

**FSBA Federal Relations Subcommittee
Annual Report
July 2016 - June 2017**

Chair: Beverly Slough
Vice Chair: Rene Flowers

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

Dates of meetings and activities:

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
January 29-31, 2017 – NSBA Advocacy Institute

Main actions taken/accomplishments this year:

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.

During January 29-31, 2017, ten intrepid Florida warriors descended on Washington, DC to learn and advocate. We began with the NSBA Advocacy Institute, learning about how things are likely to change with the new administration and how to advocate for the core education issues facing our country today. We heard from Senator Lamar Alexander, chair of the Senate HELP Committee, which authored ESSA, who delivered encouraging remarks about the future of public education in the US, and other outstanding keynote speakers. We also were able to meet with several other Representatives and Senators or their aides to share the issues of school choice, education funding, and school lunches. It was refreshing to have these members and their staff listen thoughtfully and have then actively engage in understanding the issues facing Florida's children.

A highlight was a voice mail Andrea Messina received after our day was winding down. Sen. Marco Rubio called to say that he was disappointed that he had missed our visit – he had been delayed in a committee meeting. Hopefully, this will signal the opportunity to meet with him personally in visits to come.

During the 2017 Legislative Session, the Subcommittee incorporated some federal updates in the FSBA Session Spotlight, including information on the education related provisions in President Trump's federal budget blueprint and recent revisions to federal regulation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Unfinished Business and Recommendations:

- We will be using a portion of our Legislative Committee meeting to provide a status report on the Federal budget, ESSA implementation, and related federal issues.
- We suggest that the Subcommittee conduct a series of webinars for FSBA members to provide background information as well as updates on what is happening in Washington.
- Our Florida specific DC visit is scheduled for September 27-28. The Subcommittee should proceed with planning for this trip. Initial planning and registration information will be available in July 2017.
- We must continue to monitor Florida's ESSA compliance plan and seek opportunities to provide input.