

May 27, 2025

Dear Superintendents and BOCES directors,

Today, I am sharing the following updates that we received from the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) on Friday, May 23:

- [Update on Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2025 Reconciliation](#)
- [Update on FY 2026 Appropriations](#)
- [Senate HELP Committee Advances Kirsten Baesler Nomination](#)

Update on Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Reconciliation

From CCSSO: On Thursday [May 22], the House passed a tax bill by a vote of 215-214. This legislation, called the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, is subject to the budget process known as reconciliation, which allows passage by a simple majority in the Senate. Most K-12 education funding (ESEA programs, IDEA, etc.) is provided through discretionary programs that are appropriated each year and are therefore not subject to reconciliation...

...While this bill does not have a direct impact on federal K-12 funding, it does include cuts to student aid and changes to loan repayment plans, including eliminating the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program for certain borrowers. The legislation also includes a tax credit for individuals making contributions to organizations that provide K-12 scholarships to public and private schools. The legislation will now move to the Senate for consideration.

Update on FY 2026 Appropriations (for the 2026-27 school year)

From CCSSO: Separate from the reconciliation process, Congress is working to advance a budget resolution for FY 2026. The government is currently funded through Sept. 30 under a continuing resolution. Members of Congress must approve appropriations for FY 2026, which begins Oct. 1, 2025. Once a budget resolution has passed, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will set overall spending limits for each appropriations bill. House Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) has announced the FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill will be marked up in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on July 21 and considered by the full Appropriations Committee on July 24. CCSSO does not anticipate seeing full bill language until just before markup in July.

Senate HELP Committee Advances Kirsten Baesler Nomination

From CCSSO: [Last week], the Senate HELP Committee voted 12-11 to favorably report out the nomination of North Dakota Superintendent Kirsten Baesler to serve as Assistant

Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education at ED. The HELP Committee also advanced ED nominees Kevin O'Farrell for Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education and Nicholas Kent for Under Secretary of Education. All three nominations will next be considered by the full Senate

Warm regards,

Susana Cordova