



FSBA Federal Relations Subcommittee Report 2018-2019 Annual Report

Chair: Beverly Slough
Vice Chair: Chris Patricca

Members: Marcia Andrews Patty Hightower
 Tim Bryant Jeannie Mathis
 Rene Flowers Tamara Shamburger
 Kathleen Gordon Jerry Taylor
 Pam Gould Ida Wright
 Lori Hershey 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)
January 23, 2019 – Discussion of NSBA Advocacy Institute
March 1, 2019 – Initial Planning for FIA Conference

Main actions taken/accomplishments this year:

During June - September, the Subcommittee was actively engaged in the development, consideration, and adoption of the FSBA 2019 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. *(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 and the subsequent change in leadership in the U.S. House

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.

In January, the Subcommittee monitored and the beginning of the 116th Congress and held an organizational meeting for participants planning to attend the NSBA Advocacy Institute.

The Subcommittee has initiated the planning of the Federal Issues & Advocacy (FIA) Conference which has been scheduled for September 23-25, 2019 in Washington, D.C. (**NOTE: The FIA Conference dates have CHANGED in order to accommodate the schedules of FSBA leadership**)

The Subcommittee has consistently monitored the education related Congressional budget and policy Committees. Current issues of particular interest include bills intended to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA Full Funding Act – [H.R. 1878](#) by Rep. Huffman, D-CA2, and 89 co-sponsors / [S. 866](#) by Sen. Van Holland, D-MD, and 9 co-sponsors), a disaster aid package (\$19.1 billion for disaster relief in several states, including Florida, passed on June 3, 2019), and fiscal year 2020 appropriations. (**NOTE: recent NSBA Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Updates with more information on these issues are posted with this Annual Report.**)

Also, throughout the 2019 Legislative Session and Interim Meetings, the Subcommittee has participated in the regular Legislative Committee Conference Calls.

Unfinished Business and Recommendations:

- The Subcommittee should meet regularly, at least monthly.
- The Subcommittee should develop specific training on key issues – such as ESSA, IDEA, and the Congressional legislative and budget processes – for the members of the Subcommittee.
- The Subcommittee should consider producing 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 should continue planning of the Federal Issues & Advocacy (FIA) Conference, scheduled for September 23-25, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

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