



The **Government Relations Committee** met on **April 10, 2019 at 1:00PM EDT, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.**

ATTENDING

Committee Members

Raifu Durodoye Jr. (DE); Bernell Cook (LA); Kathryn Nichol (NH); Shelly Babler (WI); Jonas Zuckerman (WI)

Association Management

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

Meeting Agenda:

1. Final NAESPA Comment Letter on ED's Draft Updated Title I Equitable Services Non Regulatory Guidance (Jonas Zuckerman) [NAESPA Comment Letter](#)

- Jonas shared Wisconsin's Equitable Services feedback on the Government Relations Committee [message board](#). Other states were encouraged to do the same.
- Julia Martin drafted the letter with committee members providing comments. The letter was sent on March 25.
- Limited response is expected regarding comments. The final version of the guidance is not expected for at least another 3 to 4 months. Though the guidance applies now, it could possibly be amended in future. States could start adjusting policy around draft guidance.

2. Consider a NAESPA Comment Letter on ED's DRAFT State and Local Report Cards Guidance (Jonas Zuckerman)

The U.S. Department of Education (Department) released a draft document, titled [Opportunities and Responsibilities for State and Local Report Cards under the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act](#), for stakeholder review and comment. This document, which is attached and posted at <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html>, clarifies for states and school districts the reporting requirements in section 1111(h) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, and provides information states and districts may consider in developing and disseminating report cards. This document builds on information provided in fall 2018 in [A Parent Guide to State and Local Report Cards](#).

This document is posted for review and comment through April 29, 2019. Please refrain from providing line-edits. Instead, submit substantive comments about the content to OESE.Feedback@ed.gov with the subject "State and Local Report Cards" by April 29.

In addition to your feedback on the content, please also identify any topics that you think are missing. The Department will consider all comments in making revisions but will not provide responses to individual comments.

- Jonas will review the draft guidance and contact Jack O'Connor to discuss if it is important for NAESPA to comment.

3. Recent Sign-On Letters--NAESPA has signed on to the letters from the organizations listed below. Follow the links to the actual documents. (Bob Harmon)

- Advocates for Literacy Letters on LEARN FY 2020 Funding: [Senate](#) and [House](#)
- NDD United Letter on Raising Spending Caps: [Letter](#)

- The Association has signed on to letters from Advocates for Literacy and NDD United. Both letters align with the Association's Guiding Principles.

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

I. Congressional updates

a. Appropriations

i. Reviewed details of President's budget proposal

1. Secretary DeVos has testified before House and Senate Appropriations Committees

ii. Movement in House to raise/eliminate spending caps

iii. Goal in House to get all bills done by June 30

1. Complicated by need to discuss sequestration, debt ceiling

b. Legislation in motion

i. Disaster relief

1. \$165m for education, to be allocated by Secretary
 - a. To cover a (growing) number of disasters
 - b. Little progress since March

ii. Child nutrition?

iii. Higher Education Act?

1. Response to Title IX draft regulation
2. Access and affordability

II. Administration Updates

a. President's Budget proposal

i. Overall shift in spending

1. Cut most federal agency budgets by 5-12%
2. Move money from non-defense discretionary spending into defense

- a. Additional money into OCO

3. \$8.6 billion request for southern border wall

ii. Department of Education budget

1. Level spending for major grant programs (Titles I, III, IDEA)
2. Proposed eliminating several major grant programs

- a. Title IVA

- b. Title IIA

- c. 21st Century

3. School choice boosts

b. Report Card guidance

- i. “Draft” guidance with responses due April 29th
 - ii. Formatting/framing changes
 - 1. Eliminates references to rescinded regulations
 - 2. Notes which pieces are required by ESSA
 - iii. Substantive changes
 - 1. No more deadline
 - 2. No more requirement for overview section
 - 3. No more information about comparing charter school performance with traditional public schools
 - 4. Change calculation for participation rate in accountability
 - 5. LEAs can set process for how to report and calculate per-pupil expenditure data
 - 6. ELPI flexibility?
 - c. State lawsuit on nutrition waivers
 - i. Concerns about how it impacts students’ health
- III. Questions?

5. Other

- As a result of a discussion regarding the [Letter from Assistant Secretary Brogan re: ED/OESE Reorganization](#), Jonas Zuckerman will send a letter from Wisconsin asking for clarification on state mailbox protocols. The item will also be discussed during the May 22 OSSA/ED—NAESPA Officers conference call.
- Bob Harmon received an email from the PACER Institute advocating for an increase in IDEA funding. Bob reached out to John Eisenberg of NASDSE for further information on PACER. While aware of Pacer, John had not heard of this effort.
 - PACER was vetted during the call by Jonas Zuckerman and Julia Martin. It was determined that further exploration was warranted.

Next meeting is scheduled for **MONDAY, May 13, 2019 at 1:00PM EDT, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.**