are aiming to collect as many signatures as possible from all 50 states. Congress must ensure the next COVID-19 funding package include \$4 billion in direct funds to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Schools and Libraries Program, commonly called the E-Rate program, to help connect millions of students to the internet so they can continue their education and planning for the possibility of interruptions to classroom teaching and learning during the 2020-2021 school year. Please review the letter and sign your

name to the list, making sure to submit your state and district name. *It has been modified to allow for state associations to sign on, if you want to sign your group on.* You can read the full letter and sign your association (or district) [on here](#).

Noelle Ellerson Ng

Associate Executive Director, Advocacy & Governance
AASA, The School Superintendents Association

From CoSN (META National association affiliate)

This is a 3rd requested action:

- Please ask your members to have their superintendent to sign on this national homework gap letter organized by AASA (the national superintendents association). You can [access the letter here](#). AASA will aggregate—in one letter—signatures from all 50 states in a letter to Congress to demonstrate nationwide support for immediate Congressional action.

Keith Krueger, CAE

CEO, CoSN – Consortium for School Networking

From: Keith Krueger

Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 2:59 PM

To: Chapter Leaders <chapter-leaders@cosn.org>

Cc: CosN Contractors <cosnprojectdirector@cosn.org>; CosN Team <cosnteam@cosn.org>; 'board@cosn.org' <board@cosn.org>; CoSN Past Chairs <PastChairs@cosn.org>

Subject: Can CoSN chapters help TOMORROW/Thurs with

CoSN Chapter leaders –

URGENT REQUEST

Can you help call on Congress to expand home internet access for students? **Tomorrow/Thursday, May 7 is a “day of action” in support of E-rate on Capitol Hill.**

There are two primary actions we are encouraging chapters to ask your members to take:

- Social media: Send tweets calling attention to the Homework Gap and asking Congress to provide at least \$5 billion in funding for home internet access through E-rate and cybersecurity protections.
- Letter: Encourage school district leaders, educators and our state-based education affiliates in a few specific states to sign a letter calling on Congress to provide at least \$5 billion in funding for home internet access through E-rate.

NOTE: you will see some organizations asking “for at least \$4 billion” while we are asking “for at least \$5 billion”. This is because CoSN, in partnership with SETDA, SECA and SHLB agree with the analysis by Funds for Learning that another \$1 billion is needed for cybersecurity.

Attached you’ll find a sample message to send to your members, sample tweets, and sample graphics to share on social media. Of course, feel free to create your own content or modify anything provided - add your logo, unique messaging, etc. Please include the hashtags #HomeworkGap and #Erate.

We particularly encourage groups to mobilize educators and school district leaders in the following states, as these states are represented by key members of the Senate. As you do so, we encourage you to ask your members to sign on to letters available on the state-specific webpages below. If you plan to mobilize your members in one or more of these states and would like to add your logo to the state-specific webpage, please send your logo to Shannon Campion with Stand for Children at SCampion@stand.org.

- Alaska (Senator Dan Sullivan and Senator Lisa Murkowski): <https://access2learn.org/ak/>
- Colorado (Senator Cory Gardner): <https://access2learn.org/co/>
- Indiana (Senator Todd Young): <https://access2learn.org/in/>
- Kentucky (Majority Leader Mitch McConnell): <https://access2learn.org/ky/>
- Louisiana (Senator John Kennedy): <https://access2learn.org/la/>
- Mississippi (Chairman Roger Wicker, Senate Commerce Committee): <https://access2learn.org/ms/>
- West Virginia (Senator Shelley Moore Capito): <https://access2learn.org/wv/>

Many thanks for your support! If you need any assistance with the materials, please let us know.

Keith Krueger
CoSN CEO

In partnership with the Alliance for Excellent Education and many others

Keith Krueger, CAE

CEO, CoSN – Consortium for School Networking
1325 G St., NW
Suite 420
Washington, DC 20005
202.470.2782
keith@cosn.org