



ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS
INTERNATIONAL

ASBO International Federal Policy Update

February 10, 2026

Presented by:

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Director of Advocacy & Research

- What's Happening in D.C.?
- USED News
- FY26 Federal Funding
- H.R. 1, The One Big Beautiful Bill Act
- Other Policy Updates
- Advocacy Resources
- Q&A

White House: Year 2 of President Trump's 2nd Term

- State of the Union (2/24) & FY27 POTUS Budget Request (TBD)
- USED Interagency Agreements & State ESEA Waivers

Congress: Midterm Elections in November!

- What will FY27 funding look like in an election year? Will there be another reconciliation bill?
- All 435 House seats and 33 Senate seats are up for election.
 - [As of Feb 4](#): 9 Senators and 50 Representatives are not running for re-election.
 - 2 special elections scheduled to finish the last two years of Vice President J.D. Vance (OH) & Secretary of State Marco Rubio (FL) 6-yr. terms when they were elected in 2022.

SCOTUS: Awaiting Key Decisions on Pending Cases

- Transgender student participation in school athletics, tariffs, birthright citizenship, plus any shadow docket cases.

USED Interagency Agreements (IAAs)

USED announced [six interagency agreements \(IAAs\)](#) to transfer key programs to the Department of Labor & other agencies. The aim is to return education to the states, streamline bureaucracy, & downsize USED's size/scope.

USED Office	To be transferred where?	Relevant examples of impacted programs
Office of Elementary & Secondary Education (OESE)	Department of Labor (DOL)	<p>Formula: Title I (A, B, C, D); Title II (A); Title III (A); Title IV (A, B); Title V; Impact Aid; McKinney-Vento</p> <p>Competitive: Literacy grants; SEED; TSL; Charter Schools; Magnet Schools; Arts in Education; American History and Civics; Statewide Family Engagement Centers; DC SOAR/Vouchers; Promise Neighborhoods; Full-Service Community Schools</p>
Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)	Department of Labor (DOL)	High School Equivalency Program (HEO); College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). *Excludes student loans/grants.
Office of Indian Education (OIE)	Department of Interior (DOI)	Indian, Alaska, and Native Hawaiian Education programs (ESEA/ESSA); Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (HEA); Tribally Controlled Postsecondary CTE programs (Perkins/CTE); and Vocational Rehabilitation programs for Native Americans with disabilities (Rehabilitation Act).

1/7/26: USED granted Iowa a waiver from various ESEA regulations through FY2028. Notable provisions include:

- Iowa can consolidate state activities funds for four K-12 programs: Title II-A, Title III-A, Title IV-A, and Title IV-B.
- Iowa can waive (only for FY25) the Title IV-A requirement for districts that receive more than \$30k annually to have to spend 20% of funds on well-rounded education, 20% on safe and health schools, and some funds on education technology.
- Waiver is part of efforts to return education to states. More state waivers are expected; USED is [working with](#) at least 5 other states on potential waivers within the confines of ESEA statutory requirements ([learn more here](#)).
- Note: USED can't grant waivers that would change/alter funding allocations to states or districts. (See [USED's Dear Colleague Letter](#) for more info.)

FY26 Federal Funding: 2025 Proposals

Program	President's Proposal	House FY26 Proposal	Senate FY26 Proposal
Title I, Part A	\$18.407 billion (level funds)	\$14.626 billion (-\$3.78 billion)	\$18.457 billion (+50 million)
IDEA, Part B	\$14.891 billion (+677 million through a block grant – zeroes out programs under Part D)	\$14.234 billion (+20 million)	\$14.264 billion (+50 million)
Title II, Part A	\$0 (Consolidated into K12 SFP)	\$0 (-\$2.19 billion)	\$2.19 billion (level funds)
Title III, Part A	\$0 (Eliminated)	\$0 (Eliminated)	\$890 million (level funds)
Title IV, Part A	\$0 (Consolidated into K12 SFP)	\$1.385 billion (+5 million)	\$1.380 billion (level funds)
REAP	\$0 (Consolidated into K12 SFP)	\$225 million (+5 million)	\$225 million (+5 million)
Impact Aid	\$1.625 billion (level funds)	\$1.630 billion (+5 million)	\$1.625 billion (level funds)
Head Start	\$12.272 billion (level funds)	\$12.272 billion (level funds)	\$12.357 billion (+85 million)
Other provisions of note	Also eliminates Title III, Migrant education, teacher quality partnership grants and full-service community schools	Rescinds \$2.638 billion (\$938 million from Title I-A and \$1.7 billion from Title II-A) in “advance funding” – funds expected on Oct. 1	Includes language requiring funds be allocated by the date they are available for obligation. (Avoiding a future withholding)

