



MASA

Spring 2014

Lisa Karmacharya
Executive Director

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

MASA...your Mississippi connection to the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), the School Superintendents' Association

A Message from our MASA President

MASA has a long history of supporting our educational leaders throughout the state. Beginning as early as 1932, top Mississippi educators have worked to provide you with quality professional development and learning opportunities.

Our mission remains the same today as we continue the legacy of MASA by ensuring our conferences are filled with outstanding local, state and national leaders bringing you relevant information you can take back and use in your district as you continue to serve the boys and girls of Mississippi.

We hope you will join us in the spring for our Leadership Conference as we engage in professional learning together.

Our legislative priorities for the 2014 Session are first and foremost the adequate funding of MAEP. Our children deserve nothing less; clearly it is our responsibility to hold our leaders accountable for doing just that. In addition, we support a teacher pay raise, increased support for technology in our schools, and ensuring the stability of PERS.

As your president, I am honored to serve you and look forward to an outstanding year!

Adam Pugh, President

Superintendent Lafayette County Schools



Superintendent of the Year
MASA and **Classworks**

Congratulate Dr. Chuck Benigno,
Superintendent of the Laurel School District

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**MASA Welcomes Dr. Carey Wright
to Mississippi!**

MASA is busy preparing an exciting agenda for your spring Leadership Conference.

Leadership in Motion will be held at the Jackson, Mississippi Hilton April 13-15, 2014.

Our agenda is complete with skilled practioners who serve every level of the school district organization to support you in your systemic efforts to lead in the 21st Century.

Register early and join us for either of two Pre-Conference Sessions Sunday, April 13, 2014, ***Learning Progressions in the Common Core*** presented by Dr. Gene Kerns, sponsored by [Renaissance Learning](#) or ***What the Superintendent REALLY needs to Know***, sponsored by [Classworks](#).

Hear from Noelle Ellerson, the voice of school administrators. Ms. Ellerson directs the legislative and advocacy efforts of **AASA in Congress and the U.S. Department of Education**.

Don't miss out on the first conference following the 2014 legislative session! You will have opportunities to hear from the Mississippi Department of Education and others as **MASA** brings you the latest on everything from ***the Common Core to our State Literacy Initiative***.



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The Advocate

Dan Domenech

Executive Director

AASA, The School

Superintendents Association

January, 2014

Ever since the 2008 economic depression that gripped the country and school systems throughout America, we have been in a deep financial dive that has forced budget cuts in all areas. Many school systems are currently operating with budgets that are at pre 2008 levels. The Sequester certainly did not help and hardest hits were districts that, because of high poverty levels, were very dependent on federal funding. The districts that could least afford it were hit the hardest. Adding insult to injury, Congress took us to the edge of economic disaster resulting in a government shut down and the threat of our country defaulting on its debts.

Surprise, surprise: last month Senator Murray and Congressman Ryan reached a budget agreement that promised to do away with the continuing budget resolutions and would restore funding to almost pre-Sequester levels. Good news indeed but the question then became: how would the dollars be appropriated?



AASA has been a staunch critic of the administration's retreat from formula funding and the use of competitive grants to advance their education agenda. The administration's budget proposals would continue that trend, adding more dollars to programs like Race to the Top while basically level funding formula grants like Title I.

On January 13 Congress released the details of how they intend to appropriate the dollars in the Murray-Ryan budget deal. **Education dollars do not quite return to pre-Sequester level but they do get a significant bump from current funding.** Furthermore, to our delight, **Congress clearly favored formula funding over competitive grants.** A victory for our advocacy efforts!

Title I would be funded at \$14.3 billion, an increase of \$625 million over post-Sequester levels. IDEA will also see a bump up of \$498 million. School Improvement Grants, however, will see no increase and Race to the Top will experience a \$270 million cut.

The administration also suffered more than a financial setback with the School Improvement Grants. The omnibus spending bill would break with the current four-model option that would allow districts to propose another option that would be approved by the Department or they could adopt a whole school reform model.

Pre-school programs also come out as big winners in this budget. Head Start gets \$1.025 billion above FY13 actuals. Given the importance of early childhood programs in tempering the impact of poverty on school achievement, this is clearly a step in the right direction helping to fund the President's early childhood initiative.

