



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ESEA

STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

Ensuring Student Equity & Access

The **Government Relations Committee** met via conference call on **May 8, 2018** at 1:00PM EDT, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.

ATTENDING

Committee Members

Roy Stehle (SC, Co-Chair); Jonas Zuckerman (WI, Co-Chair); Rebecca Donaldson (UT); Jason Harmon (NY); Gaye Leia King (BIE)

Association Management

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

Agenda:

1. Finalize *Guiding Principles Belief Statements* (Bob Harmon)

[Draft - Version 1](#), [Draft - Version 2](#)

- The *Guiding Principles* were discussed at earlier meetings, as they are part of the annual responsibilities outlined in the Strategic Plan. The discussion led to a decision by this group to draft a set of *Belief Statements* that encapsulate the *Guiding Principles*. Draft – Version 1 was created by Bob Harmon with significant assistance from Julia Martin as the first editor. It was then sent out to a subgroup of Committee volunteers for their review and further refinement. It was during that process that Jason Harmon (NY) took the initiative to rethink and streamline the *Belief Statements* into what is now called Draft – Version 2.

The recommendation of the Committee is to submit Draft – Version 2 of the Belief Statements to the Board for their review and approval. Both drafts will be available to the Board as a part of the background materials for the May 15th meeting.

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

- Roy was just beginning to identify groups for connection and collaboration. No further action is planned at this time.

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

I. Congressional updates

- Appropriations for FY 2018
 - Finalized in March, but potential rescission?
 - Budget and Impound Control Act of 1974
 - Used fairly regularly until late 1980's
 - Can apply to any unobligated funds
 - Rescission package expected from WH shortly
 - Test balloon?
 - Moderates reluctant to relitigate
 - Can agreements be trusted?
- Appropriations for FY 2019
 - Continuing to work through hearings, testimony
 - Good news: already have spending caps agreed to, so partway done
- Impact Aid ESA bill (Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act, HR 5199)
 - Would take money out of Impact Aid to run ESAs for military families
 - Amount varies depending on whether
 - area is "heavily impacted"
 - student lives on or off-base
 - Opposed by a number of advocacy groups
 - Supported by conservative think-tanks

- iv. House Democrats threaten to derail NDAA
- d. Farm Bill (Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, H.R. 2)
 - i. Passed House Agriculture Committee 4/18, now on to House floor
 - 1. Controversy over procedure/ Rule for consideration
 - ii. Change to FFVP
 - 1. "Fresh" includes frozen, dried, and canned foods
 - iii. Changes to SNAP
 - 1. Could damage Direct Certification data
 - 2. Could discourage families from FRL
- e. Change in Congressional makeup
 - i. Retirement of Speaker Paul Ryan and 35 other House members
 - 1. Additional members running for Senate/ Governor
 - ii. Potential shift in 116th Congress – just not sure which direction
- II. Administration Updates
 - a. School violence task force
 - i. Has held a couple organizational meetings and one two-part "listening session" on school discipline guidance
 - 1. Following up on GAO report, [AASA survey](#) shows only 16% of school leadership say their policies changed as a result of guidance
 - b. [Changes to rules on "evidence based"](#)
 - i. Correcting error in earlier regulations – immediate effect
 - ii. Reinstated selection factor: the extent to which the methods of evaluation provide valid and reliable performance data
 - iii. Removed the term "randomized control trial" from definitions used in grant competitions,
 - iv. New definition of "strong evidence" will include additional types of experimental studies in addition to randomized control trials
 - c. ED releases new [Civil Rights Data Collection](#)
 - i. Key takeaways:
 - 1. Disciplinary disparities continue
 - 2. Odd data blip surrounding integration orders due to change in definition
 - 3. Mis-reporting of rapes/sexual assault

III. Questions?

4. Other

- **Summer Meeting:** the meeting is confirmed and scheduled July 25-27. The final agenda is being put together. Groups invited to participate: ED's Office of State Support (confirmed for ½ day), ED's Office Safe & Healthy Students, ED's Office of School Support & Rural Programs, staff members representing Democrat and Republican Education Committees from the House and Senate, with one confirmation so far. Confirmed participants include: CCSSO, Brustein & Manasevit, and Bob Slavin (Evidence for ESSA website—Johns Hopkins University).

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