



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ESEA

STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

Ensuring Student Equity & Access

The **Government Relations Committee** met via conference call on January 9, 2018 at 1:00PM EST, 12:00PM CST, 11:00AM MST, 10:00AM PST.

ATTENDING

Committee Members

Bernell Cook (LA); Margo DeLaune (BIE); Rebecca Donaldson (UT); Pat Kaiser (MO); Gaye Leia King (BIE); Jocelyn Strand (MO); Jonas Zuckerman, Co-Chair (WI)

Association Management

Bob Harmon – CEO; Jeri Erickson – Members Services Director; Julia Martin – Brustein & Manasevit; Kelly Christiansen – Brustein & Manasevit

Meeting Agenda:

1. In-Person Committee Meeting to be held on February 8 during the 2018 National Title I Conference [February On-Site Committee Meeting Schedule](#)

- The in-person committee meetings planned in conjunction with the 2018 National Title I Conference are a great opportunity for any members to join a committee.
- Committee members attending the conference were encouraged to join the onsite Government Relations Committee meeting.
- Recommendations for the February meeting agenda should be sent to Jonas Zuckerman, Committee Co-chair or Bob Harmon.

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

- I. Congressional updates
 - a. Appropriations
 - i. Short-term spending deal passed in September was set to expire on December 8th; lawmakers were not ready to pass a final omnibus spending package, so a second continuing resolution (CR) was passed on Dec. 7th to expire December 22nd.
 - ii. Additional short-term CR was passed in December extending deadline to January 19th.
 - iii. Now some lawmakers indicate that Congress will need another short-term CR to get over some subject-matter hurdles:
 1. Before final program funding levels can be determined, Congress must agree on a deal to raise budget caps for FY 2018 (and likely for FY 2019)
 2. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program
 3. Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) renewal
 - iv. Complicated by new changes in Senate balance (Tina Smith (D-MN) takes place of Al Franken; Doug Jones (D-AL) in AL Senate seat vacated by Jeff Sessions and filled by Luther Strange) – now 51-49.
 - b. Other items on the agenda
 - i. Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization, known as PROSPER Act approved in House Committee in December
 1. Still needs to be passed by full House and introduced in Senate
 2. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) – Chairwoman of the House Committee on
 3. Senate Education Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) says drafting and passing bipartisan HEA bill is top priority in 2018
- a. Alexander is a former college President and likely as very specific ideas about what he wants to do – unlikely to just accept House bill

- ii. Entitlement (Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security) reform
 - 1. Pet project of Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI)
 - 2. Could impact school-based Medicaid
- iii. Health care (again)
 - 1. Senator Alexander (R-TN) and Murray (D-WA) working on bipartisan healthcare fix for Affordable Care Act
 - 2. May slow down education legislation in Committee

II. Administration Updates

- a. Released feedback on ESSA plans to additional States in late December, with responses due in early- to mid-January
 - i. Many States expected to miss this deadline, forgoing ED obligation to respond within 120 days.
 - ii. Largely similar to previous responses, with many requests for additional detail
 - 1. RI, CA, PA must provide more information to prove they will identify at least bottom 5% of schools
 - 2. HI must describe criteria to exit improvement
 - 3. KY can't include writing test scores in achievement (not offered in every grade); TX can't include writing, social studies
 - 4. NE must define English-language proficiency
 - 5. NE can't use scale scores
 - 6. CA must provide interim goals for performance, grad rates
 - 7. RI, CA must say how they are calculating chronic absenteeism as "other indicator"
 - 8. KY must explain how it is calculating grad rates
 - 9. CA must show how it is incorporating 95% testing requirement into accountability system
 - 10. PA needs to show how English language proficiency is included in system
 - 11. OK can't create "all remaining students" subgroup
 - 12. AR needs separate indicator for English-language proficiency
- b. Innovative assessment pilot program open
 - i. New ESSA grant program available to up to 7 States for consultation and development of new assessment systems
 - ii. [States must file notice of intent to apply by February 2nd](#)
 - 1. Applications due April 4th
- c. Administration staffing
 - i. President Trump plans to nominate Marie Royce as assistant secretary of State for educational and cultural affairs. Royce is the CEO of her own LLC in Fullerton, Calif.

III. Questions?

- Clarification was requested on the Innovative Assessment Demonstration Program:
 - It is a pilot program limited to 7 states over the first 3 years
 - The application to get authority to develop assessments is similar to a grant application but has no funding attached
 - The program can be expanding in the future based on its success and available funding

3. Other

- The status of individual State Plans was reviewed. Some states are getting requests for further clarification and resubmitting rather than requesting an extension.

Notes from the November 14, 2017 meeting are [available here](#).

Next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2018 at 5:15PM EST in room 105-B at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.