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Congressional/Administrative Update

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Politico reports on renewed search for Dept. of Education Deputy Secretary

The Trump administration is searching for someone to fill the Education Department's No. 2 spot after Allan Hubbard, an economic adviser during both Bush administrations, recently confirmed to POLITICO that he has withdrawn his name for the job. The setback comes as the agency lacks top tier political leadership to carry out the Trump administration's agenda. While a number of recent hires have been made, only one individual - Carlos Maiztegui - has been chosen for a Senate-confirmable position, which is general counsel. The deputy secretary is a fundamental management position at the Education Department, overseeing K-12 programs and serving as acting secretary in the absence of the secretary.

Education Post examines how states are approaching school accountability in their ESSA plans

The article identified that in the 17 plans already submitted to the Dept. of Education, "most states will count most students from traditionally disadvantaged groups—students with disabilities or low-income students," and "many states are also sticking with research-based ideas for the non-academic qualities of a school they'll measure: Student attendance, and signs that they're making it in college or on track to get there." The post argues the three most important parts of any ESSA plan include: counting students, the "other" school quality factor, and the rating system.

State ESSA plans:

- **Oklahoma:** 6/2 - The Oklahoma Dept. of Education [released](#) its draft ESSA plan for public review and comment. Stakeholders have until June 30 to submit feedback to the department.
- **South Dakota:** 6/5 - The South Dakota Dept. of Education [released](#) its draft ESSA plan for review and comment. The public will have 30 days to comment and provide feedback on the plan.

NEW FEDERAL BILL CO-SPONSORS

The PHIT Act (H.R. 1267) has added three new co-sponsors bringing the total to 47 co-sponsors in the House

Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO) introduced the PHIT Act in the House on March 5. On May 22, Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA) became a co-sponsor. On May 25, Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA) became a co-sponsor. On June 2, Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA) became a co-sponsor. The bill now has 47 co-sponsors (31 Democrats, 16 Republicans). The Personal Health Investment Today Act (PHIT Act) amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow a medical-care tax deduction for up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for a joint return or a head of household) of qualified sports and fitness expenses per year. The bill defines "qualified sports and fitness expenses" as