Washington Update for CEEDAR

June 23, 2016
Jane E. West
janewestdc@gmail.com
@janewestdc
WHO HAS BETTER ODDS?

Predict It
Proposed Teacher Prep Regs: The Saga

- 2011-2016: on and on
- Due out this fall?
- Opposition in Congress: bill and policy riders on appropriations bills
- New Supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking on distance teacher preparation programs: comments due MAY 2 – 58 comments mostly critical
- New coalition for teacher prep: letter supporting regs: TNTP, TFA, UTR
Second Call for Comments on Proposed Teacher Prep Regs

• What if a distance education program is offered in several states? Which state evaluates the program? How is it determined if the program can offer TEACH grants?
• What is distance education?
• Proposal: if students in 23 states are enrolled in an MA in sped program and one of the 23 states rates the program low performing NO students in that program are eligible for TEACH in any state
Concerns with Proposed Teacher Prep Regs

- Implementation occurring 2021-2023???
- President’s Budget proposes to ELIMINATE TEACH grants, yet they are proposing to regulate under them too?
- New ESSA leaves teacher evaluation up to states; assessments in non-tested grades and subjects no longer required
- So complex universities will close programs; particularly those that serve high need students like special education
- Impossible and costly to administer
ESSA: The Politics of Implementation

• Push and pull continue: federal role vs. state role vs. stakeholder roll
• Congressional Republicans v. Department of Education on regulatory over reach
• Multiple oversight hearings in House and Senate
• Stakeholder engagement: the meeting ground: will it work?
ESSA: Big Picture

• State and local decision making
• NCLB waivers end; plans submitted in 2016-17 school year and implemented 2017-18
• States and districts MUST seek and utilize stakeholder input as they develop plans
• Title I: Committee of Practitioners; 30 day public comment
ESSA Rulemaking

- Negotiated Rulemaking for Assessment and “supplement not supplant”
  - Students with disabilities and assessments
  - 1% alternate assessments for those with most significant cognitive disabilities
- Final set of regulations under Obama:
  - Accountability systems
  - Reporting
  - Submission of accountability plans to Department
  - 7 state pilot programs for innovation in testing
ESSA: Accountability

- Academic achievement as measured by proficiency on annual assessments
- Another measure of academic achievement (state determined)
- Progress of English Learners
- For high school, graduation rates
- A measure of school quality and student success (5th indicator)
- Regulatory proposal out now; comments due August 1
Fifth Indicator Recommendations

- Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities:
  - Discipline
  - Teacher Quality:

**RECOMMENDATION:** As an indicator of school quality or student success, accountability systems should include the percentage of teachers who are fully certified, fully-licensed and experienced.

Define “experienced” as teachers who have at least three years of successful teaching practice and allow states to define “successful.”
ESSA: Teacher Quality

- State and local decision making
  - No more “highly qualified”
  - State will define “effective teacher”
  - State certification rules; not “full” certification
  - IDEA amended; for sped teachers:
    “full state certification as “sped” teacher “including participation in an alternate route OR
    Passed state sped teacher licensing exam and
    Holds license to teach in the state as sped teacher
    Must have a BA, but not necessarily in sped
Title II: $2.3B for Educator Development

- State plan: 21 allowable uses of funds
- Optional 3% set aside for principal development
  - Teacher and Principal Academies (GREAT Act) – up to 2% set aside
  - Reform certification
  - Teacher evaluation systems
  - Develop and expand residency programs
  - Expand alternate routes
  - Recruitment and retention
  - Teacher leadership/career continuums
  - Professional development
  - Other evidence based activities
Making Your Voice Heard

- How is your state engaging stakeholders?
- How can you get to the table?
- Who are your allies?
- What is your message?
And remember..... If you’re not at the table, you’re probably on the menu!