



**The Washington Flyer**  
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*“It is therefore recommended . . . for solemn thanksgiving and praise, that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts and consecrate themselves to the service of their divine benefactor.”*

*Samuel Adams on November 1, 1777*

*(adopted by the 13 states as the first official Thanksgiving Proclamation)*

### **School Choice Gets a Boost with Election Results**

When Donald Trump takes the oath of office in January, the school choice movement will gain a vocal supporter in the White House. A large part of the President-elect’s education plan is the establishment of a program that will provide [school choice](#) to every child living in poverty. Specifically, his [plan](#) would use \$20 billion of existing federal funds to create a block grant program for states to create programs that allow families to choose the best public, private, charter, or magnet school for their children. While each state will have the freedom to develop its own formula, Mr. Trump’s plan specifies that the money must follow the student. Mr. Trump talked of creating a robust education market when he rolled out his plan at an event in Cleveland during his campaign, [stating](#): “As your president I will be the nation’s biggest cheerleader for school choice. I understand many stale old politicians will resist, but it’s time for our country to start thinking big and correct once again.” He further noted, “If we can put a man on the moon, dig out the Panama Canal and win two world wars, then I have no doubt that we as a nation can provide school choice to every disadvantaged child in America.” School choice supporters are also optimistic about what a Trump presidency will mean for the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program, the choice program that the Obama administration repeatedly tried to eliminate despite its overwhelming success and popularity. Also, the down-ballot election results showed that school choice is increasingly becoming a bipartisan issue. There were three newly elected House [Democrats supporting](#) school choice, bringing the number of Democrat supporters to five. While this number does not indicate the party’s complete support, it does signal a shift in the Democratic party base when it comes to school choice. On the state level, school choice candidates proved to be victorious as well. The American Federation for Children released a [memo](#) outlining victories for 89% of the candidates they supported, noting that school choice enjoys wide bipartisan support across the country, which could prove helpful in advancing and expanding school choice programs nationwide.

### **Department of Education Releases Early Education Guidance**

The U.S. Department of Education has released [non-regulatory guidance](#) intended to guide states as they implement programs utilizing the early education funding provided for in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), now known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). While ESSA does not create any new early education programs, the law does allow states to align their early education programs with their K-12 program. States must use a “mixed delivery” system of early education programs as they work to achieve this goal. To that end, the guidance report explains and clarifies the portions of the law allowing states to use funds to expand access, align programs, and support teachers in the field of early learning. The government-funded Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes offered a [webinar](#) explaining the

various sections of ESSA that allow for funds to be used for early learning programs, specifically addressing Title I (minor repairs and comprehensive services), Title IV (charter schools), and programs for special populations. The bill includes a Sense of Congress cautioning against an expanded federal role in early education and pushing back against the idea of federally funded universal preschool. ESSA is due for reauthorization in four years.

### **HHS Report Shows Sex Ed Is Not Effective**

New [research](#) on the Federal Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPP) calls into question the program's effectiveness after five years of testing. TPP was begun in 2010 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and was guaranteed to produce positive results in reducing teen pregnancy. However, the research suggests that, after five years, up to 80% of students in the program may be even more at risk and fare worse than those who did not participate in the program. Amazingly the report shows that 1 in 4 students in the program say that instead of avoiding the risks, they felt pressured by the TPP programs to have sex. A [summary](#) of the evaluations of the "evidence-based programs" included as part of the TPP shows that the majority of the programs saw little to no effect in reducing the risks in teen sex. Valerie Huber, president and CEO of Ascend, a nonprofit organization supporting abstinence education, commented on the findings from the research, stating: "This research gives us serious reason to pause—ask the hard questions—and be willing to amend what messages we are giving vulnerable youth. It's time to bring honesty and transparency to the entire issue of sex education. The fact is that the sexual risk reduction approach, typified in the TPP program, holds no claim on successful models that guarantee sexual health for youth."

### **In Case You Missed It:**

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACCS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Trump Supreme Court List: Ivy League? Out. The Heartland? In.](#)

[3 Ways the Trump Administration Can Improve Education](#)

[Donald Trump Can Remake Education With the Stroke of a Pen](#)

[Plan to Join the March for Life - January 27, 2017](#)

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