

title I maximum basic grants for fiscal year 1967. Numerous school districts still have not been apprised of their fiscal year 1967 allocations even though less than three and a half months remain in the 1966-67 school year.

The financial "pinch" came with the annual ratable adjustment provision (sec. 208 of Public Law 89-10, as amended by sec. 114 of Public Law 89-750), which this year reduced the national maximum amount authorized by nearly one-fourth. The \$1.312 billion maximum amount authorized was reduced to \$1.053 billion.

After a further deduction for the outlying territories and State-operated programs, the amount left for local educational agencies was less than \$1 billion (\$989,935,591).

While the administration has recommended a 5-year extension of three major education programs a year before they are scheduled to expire, it was regrettable that a recommendation was not also made at this time to extend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 beyond its June 30, 1968, expiration date. A congressional extension of the ESEA program during the 1967 calendar year would allow local school boards to plan ahead in an orderly manner for assimilating any modifications in its program objectives or authorization levels.

Since the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-10) is presently scheduled to expire on June 30, 1968:

We recommend that Public Law 89-10 be extended, during the current calendar year, for a period of 5 years in order to encourage long-range local planning and an orderly implementation of any modification in its program objectives or authorization levels.

To ease the very real dilemma caused by the conflict between implementing most educational programs during the school year and the timing of Federal appropriations for these purposes:

We recommend that Congress modify its existing appropriation procedures, insofar as it relates to the funding of programs for States and local educational purposes, so that eligible participants can be apprised during the early spring of each year, of the specific amounts that they will receive during the coming school year.

STATE AND LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD PLANNING GRANTS

While local school boards have long recognized the critical need for implementing systematic and comprehensive long-range planning programs, other priorities have often prevailed in the competition for severely limited educational dollars.

Those forward-looking school boards which are making a real effort to implement local planning programs find themselves doubly thwarted.

First, when State educational agencies are called upon for technical planning assistance, it is seldom available because most of their personnel specialize in administrative, statistical and curriculum supervision functions.

Second, State and Federal funds, to assist in meeting the financial costs associated with hiring or providing personnel to work on a local long-range planning project, are presently available only under very