



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ESEA
STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS
Ensuring Student Equity & Access

The **Government Relations Committee** met via conference call on **March 13, 2018 at 1:00PM EDT, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.**

ATTENDING

Committee Members

Roy Stehle, Co-Chair (SC); Margo DeLaune (BIE); Jason Harmon (NY); Jewell Stanley (SC); Rebecca Donaldson (UT)

Association Management

Bob Harmon – CEO; Julia Martin – Brustein & Manasevit

Meeting Agenda:

1. Review [2018 Strategic Plan](#) for Government Relations Committee work

Roy walked the members through the four items from the Strategic Plan related to Government Relations Committee—all under Goal 1. Bob reviewed some of the Committee's activities related to the four strategies and how the focus of the Committee's work is transitioning from a focus on Reauthorization to one of supporting quality federal education programs and the adequacy of financial resources.

2. 2018 Government Relations Committee Work Discussion

Roy suggested (and others agreed it was a good idea) for the Committee to reach out to other likeminded associations or groups to engage them in a dialogue around common purpose and goals. As we have expanded the eligibility for membership in the Association to include all ESEA programs, it makes sense to join with others to align our positions and efforts and unify our voices. Suggested groups or programs included: CCSSO, Special Ed., Title II, Title III, etc. This communication could happen on one the evenings of the Summer Meeting or (in lieu of that) a conference call. Roy will relay this idea during the NAESPA Board meeting on March 20.

3. Review/revise [Guiding Principles](#) with the lens of Association Reorganization

As per the direction in the 2018 Strategic Plan (Goal 1, Strategy 1), the Committee discussed the *Guiding Principles*. Bob explained that the *Guiding Principles* are especially useful in determining the course of action for the Association relative to signing-on to letters or responding to requests for support when time is limited—often not allowing for the luxury of a meeting or even an email exchange with Committee members, Co-Chairs or the Board. The *Guiding Principles* document provides direction in the absence of specific discussion and member input. Further, he said that a list of belief statements would be beneficial. The consensus was that the *Guiding Principles* seemed to be the “supporting text without a list of beliefs to support.” It was agreed Bob

would send out an email (with the document attached) to Committee members asking for their review and feedback to Bob. Bob would draft a revised document and a set of belief statements and—with the help of Roy, Jason, and Julia—would prepare material for discussion and action at either (or both) of the next two Committee meetings.

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

I. Congressional updates

- a. Appropriations for FY 2018
 - i. Now on fifth continuing resolution (CR) for fiscal year
 - 1. Expires March 23rd
 - ii. Working on omnibus appropriations bill
 - 1. Currently negotiating offsets (ChIMPs)
 - iii. Previous CR increased Congressionally-set spending caps in all spending categories, including non-defense discretionary spending
 - 1. Less pressure to cut spending
 - 2. Doesn't necessarily mean spending increases, or equal ones
 - 3. Likely increases in education:
 - a. School safety (Title II/IVA)
 - b. Charter/magnet schools
- 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
- c. School Safety Legislation
 - i. School Safety and Mental Health Service Improvement Act (Sen. Alexander)
 - 1. Would explicitly allow Title IVA and II funds to be used for school safety, e.g.:
 - a. "physical security" measures like passcode systems, alarms, and security cameras
 - b. Professional development to help recognize and intervene with threats
 - 2. Would direct the Secretary of Education to establish a School Safety and Violence Prevention National Technical Assistance Center
 - 3. Would reauthorize a ED/HHS/DOJ program to help children "struggling with violence"
 - ii. STOP School Violence Act (House bill)
 - 1. Would authorize \$50 million annually for school safety improvements, including
 - a. training teachers and students in violence prevention

- b. creating anonymous reporting systems for threats
 - iii. Opposed by Democrats, gun safety groups
 - 1. Distraction?
 - d. Military ESA legislation (Rep. Banks)
 - i. Would take Impact Aid money and turn it into “scholarships” for certain classes of military students:
 - 1. On-base in “heavily impacted” areas: \$4,500
 - 2. Off-base in “heavily impacted” areas or on-base on other areas: \$2,500
 - ii. Could be used for private school tuition, tutoring, etc..
- II. Administration Updates
 - a. New Case Processing Manual
 - i. Eliminates references to “systemic” investigations
 - 1. Though ED can still start one where they believe it is necessary (e.g. Michigan State)
 - ii. Expands list of reasons for dismissal
 - 1. E.g. “no longer appropriate for investigation”
 - iii. Makes dismissal mandatory in most (“shall” vs. “may”)
 - b. DeVos on ESSA: States can do better.
 - i. Responses:
 - 1. Scott: States can do better, but ED needs to provide guidance
 - 2. Tri-caucus: you’re the one approving plans that don’t meet requirements
 - c. Delay of disproportionality rule
 - i. July 2018 to July 2020
 - d. Disaster Relief funding
 - i. For K-12:
 - 1. “Restart” aid for schools
 - 2. Aid for LEAs accepting displaced students
 - 3. McKinney-Vento aid
 - ii. Additional funds for impacted IHEs and those accepting displaced students
 - e. School violence task force
 - i. Chaired by Betsy DeVos
 - ii. Will include teachers
 - iii. 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.

5. Other

Notes from the [January 9, 2018](#) meeting are available here.

Next meeting is scheduled for **April 10, 2018 at 1:00PM EDT**, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.