

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #144, DECEMBER 2015

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to you.

This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization of leading women educators with over 80,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to the editor Angela O. Bedenbaugh at Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com. We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

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EDUCATION BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

[acronyms: NCLB = No Child Left Behind; ESEA = Elementary and Secondary Education Act; ESSA = Every Student Succeeds Act]

The new education bill which was passed and signed into law is now being referred to as ESSA. It will not take effect until the 2017-18 school year. Any state waivers which were granted under NCLB will expire August 1, 2016. The 2016-17 school year will be transitional between NCLB and ESSA as states develop policies to comply with the new law. Major issues which the new law addresses are testing and accountability, teacher evaluation, grants and fiscal accountability. The Congressional Record summary of the bill follows.

“The bill provides states with increased flexibility and responsibility for developing accountability systems, deciding how federally required tests should be weighed, selecting additional measures of student and school performance, and implementing teacher evaluation systems.

It includes grants for providing language instruction educational programs, improving low-performing schools, and developing programs for American Indian and Alaska Native students. The bill provides rural school districts with increased flexibility in using federal funding. It also revises the Impact Aid formula.

The bill requires school districts to consult stakeholders in planning and implementing programs to improve student safety, health, well-being, and academic achievement.

It combines two existing charter school programs into one program that includes grants for high-quality charter schools, facilities financing assistance, and replication and expansion.

The bill provides states with flexibility in meeting maintenance of effort requirements for state and local education funding to supplement federal assistance.

The bill prohibits the Department of Education from imposing certain requirements on states or school districts seeking waivers from federal laws.

It provides that ESEA dollars may be used to improve early childhood education programs and specifies requirements to ensure that homeless youth have access to all services provided by the states and school districts.”

(Remember that this bill sets forth policies; however, the funding to implement these policies will be determined by the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee and possibly a joint committee to resolve differences in the bills from the two bodies.)

CREDIT CARD SECURITY

In previous issues the security of credit cards with chips has been discussed. There is an added measure of protection if you have a credit card which has both a chip and a PIN. Originally credit cards had a magnetic chip which was slid through a slot on a machine. Depending on the size of the purchase the purchaser might also have to sign the credit slip. The next level of security was cards with chips. These are inserted into a slot on a machine, and they might also require a signature. The current highest level of security is a card with a chip which also requires the purchaser to have a Personal Identification Number (PIN). Although credit card companies are slowly replacing the magnetic strip cards with cards containing chips, very few cards currently have a chip and also require a PIN. (I find it interesting that Target which was the subject of a large hacking breach has issued new cards with both a chip and a PIN.)

AVOIDING CERTAIN INTERNET POPUP ADS

It is possible to navigate on the Internet and also avoid popup ads. First identify whether the link has an extender such as .com or .net, etc. If it does you can simply click on the link and go to the site. If it does not have an extender, simply right click on the link. A dialog box will appear from which you can select “open” which is usually the first option. Normally one would left click on a link. Doing so on a link with no extender will usually result in a popup ad.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR ADDED OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

A performance of "Capitol Steps" will be available to those who are arriving on Saturday, March 12, 2016, prior to the beginning of National Legislative Seminar. This live performance at the Ronald Reagan Building in D.C., begins at 7:30 p.m. (EST). Transportation is "on your own" (taxi cab, etc.). "Capitol Steps" is a musical presentation of skits of political satire/humor. By attending as a

group of 10 or more, the individual ticket price decreases from \$40.50 to \$33.00. For more information, contact Wally Turner at 64sedona@gmail.com

A limited number of tickets are available for "110 in the Shade" at historic Ford's Theatre on Tuesday evening, March 15, 2016. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m., (EST). Cost of tickets for center balcony seats is \$30.00. Transportation is "on your own". If you are interested in attending the performance, contact: Wally Turner at 64sedona@gmail.com.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR DEADLINES

The registration deadline for the National Legislative Seminar (NLS) of the U. S. Forum being held March 13-16, 2016 in Washington, DC is February 13, 2016. Deadline for specially arranged room rates is February 12, 2016.

The registration form for the National Legislative Seminar can be found at <http://www.usforumdkg.org/legislative-seminar.html>. When completing the registration form, you should know that the cost of lunch on Monday is included in the registration fee; however, the cost of Sunday night dinner and Wednesday breakfast is not included in that fee.

All DKG members who reside in the United States are automatically members of the U.S. Forum and are eligible to attend the seminar. The current brochure about the U. S. Forum can be viewed at http://www.usforumdkg.org/uploads/4/4/6/6/44667559/2016_us_forum_brochure.pdf

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

FORUM WEB SITE: <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670) [this is a toll free number]. You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

Email access and addresses

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate
White House [1-202-456-1111](tel:1-202-456-1111)

FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.