FY26 Federal Funding: 2026 Law

Program	Original House FY26 Proposal	Original Senate FY26 Proposal	Bipartisan FY26 Proposal (Became Law 2/5/26)
Title I, Part A	\$14.626 billion (-\$3.78 billion)	\$18.457 billion (+ \$50 million)	\$18.427 billion (+ \$20 million)
IDEA, Part B	\$14.234 billion (+ \$20 million)	\$14.264 billion (+ \$50 million)	\$14.234 billion (+ \$20 million)
Title II, Part A	\$0 (-\$2.19 billion)	\$2.19 billion (Level)	\$2.19 billion (Level)
Title III, Part A	\$0 (-\$890 million)	\$890 million (Level)	\$890 million (Level)
Title IV, Part A	\$1.385 billion (+ \$5 million)	\$1.380 billion (Level)	\$1.380 billion (Level)
Title V-B (REAP)	\$225 million (+ \$5 million)	\$225 million (+ \$5 million)	\$225 million (+ \$5 million)
Impact Aid	\$1.630 billion (+ \$5 million)	\$1.625 billion (Level)	\$1.630 billion (+ \$5 million)
Head Start	\$12.272 billion (Level)	\$12.357 billion (+ \$35 million)	\$12.357 billion (+ \$35 million)
Other Provisions	Rescinds \$2.638 billion (\$938 million from Title I-A and \$1.681 billion from Title II-A) in previously appropriated FY26 “advance funding” – funds expected on Oct. 1.	Includes language requiring funds to be allocated by the date they are available for obligation (avoiding future withholding of funds).	Bill text requires USED to support staffing levels to fulfill statutory responsibilities, allocate funds on the date they become available for obligation, and restricts funding transfers to other agencies. An accompanying explanatory statement includes provisions that may prohibit IAAs.

***Final federal FY26 funding affects the dollars districts receive for the 2026-2027 school year (on July 1, 2026).**

Federal and school district fiscal years are different. Most federal education programs are forward-funded.

The final bipartisan L-HHS-ED law will provide flat funding, w/ some exceptions:

Increases:

- Title I-A (+\$20 million)
- Title VII Impact Aid (+\$5 million)
- Title V-B REAP/Rural Ed. (+\$5 million)
- Title VI Sec. 6002 Indian Education (+\$2 million)
- IDEA-B (+\$20 million)
- Edtech/media/materials for IDEA-D (+\$1 million)
- Special Olympics (+\$2 million)
- Non-USED programs:
 - Head Start/Early Head Start (+\$85 million)
 - Child Care and Development Block Grant (+\$85 million)

Cuts:

- Special programs for migrant students (HEP/CAMP; -\$1 million)
- Title IV-F Sec. 4631 School Safety National Activities (-\$26 million)
- Education Innovation Research grants (-\$24 million)
- USED program administration (-\$21 million)

Note: If a program isn't listed here, it will receive level funding (e.g., Title II-A, III-A, IV-A, etc.).

- Flat funding is a major advocacy win in this climate.
- Will funds ACTUALLY be allocated on time, given USED's new interagency agreements?

Federal FY26 is Oct. 1, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2026. Since education programs are forward-funded, **Federal FY26 affects the dollars districts should receive on **July 1, 2026**, for the **2026-2027 school year**.**

- A. True
- B. False

Congress will soon pivot to Federal FY27, which is Oct. 1, 2026 - Sept. 30, 2027. Federal FY27 affects the dollars districts should receive on July 1, 2027, for the 2027-2028 school year.

