eLuma

CASE Council of Administrators of Special Education

LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

The Federal Policy Picture in 2021

Dr. Kevin Rubenstein

- Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Elmhurst, IL
- Chair, CASE Policy and Legislative Committee
- CEC Policy Steering Committee
- krubenstein@elmhurst205.org
- @rubensteinkev and #WeKeepLeading

eLuma

CASE Council of Administrators of Special Education

LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Agenda for Today

Agenda

- Congress
- Department of Education
- The White House
- Making an Impact

Let's Talk About: Congress

House of Representatives

- Democratic Majority (221-211, 3)
- Polarized viewpoints
- New Appropriations Chair
- Some new members of Education and Labor Committee

Key Members for Educators

Rep. Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
D-California

Rep. Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
R-California

Rep. Bobby Scott
Chairman, Education and Labor Committee
D-Virginia

Rep. Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman, Appropriations
D-Connecticut

eLuma

CASE
Council of Administrators of Special Education
LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Key Members for Educators

Rep. Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member, Education and Labor Committee
R-North Carolina

Rep. John Yarmuth
Chair, Budget Committee
D-Kentucky

Rep. Jason Smith
Ranking Member, Budget Committee
R-Missouri

Rep. Kay Granger
Ranking Member, Appropriations
R-Texas

eLuma

CASE
Council of Administrators of Special Education
LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

United States Senate

- Democratic Majority (48-2-50)
- Evenly split committees
- Some new members of Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (HELP)

Key Members for Educators

Sen. Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
D-New York

Sen. Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
R-Kentucky

Sen. Patti Murray
Chair, HELP Committee
D-Washington

Sen. Richard Burr
Ranking Member, HELP Committee
R- North Carolina

eLuma

CASE
Council of Administrators of Special Education
LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

United States Senate

- **Sen. Bernie Sanders** (D-Vermont) will chair the Senate Budget Committee
- **Sen. Patrick Leahy** (D-Vermont) will chair the Senate Appropriations Committee
  - Labor-H Subcommittee Chair to be named

Key Issues To Watch

- **Reconciliation**
  - $154 Billion for K-12 spending (possible guidance coming from federal government on how to spend)
  - House committees have mostly completed their "markup" process this week
  - Will move to Senate soon
  - Not a down payment - this is the payment

eLuma

CASE Council of Administrators of Special Education

LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Key Issues To Watch

- **Infrastructure Bill?**
  - Discussion around another stimulus bill focused on infrastructure
  - Could include money for building/ rebuilding schools

eLuma

CASE Council of Administrators of Special Education

LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Key Issues To Watch

- **Regular Budget Bill**
  - President will present a proposed budget for the next fiscal year
  - Hopeful that this will be a more typical process than in years past

Key Issues To Watch

- Educator Shortages
- Mental Health/ Social Emotional Learning
- COVID Recovery
- Racial Equity

eLuma

CASE Council of Administrators of Special Education
LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Any Traction?

- Restraint and Seclusion
- Medicaid
- Telehealth
- Dispute Resolution

eLuma

CASE Council of Administrators of Special Education

LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Let's Talk About: The Department of Education

How This Works

- **Presidential Appointments with Senate Confirmations**
  - Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Commissioner for Rehab Services
- **Presidential Appointments**
  - Other Deputy Secretary positions, OSEP Director, Key Staff

eLuma

CASE Council of Administrators of Special Education

LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

How This Works

- **Career Civil Servants**
  - Thousands of staffers who go through a regular hiring process and stay on through every administration

Department of Education

Dr. Miguel Cardona
Nominee, Secretary of Education
Connecticut

Dr. Cindy Marten
Nominee, Deputy Secretary
California

eLuma

CASE Council of Administrators of Special Education
LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Process and Nominees

- Dr. Cardona's Nomination
- Dr. Marten's Nomination
- Other Nominations
  - Office for Civil Rights
  - OSERS
  - OSEP

eLuma

CASE
Council of Administrators of Special Education
LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

What To Expect

- Recovering from the pandemic
- Revisions to Trump Administration work
- Cooperation with Congress
- Fully staffed agency
- Significant focus on civil rights

eLuma

CASE Council of Administrators of Special Education

LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Let's Talk About: The White House

An Educator in the (White) House

- Don’t underestimate the power of Dr. Jill Biden
- Coalition groups are in the process of setting up meetings on your behalf with her office.
- President Biden is a person with a speech disability

An Educator in the (White) House

eLuma

CASE
Council of Administrators of Special Education
LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Key Staffers Making Moves

- Several staffers from the House and Senate Education Committees have taken jobs at the White House
- More expected to be named soon
- Deep knowledge of schools

eLuma

CASE Council of Administrators of Special Education
LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Big Issues Related to Schools

- Pandemic Recovery
- Racial Equity

eLuma

CASE Council of Administrators of Special Education

LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Let's Talk About: Making an Impact

Legislative Action Center

- **CASE Legislative Action Center**
  - Updated regularly
  - Sign Up for Alerts
  - Key Legislation
  - Learn About Officials

Legislative Summit

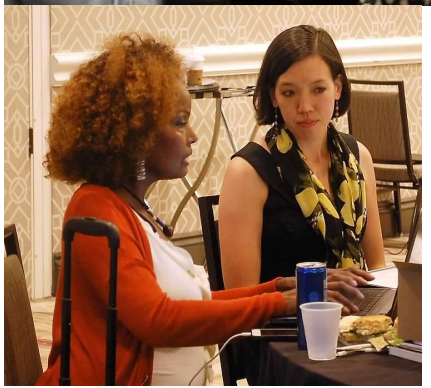
eLuma

CASE
Council of Administrators of Special Education
LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Learn the Issues

Top four issues from 2020:

- Educator shortages
- Mental Health
- Appropriations
- Pandemic Relief



eLuma

Council for Exceptional Children

case COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Meet with Leaders

During past legislative summits, participants have engaged with:

- Key leaders from the Department of Education
- Members of Congress
- State leaders from across the country

eLuma

Council for Exceptional Children
case
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Bring your passion

From the classroom to the Capitol, your knowledge of students and special education is necessary to drive policy issues forward!

eLuma

Council for Exceptional Children
case
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Advocate for Students

One of the biggest things we can do as educators is to work with elected officials to discuss our beliefs about issues of importance.

eLuma

Council for Exceptional Children

case COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Make a Difference

Since the Special Education Legislative Summit in 2019

- $400 million new dollars were appropriated to IDEA
- 38 additional Members of Congress signed on as co-sponsors of our bills
- State legislative conferences are now occurring across the country

eLuma

Council for Exceptional Children

case
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

eLuma

CASE
Council of Administrators of Special Education
LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Questions?