While this omnibus bill is a step in the right direction toward resolving sequestration and directing federal investments towards programs that serve those most in need, we still have work to do. As the ink dries on this FY14 deal, we prepare to begin advocacy efforts for FY15 negotiations.

The tough reality is that the Murray-Ryan deal already established the FY15 caps and there is very little room for increased investment, meaning that the funds we get this year are likely what we will get next year.

BENEFITS OF AASA MEMBERSHIP

- ♦ ADVOCACY
- ♦ MEMBER INSURANCE
- ♦ LEGAL ASSISTANCE
- ♦ PUBLICATIONS
- ♦ SCHOOL SOLUTIONS
- ♦ CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
- ♦ SUPERINTENDENT RESOURCES

<http://www.aasa.org/MemberBenefits.aspx>



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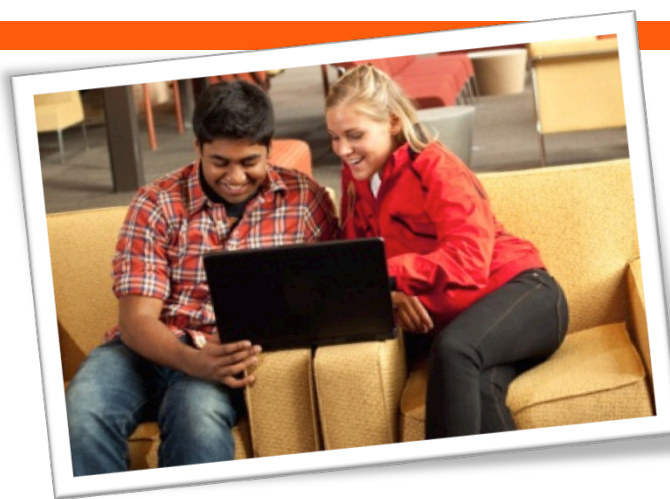
Classworks



Generation Ready



The University of Mississippi Institute for Education and Workforce Development



Where will the money go?

Excerpt from Education Week January 2014

Early Wish List

Education advocates wasted no time in letting lawmakers know where they want most of the newly restored K-12 money to go: into big formula programs dispensed to nearly every district to help educate poor children and students in special education, improve teacher quality, and bolster career and technical education.

"Given the limited nature of federal funding, we caution against diluting the potential of federal investment by focusing on nonformula funding for a narrow set of recipients, or funding new initiatives at the expense of Title I and [special education]," wrote five education advocacy groups in a letter sent Dec. 18 to every member of Congress. The groups include: **AASA, the School Superintendents Association;** the American Federation of Teachers; the Council of the Great City Schools; the National Education Association; and

the National School Boards Association.

The American Association of Educational Service Agencies, the National Rural Education Association, and the National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition, along with the **AASA**, sent a letter to lawmakers the same day making a similar point

"We are troubled with a continued effort to fund competitive-grant programs that create a federal education structure of winners and losers," they wrote.

"Especially in rural communities, the lack of access to these critical funds exacerbates—rather than addresses—resource and achievement gaps.

JOIN MASA AND ENJOY YOUR BENEFITS

We are pleased to extend a personal invitation to you to become a member of the Mississippi Association of School Administrators (MASA).

Membership in MASA provides you with outstanding opportunities in educational leadership not available through any other source:

- 80 years of continued service to the Educational Leaders of our state

- Newsletter

- ♦ New Superintendent's Journal (AASA)

- Active Website

- ♦ Educational Links
- ♦ Career Opportunities Posted

- Committed to the advancement of professional growth for our Educational Leaders

- Participation in the AASA *Superintendent of the Year* program

- ♦ **Your AASA Connection**

- Recognition of Affiliate Leaders of the Year such as...

- ♦ *Elementary and Secondary Principals of the Year*

- Legal services, legislative, advocacy and policy support

Most of Mississippi's educational leaders are already members of MASA, and we urge you to become a part of this outstanding organization.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact:

Lisa Karmacharya,
Executive Director of MASA
at masadirector@aol.com.

Type of Membership	Cost
Retired	\$40.00
Aspiring (student) Administrator	\$50.00
Individual	\$125.00
Corporate	\$350.00
Lifetime BEST VALUE	\$500.00



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