- A. True
- B. False

H.R.1/OBBBA/OB3: Passed on July 4, 2025; it lasts for 10 years.

- OB3 has major implications for federal mandatory spending for [FYs 2025-2034](#), and impacts schools in several ways:
 - Creates a new **national school voucher tax credit** program, effective in 2027.
 - Significantly **reduces federal spending on Medicaid and SNAP** by changing eligibility requirements, state/federal cost-sharing, administrative burdens to operate programs, etc., resulting in reduced program rosters/participation.
 - Makes it more **difficult to leverage federal financing incentives** for energy-efficient school facility and transportation projects.
 - Reforms student loan borrowing, repayment, and forgiveness programs in ways that may **reduce higher education accessibility** and **impact the K-12 labor pipeline**.
 - Implements a **no tax on qualifying overtime pay** program for TYs 2025-2028.

H.R. 1/OBBBA/OB3: Vouchers

- **Creates a permanent, uncapped, dollar-for-dollar tax credit** to donors who donate up to \$1,700/yr. to support select public, private, and religious school expenses. Starts in 2027.
- **To be eligible for credits:** Individuals must donate to scholarship-granting orgs. (SGOs), which collect/distribute funding to eligible students for [qualifying](#) elementary and secondary education expenses.
 - EX: Tuition, fees, tutoring, books, supplies, equipment, SPED services, transportation, room/board, uniforms, supplemental items/services, edtech equipment/software, and Internet access.
- **Voluntary for states to opt in**, but discretion is unclear for selecting & regulating SGOs.
 - Read the [NCPE Coalition's analysis](#)
 - Read [ASBO/AESA 12/26 IRS comments](#)

What is an SGO? (for now)*

1. 501c3 organization (can't be a private foundation).
2. Must keep tax credit donations separate from other \$\$\$.
3. Must serve at least 10 students in 2 different schools.
4. Must keep no more than 10% of funds for administrative purposes.
5. Must accurately verify household income to determine eligible students.
6. Must spend \$\$\$ on "qualified elementary and secondary educational expenses."

***Official Treasury regulations expected later in 2026.**

H.R. 1/OBBBA/OB3: Medicaid

Reduces federal spending by ~\$1 trillion over 10 yrs. via technical changes re: program eligibility, enrollment, & coverage.

- Disproportionately impacts ACA Medicaid expansion states.
 - **January 2027:** Enacts new mandatory work & reporting requirements for expansion adults, increasing barriers to retain/renew coverage. States must verify eligibility for expansion adults every 6 mos. (instead of annually).
 - **October 2027:** Restricts expansion states from raising provider taxes to finance Medicaid costs.
- **Consider:** As expansion states see reduced federal Medicaid revenues, restrictions on financing to cover state Medicaid costs, rising health costs/needs, and more administrative burden...
 - How will this impact state budgets (and state education aid)? How will it impact school Medicaid? How will lower Medicaid rosters affect direct certification?

***Non-expansion states include:**
AL, FL, GA, KS,
MS, SC, TN, TX,
WI, & WY.

H.R. 1/OBBBA/OB3: SNAP

Reduces federal spending by ~\$186 billion/10 yrs. via changes re: new state/federal cost-shares, and program eligibility and enrollment.

- States' cost-share/burden to run SNAP will greatly increase:
 - **October 2026:** Federal-state administrative cost share shifts from 50/50 to 25/75; states will pay more.
 - **October 2027:** (New) States must pay a portion of benefit costs if SNAP payment error rates are above 6%.*
- Enacts stricter work requirements for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs).
- Limits future SNAP benefit increases by restricting updates to Thrifty Food Plan, the basis for calculating SNAP. (Limits limit how much \$ families receive.)
 - **Impacts Summer EBT:** Annual adjustments are tied to SNAP benefits. (Note: If families lose SNAP, children won't automatically be enrolled Summer EBT even if they're eligible.)
- Restricts SNAP eligibility for non-citizens & eliminates funding for SNAP-Ed

***If error rates are:**
Below 6% = pay 0%
6-8% = pay 5%
8-10% = pay 10%
10%+ = pay 15%

Medicaid/SNAP reforms remove access for some; make it difficult for others to qualify/stay enrolled if eligible; & reduce program rosters.

