

April 5 – April 18 Notes

Legislation: Bills SSWAA are watching:

Funding for ESSA, Title IV-A formula block grant – Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations: SSWAA is advocating, with its partners in the Title IV-A Coalition, for full funding of Title IV-A or \$1.6 billion. FY 2019 funding is \$1.17 billion. FY 2020 funds would be for the school year 2020-21. Part of the grant to school districts must be used for "safe and healthy students" activities, and one option is school-based mental health services. In addition to "safe and healthy students" activities, funds must be designated for "well-rounded education" and education technology. School districts that receive at least \$30,000 must do a needs assessment to see how best to spend these funds.

Mental Health Services for Students Act

-Sponsor: House: Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA); Senate: Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN).

-Summary: Creates \$200 million in grant funding for 100 schools across the country to partner with local nonprofits to provide on-site, culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services.

In order to increase funds for mental health services, voices in the political realm need to be heard. Schools need to do well-rounded needs assessments in order to be clear on where funds will be going. Hopefully, with this legislation there will be many more opportunities for students to receive mental health help in schools.