



## Federal Update – October 5, 2007

This update covers:

- Pre-K Incentive Grant Moves Forward in NCLB Negotiations
- Sen. Brown, House Members Address Pre-K in Title I
- Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Headed for Vote in Senate
- Veto Showdown Over SCHIP
- *Head Start* and Higher Education Act Update

Questions?  
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### Pre-K Incentive Grant Part of Tough Negotiations on NCLB

The House and Senate are continuing staff-level negotiations over the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (D-CA) has not yet set a date for his committee to review the bill, and it is unclear when the markup will occur. A pre-k incentive grant bill introduced by Rep. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) has garnered [31 co-sponsors](#), including nine members of the committee and Chairman Miller, improving its chances of being incorporated into the final bill approved by the committee.

In the Senate, staff for the [Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee](#) have been meeting since August to smooth over disagreements about major aspects of the law. Committee Chairman Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) has not named a date for committee review. Some committee Republicans have reportedly voiced objections to including the Clinton-Bond pre-k incentive grant bill (S. 1823) in the reauthorization, expressing concern over the number of federal programs that already support early education in some way.

### Pre-K Students, Military-Connected Children Receive Attention in Title I

A bill ([S. 2014](#)) introduced by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) would allow funding for longitudinal data systems that would help to measure the positive lifetime impacts of participating in early education programs by compiling information about student performance in a central database. The proposal is expected to be offered as a new component of Title I.

Several members of the House and Senate committees have expressed interest in allowing funding for the Department of Education to track access to pre-k-12 educational opportunities for children of military parents as they move between states and school districts. According to the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), military-connected children move three times as often as civilian

children and typically enroll in between six and nine separate school districts in the course of their pre-k-12 careers. Following on our joint report with MCEC, Pre-K Now is working with members to ensure that these children receive consistent access to pre-k services. (Read our [“Pre-K for Military Families”](#) report for more recommendations.)

### **Labor-HHS-Education Appropriation Reviewed by Senate**

Congress is working to pass seven appropriations bills that have not received approval from both chambers. Under the Continuing Resolution passed on September 29, Members have until November 16 to resolve differences between their spending proposals and to obtain the president’s signature. The White House has issued a veto threat on the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill, which funds programs under Health and Human Services and the Department of Education. Both the House-approved appropriation and the Senate committee’s bill exceed the president’s budget request by over \$1 billion, and the Senate bill includes funding for stem cell research that the president has also vowed to resist.

The House and Senate leadership are deliberating on ways to encourage the president to approve the bill, including by sending it with legislation that the president is expected to sign in order to make issuing a veto more difficult politically. [Track the status of appropriations legislation.](#)

### **President Vetoes \$35 Billion Funding Increase for SCHIP, House to Attempt Override**

President Bush vetoed the reauthorization of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) on Wednesday, October 3rd. The reauthorization would add \$35 billion in funding to the federal-state health partnership over five years to enroll 5.8 million more children and eligible adults, according to estimates from the Congressional Budget Office. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer has set a target date of October 18th for a veto override in the House, where 45 Republicans joined 220 Democrats to pass the bill ([Roll no. 906](#)), short of the two-thirds margin needed to override the veto. Senate Republicans will join House Democrats and members of a broad coalition supporting SCHIP to persuade an additional 13 to 15 representatives to override the veto.

### **Head Start and Higher Education Act Update**

The *Head Start* reauthorization remains locked in pre-conference negotiations among committee staff working to finalize key provisions related to *Head Start* teacher credentials and parental policy councils, among other features of the law. Thus far in the 110th Congress, negotiations have largely been completed in advance of formal conferences, and in some cases conferences have been abandoned altogether, as in the case of SCHIP.

The Senate cleared its reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) in July. The Senate bill, The Higher Education Amendments of 2007 ([S. 1642](#)), authorizes funding for professional development partnerships between pre-k providers and higher education institutions, supports

curricular improvements to early education training programs, cuts the rate on Perkins loans for early childhood educators, and allows federal aid to create state task forces on improving professional development opportunities for pre-k and child care teachers. The House has begun to consider proposals to reauthorize HEA, but the Education and Labor Committee will address NCLB before turning to the higher education law.