

The **Government Relations Committee** met via conference call on May 9, 2017 at 1:00PM EDT, 12:00pm CDT, 11:00am MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.

ATTENDING

Committee Members

Margo DeLaune (DC); Rebecca Donaldson (UT); B.J. Granbery, Co-chair (MT); Giana Hutton (DC); Pat Kaizer (MO); Gaye Leia King (BIE); Jeremy Marks (OH); Mary Mulloy (VT); Michael Radke (MI); Roy Stehle, Co-chair (SC); Melina Wright (IL)

Association Management

Bob Harmon – CEO

Marcus Cheeks – Deputy Operating Officer

Jeri Erickson – Members Services Director

Julia Martin – Brustein & Manasevit

Meeting Agenda:

1. **Guiding Principles revision status** (Reviewers: BJ Granbery – MT; Melina Wright – IL; Mary Mulloy – VT; Melinda Bessner – OR; Jonas Zuckerman –WI)

An ad hoc volunteer group was created to review the Guiding Principles on behalf of the committee. At this time, input has not been received from the ad hoc group on whether changes are recommended or keep the document as it is currently written. An additional two weeks was added to the deadline for reviewer feedback.

2. **ESSA Plans Status**--has your state plan been returned to you by ED for additional information? (Gayle Pauley – WA)

- Vermont had their state plan returned for baseline data; ED then made the decision to review the plan as submitted.
- Michigan and Illinois had their plans returned, corrections made, and resubmitted for review.
- South Carolina, Missouri, and Utah are submitting their state plans in September.

3. **Questions from Jim Haug, (Editor for Title 1 funding, parental and community involvement Title 1 Admin, LRP Publications**

– What do schools / LEAs need to document for compliance with family engagement? ESSA did away with many of the requirements for some parental notifications, but family engagement also expands the definition of parental involvement.

– There is a new requirement for LEAs to report their per pupil spending. What should LEAs include in their calculation? Busing or cafeteria expenses?

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- Jim Haug is working on a story and has requested information from the Association. This request was brought to committee members to respond to on their own, if interested.
- Illinois is working on a waiver to get an extension to 2019 for per pupil expenditure report. Missouri submitted a waiver for extension to 2019. Pat Kaizer (MO) has an ongoing discussion with members of the FTWG group regarding per pupil spending.
- Julia Martin reported that though some Brustein & Manasevit colleagues spoke with Jim Haug, he wants information from the state level.

4. **Federal Update -- Julia Martin (Brustein & Manasevit)**

- I. Congressional updates
 - a. Appropriations
 - i. FY 2017 (Current fiscal year)

1. Finally completed full-year omnibus appropriations bill on May 5th
 2. Largely level-funds (or slightly increases) formula funded programs including IDEA, Title I, Title IVB, Perkins
 3. Significant reduction to Title II (more than 10%)
 4. \$400 million (of a total \$1.6 billion authorized) to Title IVA
 1. Will allow States to allocate this funding competitively
 2. Changed shares of funding to 20% for well-rounded education, 20% for safe and healthy schools, and not more than 25% on technology infrastructure
 3. Can always move money into other titles
 - ii. FY 2018
 1. President's budget proposal still final word (for now)
 1. More detail expected mid-May
 2. Congress will have to come up with budget bills, address debt ceiling issue before end of September
 - b. Perkins reauthorization bill
 - i. Bipartisan bill introduced in House Committee
 - ii. Mid-year (January 2018) start date
 - iii. Expansion of definitions to include dual/concurrent enrollment, concentrator = 3+ courses
 - iv. Limitations on Secretarial authority
 - v. Increase State "reserve" funds to 15%, corrections funds to 2%
 - vi. No sanctions for failure to miss accountability benchmarks – just need plans for improvement
 - vii. Changes maintenance of effort to mirror ESSA – only penalized for failure to meet MOE twice in 6 years
 - c. Other Priorities:
 - i. Health care bill
 1. Legislation passed the House first week of May
 1. Major impact on education: potential changes to Medicaid funding/caps could limit school-based Medicaid services
 - ii. Tax reform
 1. Possible vehicle for a voucher system (following the Florida model – tax credit system)
 - iii. Infrastructure?
- II. Administration Updates
- a. No more specifics on formatting applications for ED programs
 - i. Pushback after Upward Bound applications were rejected for failure to double-space all text
 - ii. New [memo from ED](#):
 1. "Effective immediately, program offices may only establish *voluntary* page limit and formatting requirements for grant applications and may not reject grant applications that do not meet those voluntary requirements. Program offices *may suggest* page limits and formatting standards (such as font size, line spacing, and the like) but *may not* use ignoring these suggestions as a basis to reject grant applications."
 - b. Child Nutrition regulatory rollback
 - i. Announced by USDA Secretary in "proclamation" signed during school visit
 - ii. Maintains ability to get waiver when whole grain-rich products difficult to locate
 - iii. Holds on sodium reduction targets for another 3 years (rather than advancing in July 2017 as planned)
 - iv. Will issue interim regulation allowing 1% flavored milk ("as soon as possible")
 - c. Review for "Overreach"

- i. Executive order signed in late April gives ED 300 days to review K-12 regulations and guidance (including Dear Colleague letters, memoranda, guides, circulars, bulletins, and grant award notifications) for overreach
 - ii. Problematic documents to be repealed or revised
 - iii. Want to provide more authority/power to State and local level
- III. Questions?

5. Other

Questions were posed by Jeremy Marks regarding language in the omnibus appropriations bill about Title IVA and use of funds. Julia Martin will research and respond to Jeremy.

Next meeting is scheduled for **June 13, 2017 at 1:00PM EDT**, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.