



## *National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.*

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### **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AGENDA FOR 2017**

#### **Action Agenda\***

- **Budget and appropriations**  
NASDSE will advocate for increased spending for all education programs and to lift the caps imposed by sequestration.
- **ESSA implementation**  
NASDSE will monitor regulations and guidance and other initiatives affecting Implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- **School choice (charter schools, vouchers)**  
NASDSE will continue to oppose private school vouchers using public funds.
- **Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act**  
NASDSE will track initiatives to reauthorize the Higher Education Act and work to resolve issues stemming from the Personnel Preparation regulations and address personnel shortages.
- **Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**  
NASDSE will circulate and promote its Principles for IDEA Reauthorization and lay the groundwork for reauthorization while continuing to work on issues related to IDEA implementation as they occur (e.g., RDA; disproportionality). NASDSE will continue to oppose piece-meal amendments to IDEA.
- **Medicaid**  
NASDSE will work to ensure Medicaid protections for families with children with disabilities.
- **Career and Tech Ed reauthorization (Perkins)**  
NASDSE will work to ensure equal access to all programs under Perkins for students with disabilities.
- **Mental Health**  
NASDSE will watch for opportunities to address mental health issues in proposed legislation and/or regulations and guidance.

#### **Watch Agenda**

- **Child welfare**  
NASDSE will track issues related to students with disabilities in the foster care system, particularly with respect to ESSA implementation and issues that cross-cut IDEA and the Fostering Connections Act.
- **Respite care**  
NASDSE will support reauthorization of the Respite Care Act and funding for respite care programs.
- **ADA/504 issues**  
NASDSE will work to preserve protections afforded by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

- **Technology (including accessibility issues; online learning)**  
NASDSE will continue to look for ways to address the technology needs of students with disabilities, including access to online learning and providing ongoing support to the Data Managers Affinity Group.
- **Early childhood**  
NASDSE will monitor early childhood legislation and other initiatives and continue its support for the 619 Affinity Group.
- **Implementation of WIOA**  
NASDSE will continue to look for ways to connect education entities to vocational rehabilitation as WIOA implementation moves forward.

#### **Non-Legislative Topics of Interest**

- **The impact of strict immigration policies on schools**  
NASDSE will monitor this issue.
- **Teacher shortages**  
NASDSE will continue to address the teacher shortage issue through the promotion of non-legislative initiatives and legislation, if appropriate.
- **Virtual schools and students with disabilities**  
NASDSE will continue to find appropriate venues to address our concerns about students with disabilities and online learning.
- **High expectations for students with disabilities**  
NASDSE will continue to address this issue through every appropriate opportunity
- **School Climate**  
NASDSE will track opportunities to address school climate, including discipline issues, through our School Climate Consortium and other collaborations.

\*Note: UDL issues may crop up in any legislation