



FSBA Federal Relations Subcommittee Report 2018-2019 Mid-Year Report

Chair: Beverly Slough

Vice Chair: Chris Patricca

Members: Marcia Andrews

Tim Bryant

Rene Flowers

Kathleen Gordon

Pam Gould

Lori Hershey

Patty Hightower

Jeannie Mathis

Tamara Shamburger

Jerry Taylor

Ida Wright

Caroline Zucker

Dates of meetings and activities:

August 9, 2018 – Platform Priority Workgroup Meeting (via GoToMeeting)

September 7, 2017 – Question & Answer Session on Proposed FSBA Platforms (via GoToMeeting)

September 20, 2018 – FSBA 2019 Legislative and Federal Platform Adoption Meeting

September 26, 2018 – Federal Approval of Florida’s ESSA State Plan

November 14, 2018 – FSBA Federal Relations Subcommittee Meeting (via GoToMeeting)

Main actions taken/accomplishments to date:

In June - September, the Subcommittee was actively engaged in the development, consideration, and adoption of the FSBA 2019 Federal Platform. On September 20, 2018, members of the Subcommittee actively participated in the Platform Adoption meeting to debate and adopt the 2019 Legislative and Federal Platforms and the Subcommittee Chair led the portion of the meeting that addressed the discussion and adoption of the Federal Platform.

Also during this same period, the Subcommittee closely monitored the progress toward approval of Florida’s State Plan for compliance and implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). On September 26, 2018, Florida’s plan was finally approved – Florida was the last state to receive approval due, mainly, to assessment and accountability issues, particularly with regard to ELL students. The Subcommittee has also carefully reviewed recently released U.S. Department of Education Guidance on implementation of various aspects of the State ESSA Plan, including guidance and information on ESSA Flexibilities and guides for parents. *(NOTE: FDOE Summary of the State Plan – which focuses on these assessment and accountability issues – is posted with this Mid-Year Report. The full State Plan and Guidance documents are posted on the FSBA website.)*

In addition, throughout the 2018 election cycle, the Subcommittee closely monitored the federal elections for the U.S. Senate and House. In advance of the change in leadership in the U.S. House, it is expected that the remaining congressional meetings during November and December will be an important planning period for the education committees leading up to the beginning of the 116th Congress this January. Issues of particular interest will include the reauthorization and/or revision of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and fiscal year 2020 appropriations. *(NOTE: a recent NSBA Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Update with more information is posted with this Mid-Year Report.)*

On November 14, 2018, the Subcommittee met via GoToMeeting. Members discussed the recent election results, the implications of the change in leadership in the U.S. House, proposed dates for the 2019 FSBA Federal Issues & Advocacy (FIA) Conference, the upcoming NSBA Advocacy Institute (1/27-29/19), and local school board responsibilities and opportunities inherent to ESSA implementation.

Upcoming Business:

- The Subcommittee intends to hold regular monthly meetings.
- The Subcommittee intends to provide specific training to the members of the Subcommittee on ESSA, IDEA, and the Congressional legislative and budget processes.
- The Subcommittee intends to produce a series of webinars, videos, and/or Issue Briefs for FSBA members to provide background information as well as updates on key federal issues.
- The Subcommittee will continue planning of the Federal Issues & Advocacy (FIA) Conference, tentatively scheduled for September 25-26, 2019.
- The Subcommittee intends to continue to closely monitor the implementation of ESSA, including local school board responsibilities. This may include the purchase of the NSBA ESSA Guide and Workbook for all members of the Subcommittee.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Slough, Chair, Federal Relations Subcommittee
Chris Patricca, Vice Chair, Federal Relations Subcommittee