



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ESEA

STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

Ensuring Student Equity & Access

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

ATTENDING

Committee Members

Jonas Zuckerman (WI, Co-Chair); Brad Bylsma (CO); Bernell Cook (LA)

Association Management

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

Meeting Agenda:

1. Status update on [Guiding Principles](#) (Bob Harmon)

Guiding Principles-Belief Statement - [Draft 1](#), [Draft 2](#)

The existing Guiding Principles was reduced down and improved by the committee in 2017, but needs to go to the next step. The committee decided to put together belief statements that summarize the Guiding Principles and set parameters for their work. Two drafts were distributed for review:

- Draft 1) was created by Bob Harmon and reviewed by Julia Martin. The draft was then sent to a subgroup of committee volunteers.
- Draft 2: Jason Harmon (NY) further revised the first draft. Jason made additional edits just prior to the committee call.

As additional edits were made to Draft 2, both drafts will be sent to the committee for advance review with final action scheduled for the May meeting. Once finalized, the Guiding Principles and Belief Statements will be posted in the public area of the website.

2. Update on collaboration with other groups (Roy Stehle, Co-chair)

During the March Committee call, Roy Stehle recommended that the Committee reach out to other like-minded associations or groups to engage them in a dialogue around common purpose and goals. Collaboration with other groups is of interest for the broadened member development session during the Summer Meeting. CCSSO and Brustein & Manasevit were discussed as potential presenters for various topics. Further discussion was postponed to May—by which time we'll know whether or not the Summer Meeting will happen.

3. Review the [LEARN fiscal year 2019 sign on letter](#) (Bob Harmon)

Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) is a program the Association has supported for several years. The Association was one of many groups that signed on in support of the letter. Bob Harmon will send out the list of groups that signed on to the letter.

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

- I. Congressional updates
 - a. Appropriations for FY 2018
 - i. Finalized on 3/23
 - ii. Increases to most education programs
 1. Title I up \$300m
 2. Title I level
 3. Title III level
 4. 21st Century up \$20m
 5. Title IV up \$700m
 6. IDEA Part B up \$275m
 7. Head Start up \$610m
 8. CCDBG up \$2.4b (nearly doubled)

- iii. Rejected Trump admin proposals
 - 1. Funded Title II, 21st c
 - 2. No school choice funding
 - 3. Increased OCR by \$8m
 - 4. Prohibits “reorganization that decentralizes, reduces the staffing level, or alters the responsibilities, structure, authority, or functionality of the Budget Service of the Department of Education”
 - iv. School Safety: STOP School Violence Act (NEW!)
 - 1. \$75 million redirected from an existing DOJ Grant
 - 2. Grants awarded competitively to States, local governments, or Indian tribes
 - a. 50% match
 - 3. Uses of funds:
 - a. Development of school threat assessment protocols
 - b. Training of school staff and students
 - c. Violence prevention efforts
 - d. Anonymous reporting systems
 - e. Physical security upgrades for schools, like “metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures”
 - f. Coordination with law enforcement
 - v. Changes?
 - 1. Congressional Budget and Impound Control Act (1974)
 - a. Allows the administration to propose a revocation of certain funds.
 - b. Congress then has 45 days to either consider the proposed rescissions or ignore them.
 - 2. Trump/McCarthy reportedly in discussions
- b. Appropriations for FY 2019
 - i. President’s budget proposed:
 - 1. Elimination of funding for Title II, IVB (21st Century)
 - 2. Slight increase for IDEA
 - 3. Level-funding for other programs
 - 4. New private school voucher program
 - ii. DeVos hearing in March
 - 1. Frelinghuysen: criticizes DeVos for lack of outreach
 - 2. Concerns about:
 - a. De-funding OCR
 - b. IDEA protections for voucher students
 - c. Why do you keep suggesting these idea Congress keeps rejecting?

II. Administration Updates

- a. School violence task force
 - i. Chaired by Betsy DeVos
 - ii. Other members: Secretaries of HHS, DHS; attorney general
 - iii. Will not include teachers as previously discussed
 - 1. But do have e-mail (safety@ed.gov)
 - 2. Plan to hold field hearings/meetings
 - 3. But so far closed to press and public
 - iv. Purpose: address issues such as:
 - 1. Whether to repeal Obama-era school discipline efforts
 - 2. Impact of video games on youth violence
 - 3. Effects of press coverage of mass violence
- b. GAO report on school discipline
 - i. Requested by Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Jerry Nadler (D-NY)
 - ii. Obama-era (2014) guidance just restated requirements and encouraged reconsideration of policies, but no new mandates
 - iii. Suspensions started to fall before 2014 – so guidance not entirely the cause
 - iv. Lowers costs, interactions with justice system

- c. ED Reorganization
 - i. Attempts to decentralize budget office ended by Congress in omnibus
 - d. OIG memo: can't punish ED staff who "leak" information
 - i. Can't identify who it was
 - ii. No standards/training in place for most types of documents
- III. Questions?

Next committee call is scheduled for May 8, 2018 at 1:00PM EDT, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.