



Hardin Public Schools

ELEMENTARY DISTRICT 17H & HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 1

KIDS COME FIRST

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Dennis Gerke, Superintendent

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Federal Report

February 16, 2017

Good Morning. I put together some federal issue for all of you to be aware of. If you have questions on any of these things, please shoot me an email and I will find your answer. Have a super day!

Dennis Gerke
MASS Federal Programs Director

-Cuts to School-Based Medicaid on the Horizon:

- GOP Goal: Reduce federal expenditures by 30%.
- GOP Plan: Institute a block-grant or per-capita cap on Medicaid.
- GOP Legislative Vehicle: Budget Reconciliation

-School-Based Medicaid:

- Since 1968, district can provide services for medically eligible children and be reimbursed.
- Since 1988, districts can bill for medically-necessary services related to an IEP.
- 1% of all federal Medicaid dollars go to schools.
- 46% of Medicaid beneficiaries are children.
- 50% of districts have taken steps recently to increase Medicaid enrollment in their districts.
- Economic consequences for Medicaid cuts: furlough or lay-offs for personnel; higher taxes.
- IDEA compliance may be jeopardized if professionals can't or won't work in your district.

-Vouchers:

- Traditional Vouchers: All students targeted, military, disabilities, poverty, poor performing schools, foster children.
- Backdoor Vouchers: Tuition Tax Credits. Education Savings Accounts.
- Portability: A Step Towards Vouchers. Title I funds "follow the student"

-The Choice Act:

- Expands the DC Voucher.
- Transforms IDEA into Vouchers.
- Creates Military Vouchers.

-Native American Education Opportunity Act:

- Turns BIE money into voucher.
- Expands state ESA programs.
- Undermines-BIE-funded schools.

-Educational Opportunities Act:

- Creates a federal tax credit for contributions to non-profit organizations that grant scholarships for low-income students to attend private schools.
- Dollar for dollar credit. Individual contribution limited to \$2250. Couples \$4500 and \$100,000 for corporations.
- Student eligibility would be capped at a family income less than 250% of the poverty line.

-Advocacy:

- Commit 5 minutes a week.
- You can cut and paste. Identify one theme/topic per month, and share the same information with your full delegation.
- As you do more direct advocacy, rely on AASA and MASS. Include topic summaries, one pagers, talking points, contact information.