- **More children will arrive hungry at school** as more families are denied SNAP benefits.
- **Reduced Medicaid/SNAP participation negatively impacts direct certification** to automatically enroll eligible students in free/reduced-price meals (FRPM).
 - Students who receive SNAP (and Medicaid in 44 states) are automatically eligible for FRPM w/o needing an application.
 - If students lose SNAP/Medicaid benefits, they can't be directly certified & must submit a household application, increasing paperwork for schools and families.
- **Reduced Medicaid/SNAP participation negatively impacts Community Eligibility.** CEP allows high-need schools/districts to offer free meals to all students.
 - The basis for a school/district's CEP eligibility & financial viability is the Identified Student Percentage. ISP = the % of students directly certified/enrolled in FRPM because they're eligible for SNAP, Medicaid, etc. The higher the ISP, the higher the federal reimbursement.
- **Consider:** As states navigate increased Medicaid & SNAP administrative costs/burdens, how will this affect state budgets & competing priorities (i.e., education aid)?

How can districts mitigate OB3's effects on school meal programs?

- Note: Once a child is determined FRPM eligible, they remain so for the entire school year, regardless of changes in family circumstances (incl. SNAP/Medicaid eligibility).
 - Now is a good to do [robust/comprehensive direct certification](#) to enroll as many eligible students into FRPM as possible. This may raise your ISP for Community Eligibility (CEP).
- Consider opting in/renewing your CEP cycle in Spring 2026 to lock in a higher ISP before SNAP/Medicaid program rosters start declining.
 - CEP cycles last 4 years. Once you opt in/renew and lock in your ISP, you can use that same ISP for 4 years. You can also renew your CEP cycle before the 4-year cycle is up.
 - EX: Schools/districts enrolling in CEP by June 30, 2026, can operate on the same ISP through SY 2029-30 (after the OB3's provisions kick in October 2026-2028). This buys more time to plan/budget for federal policy shifts.
 - If your ISP is still high in Spring 2027, it may make sense to renew your CEP cycle again, to mitigate OB3's changes for your district through SY 2030-31.
- ASBO Webinar: [How Medicaid/SNAP Changes May Threaten School District Budgets](#)

What can school districts do to mitigate the adverse impacts of HR1/OB3 on school meal programs? (Choose the best answer.)

- A. Do robust direct certification now to enroll eligible students in free/reduced meals before new SNAP/Medicaid changes occur.
- B. Do robust direct certification now to increase your Identified Student Percentage (ISP) and ensure Community Eligibility (CEP) stays financially viable.
- C. CEP schools/districts may want to renew their CEP cycle in Spring 2026 after doing direct certification to lock in a higher ISP for the next 4 years.
- D. All of the above.

OB3 revises timelines for phasing out energy-efficient tax credits/rebates that can help schools finance facility & transportation projects.

- Tax-exempt municipal bonds and direct/elective pay were preserved – advocacy win!
- Districts can receive IRS rebates for energy-efficient projects, but under new terms:
 - **Geothermal heat pump credit (48) remains viable/unchanged.** Credit/rebate available for projects commencing construction before Jan. 1, 2035, but the credit amount phases out in 2033-2034. Not subject to the new “foreign entity” rules in OB3.
 - **EV Charging Equipment credit (30C) ends this summer:** Up to \$100,000/qualifying EV charging equipment is available for equipment placed into service before June 30, 2026. (Note: The 45W credit for electric school buses/vehicles ended Sept. 30, 2025).
 - **Solar Projects & Energy/Thermal Storage credit (48E) is less viable:** Solar projects starting construction by 7/4/26 have 4 yrs. to be placed into service to be eligible; if starting after then, must be placed into service by Dec. 31, 2027. Energy and thermal storage projects still have until Dec. 31, 2035, to begin construction, but the credit amount phases out in 2033-2035.
 - All projects are subject to new “foreign entity” rules in OB3. [Learn more here.](#)
- Access tools & resources at UndauntedK12’s [Energy Tax Credits for Schools Resource Hub](#)

