

FSBA Federal Relations Subcommittee 2016-2017 Mid-Year Report

Chair: Beverly Slough
Vice Chair: Rene Flowers

Members: John Colon
Betsy Condon
Kathleen Gordon
Patty Hightower
Pam LaRiviere

Dates of meetings and events:

June 12-14, 2016 – NSBA Advocacy Institute
July 20, 2016 – ESSA Workgroup Meeting
August 18, 2016 – Subcommittee Discussion of Plan of Work (via GoToMeeting)
October 14, 2016 – Question & Answer Session on Proposed FSBA Platforms (via GoToMeeting)
October 27, 2016 – Discuss & Adopt 2017 FSBA Platform(s)
November 7, 2016 – Public Comments to US-ED on “Supplement, Not Supplant” Rule

Main actions taken/accomplishments to date:

In June, following our Summer Conference, five FSBA members attended the NSBA Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C. The key topics of discussion were ESSA Implementation, reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act, reauthorization of Perkins Career and Technical Education, and federal funding for education. The Advocacy Institute Homework, which includes background information on these topics, is attached to the conference agenda. *(NOTE: Though normally scheduled in February, inclement weather forced the rescheduling of the Advocacy Institute for June.)*

Since our Summer Conference, FSBA has remained actively involved in the initial transition steps for the implementation of ESSA, with most of our activity has centered around the the development of federal rules and regulations to guide states in crafting compliance plans that faithfully implement the bill’s provisions. Most notably, in July, FSBA, FASA, and other interested stakeholders met as the ESSA Workgroup to review ESSA and submit a report and recommendations to the FLDOE in response to its survey. In August, FSBA submitted a letter to Commissioner Stewart encouraging broad and meaningful stakeholder engagement in the development of Florida’s ESSA compliance plan. In November, FSBA submitted public comments to the UD-ED regarding a proposed federal regulation on the “Supplement, Not Supplant” provisions. These documents are attached to the conference agenda.

In August, the Subcommittee met to discuss how FSBA can enhance member engagement in networking, professional development, advocacy, and sharing information. Among other suggestions, the Subcommittee recommends the creation of a Legislative Blog, creation of a library of short informational and training webinars, and the scheduling of a quarterly Call to Action. Additional details are contained in the meeting notes attached to the conference agenda.

In October, the Subcommittee participated in activities that focused on the adoption of the FSBA 2017 Federal Platform, including participation in an online Q&A session followed by the adoption of the Federal Platform. The Federal Platform focuses on several issues including, among others, federal funding, ESSA regulations and implementation, E-Rate, reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act, and career and technical education. The FSBA 2017 Federal Platform and the NSBA 2016-2017 Advocacy Agenda are attached to the conference agenda.

November 8, 2016 marked the end of the 2016 election cycle. With regard to federal elections, Senator Marco Rubio was re-elected to the U.S. Senate, maintaining Florida's representation as 1 Republican and 1 Democrat. Florida will be sending 8 new members and returning 19 incumbents to the U.S. House of Representatives, but the composition will shift slightly so that Florida's congressional delegation will be composed of 16 Republicans and 11 Democrats. A report on the U.S. House elections is attached to the conference agenda.

Upcoming activities:

- NSBA's Advocacy Institute scheduled for January 29-31, 2017. Registration is now open for this informative conference and we urge all school board members to consider attending. Information is available at the Advocacy Resource table and on the FSBA website.
- The Subcommittee is working to schedule a follow-up meeting of the ESSA Workgroup in late February 2017. Additional information will be distributed when it becomes available.
- FSBA Federal Issues & Advocacy Conference is scheduled for September 27-28, 2017. Additional information will be distributed when it becomes available.