



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ESEA

STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

Ensuring Student Equity & Access

The **Government Relations Committee** met via conference call on **September 11, 2018** at 1:00PM EDT, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT

ATTENDING

Committee Members

Dean Zajic (KS); Lynn Sodat (VA); Pat Kaiser (MO); Jason Miller (WA); Gayle Pauley (WA); Jonas Zuckerman, Co-Chair (WI)

Association Management

Bob Harmon – CEO; Jeri Erickson – Membership Director; Julia Martin – Brustein & Manasevit

Meeting Agenda:

1. Draft letter to ED regarding process for Emergency Impact Aid (EIA) due to natural disasters (Jonas Zuckerman-WI, Co-chair)

- Several states have experienced significant struggles in dealing with ED on the roll out of the Emergency Impact Aid and Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth programs. The way the program was rolled out and time frame contributed to some states not applying for funds.
- A letter has been drafted with hopes of improving future processes and experiences. The letter will be addressed to acting director Paul Kesner of the Office of Safe and Healthy Students. Brustein and Manasevit agreed to send a copy of the letter to the staff of the Senate and House Education Committees. The letter will also be posted on the members section of the website.
- All on the call were in support of the letter. Final edits will be made and the letter will be sent to the Board for consideration at the Sept 18 Board of Directors meeting.

2. Government Relations Update (Julia Martin - Brustein & Manasevit)

I. Congressional updates

- a. Race to the finish line (September 30th)
 - i. Limited number of session days left to work on major issues
 - ii. Major distractions, too
- b. Continuing to move forward on appropriations
 - i. Senate passed 2019 appropriations “minibus,” sent to House
 1. Would level-fund most programs
 - a. Small boosts for Title I, Title IVA
 - b. Ignores president’s proposals
 - ii. President’s Statement of objection
 1. Doesn’t like consistent Congressional rejection of priorities
 2. Likely will not veto
 3. Will maybe attempt another rescission?
 - ii. President’s Statement of objection
- c. Farm Bill
 - i. Bills passed in both House and Senate
 - ii. Conference committee has held public and private hearings, but no forthcoming compromise yet (despite promises)
 - iii. Can easily extend past 9/30 deadline

II. Administration Updates

- a. Federal Commission on School Safety
 - i. Seems to be done with public meetings and hearings
 - ii. Expect final report by end of the year
 - 1. DeVos: will not contain any new mandates, still leave decisions up to States and districts
 - a. Meaning: no new requirements, no new money
 - b. Focus on “best practices”
 - 2. May still rescind 2014 disciplinary guidance – unclear
- b. Use of Title IV funds
 - i. Came to light in late August that ED was considering allowing use of Title IVA funds for weapons and weapons training
 - 1. States denied they had asked
 - ii. Brogan and DeVos: we won't weigh in
 - 1. Should be a State/local decision
 - 2. Won't actively prohibit or endorse
 - iii. Lawmakers propose changing statute to explicitly prohibit
 - 1. Other school safety grant programs do so

Next committee call is scheduled for **October 9, 2018 at 1:00PM EDT**, 12:00PM EDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.