Which federal energy-efficient tax credit/rebate **has already expired under HR1/OB3?**

- A. Geothermal heat pump projects (Sec. 48)
- B. Electric School Buses/Vehicles (Sec. 45W) – but, districts still have limited time to claim EV charging (Sec. 30C) credits/rebates.
- C. Solar, Energy Storage, and Thermal Storage projects (48E)
- D. No credits/rebates have expired.

Introduces several higher education reforms that could impact K-12 education, but final details are pending USED rulemaking in 2026.

- **New Limits on Loan Access for Graduate Students & Parents of Undergraduates:**
 - Eliminates Graduate PLUS loans.
 - Graduate student borrowing cap = \$20,500/yr., up to \$100,000 total.
 - Professional student borrowing cap = \$50,000/yr., up to \$200,000 total. (What's "professional"?)
 - Parent PLUS loans cap = \$20,000/yr. per student, up to \$65,000 total/student.
 - Total lifetime borrowing cap for all borrowers = \$257,000/yr. (excludes Parent Plus loans).
 - Students entering post-graduate degree programs and parents of undergrads wouldn't be able to borrow up to the full total cost of attendance. (What about teaching degrees???)
- **Overhauls Federal Student Loan Repayment System**
 - Ends Income-Contingent Repayment, PAYE, REPAYE, and SAVE plans after July 1, 2026. Borrowers already enrolled in one of these must move into another plan by July 1, 2028.
 - Replaces all plans w/ "Standard" & new income-based "Repayment Assistance Plan" (RAP). Parent PLUS loans disbursed after July 1 can only be repaid on the Standard Plan.
 - Standard Plan is for 10-25 yrs. w/ no loan forgiveness. RAP discharges loans after 30 yrs.

Allows non-exempt hourly employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to take a federal [tax deduction](#) for total qualified OT pay.

- Applies to the OT pay that is a bonus/premium over regular wages.
 - EX: If an employee makes \$20/hr. normally and \$30/hr. for working overtime, the deduction only applies to the +\$10/hr premium.
- Only FLSA-required OT is deductible (doesn't apply to all employees). If employees must still pay Social Security, Medicaid, or other taxes on OT, those taxes aren't exempt.
- Max deduction = \$12,500/individual. Claimable for tax years 2025-2028 only.
- **Employer Reporting Requirements:**
 - Provide employees with a separate accounting of qualified OT compensation in the employee's W-2 Form and a statement given to employees.
 - **For TY2025:** Tax deduction is retroactive. This year is a transition period for enforcement. IRS will provide penalty relief for employers working toward compliance.
 - **For TY2026:** Employers must accurately track and report qualified OT pay through payroll systems. IRS published a [draft W-2 form](#) w/ new instructions to use Box 12 code TT to report an employee's total amount of qualified OT compensation.

Other Updates: E-Rate

In September 2025, the [FCC voted](#) to roll back the flexibilities provided to schools to use E-Rate funds for hotspot devices and school bus Wi-Fi.

- The FCC ruled that providing Wi-Fi or similar access point technology outside of traditional school/library buildings fell outside the scope of E-Rate.
- Districts that relied on E-Rate to sustain hotspot lending or bus Wi-Fi initiatives will need to find new funding to continue offering those services.
- The final FCC orders announcing the removal of these services from E-Rate's Eligible Services List do NOT claw back funding disbursed in 2024. However, requests to use funds for these purposes in Program Year 2025 and onward will be denied.

***Although SCOTUS [ruled last summer](#) in favor of the constitutionality of the Universal Service Fund (USF), which funds E-Rate, we anticipate more legal challenges in 2026. Stay tuned!**

1/14/26: Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act became law. (See USDA guidance.)

- **For NSLP/lunch only:** Allows schools to offer whole, reduced-fat (2%), low-fat (1%), and fat-free fluid milk as well as lactose-free milk and nondairy milk substitutes.
 - USDA requires average saturated fat content of meals served in a week to be <10% of total calories. The law excludes fluid milk from the weekly saturated fat limit. But, all other requirements, incl. calories, sodium, (and added sugars starting in July 2027) still apply.
 - When USDA begins rulemaking to align with the new Dietary Guidelines, it's possible they could revise meal requirements to better support whole milk offerings in schools.

2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) Now Available

- USDA/HHS DGA guidelines offer evidence-based recommendations to promote health and reduce chronic disease risk.
 - Emphasizes whole, minimally processed foods, nutrient density, higher protein and full-fat dairy, and eliminating or reducing added sugars and highly processed foods.
 - Guidelines will be used to update school meal regulations and could drastically impact operations and costs, especially if there are new limits on highly processed foods.

ASBO International's Advocacy Center: asbointl.org/advocacy



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ASBO International membership is available for your whole district. All employees in departments that perform school business functions can join and receive resources and benefits for a single annual payment of \$499/district.

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As a school business professional, you are an education champion whose mission is to ensure all students receive a high-quality education. You tirelessly advocate for resources and programs to support your students, striving to create a learning environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential. Navigating the complexities of federal policy and advocacy can be daunting, but you don't have to do it alone—ASBO International is here to support you.

ASBO International is your resource for understanding and engaging on federal policy issues impacting your school district. Stay informed of the latest federal K-12 education news, learn how to effectively advocate for your school district, and ensure your voice is heard in Washington, D.C.

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CONTACT: asbousa@asbointl.org

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- Learn about [AASA/ASBO's Legislative Advocacy Conference](#), July 7-9, 2026, in Washington, D.C.
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ASBO International Federal Advocacy Priorities & Resources

Need talking points, infographics, and other tools for your education advocacy efforts? Use these resources to support your cause.

2025-2026 PRIORITIES & RESOURCES

[Download ASBO's 2025-2026 U.S. Advocacy Agenda](#)



EDUCATION FUNDING

Targeted, robust federal funding with minimal administrative burden is a crucial part of a school system's revenue.

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE & SAFETY

Federal funding and support are critical for schools to construct, maintain, and repair facilities and ensure that students have safe and healthy places to learn and thrive.

CHILD NUTRITION

Schools need a sustainable nutrition program business model with minimal administrative burden that provides affordable, nutritious meals that students will enjoy.

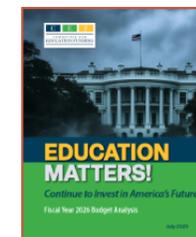
HEALTH & LABOR

Schools need adequate federal support to address emerging health and labor challenges affecting the education field.

Read ASBO's 2025-26 U.S. Policy Priorities



Learn About Ed Funding in CEF's FY26 Budget Book



Read Our School Medicaid Survey Report



Use Our Toolkit to Advocate for IDEA!



2026 Federal Advocacy Advisory Committee (FAAC)

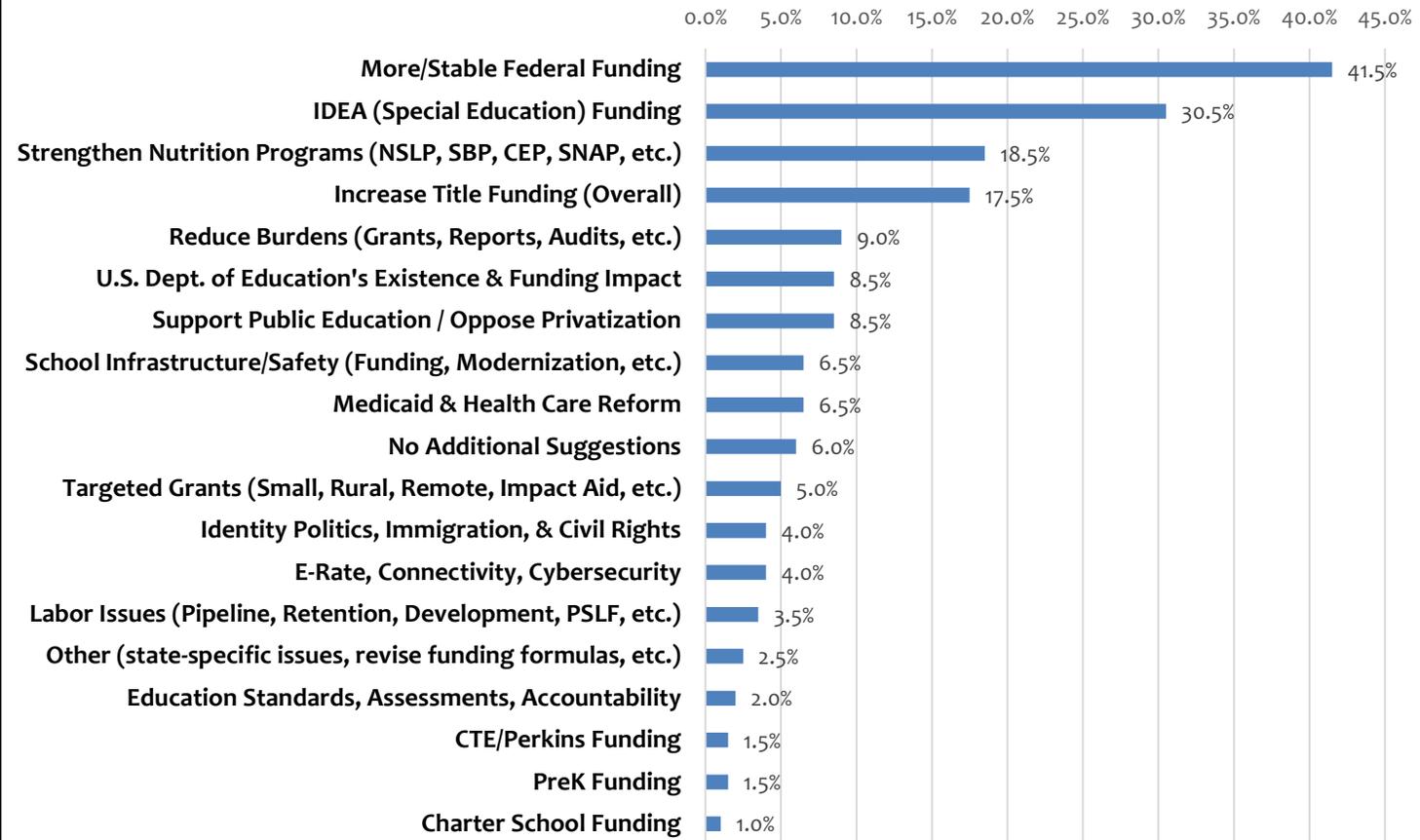
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THANK YOU for completing our first (annual) advocacy membership survey!

- **Most members (96.5%)** believe federal advocacy is an important ASBO member benefit.
- **Top advocacy priorities:** More/stable federal funding, more IDEA & Title funding, and strengthen nutrition programs (NSLP, SBP, CEP, & SNAP).
- **Favorite advocacy resources:** *School Business Daily* news summaries, Legislative Affairs Community alerts & blogs, and *School Business Now* articles.
- **Legislative Advocacy Conference:** Approx. 10% have attended. Nearly 2/3 are interested, but face constraints w/ time, bandwidth, budget, or other support to participate. Attendees highly value the event's policy sessions and the opportunity to engage with Congressional offices.

Which Federal Issues Should ASBO International Engage On?

2025 Advocacy Membership Survey, n = 200



Your feedback will inform ASBO International's 2026-27 U.S. Policy Priorities, coming this Spring!

SBOs can learn about federal policy and advocacy opportunities by joining ASBO's [Legislative Affairs Community](#) on the Global School Business Network.

- A. True
- B. False

Questions? Contact Us!



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