

Alliance News Flash

May 18, 2016

ALLIANCE for High Quality Education

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On the Horizon

Planning for a Transition and a 25th Anniversary

As we begin to plan for next year, it is appropriate to note that Jim Betts has informed the Executive Committee that it will be his last with the Alliance. For those of you who are not aware, Jim and his group, Betts and Associates, have been with the organization since its inception in 1991. During that time, he has served as both the executive director and legislative consultant.

It goes without saying that the leadership and skills Jim has brought to the organization will be greatly missed, and the passion, integrity and professionalism that he has exhibited over the last 25 years will be difficult to replace.

In light of the above, the Executive Committee has begun a process to determine how best to provide legislative services to the organization going forward.

We are fortunate that Jim has given us this time to select new representation and allow a sufficient transition period before giving up the reins completely. The Executive Committee will keep you updated as we move forward.

Alliance ESSA Task Group

In anticipation of having a strong voice when the ODE begins the formal process of developing the state's plan for implementing ESSA, the Alliance has established a task group to explore those areas in which we hope to have some constructive input. Specifically, we want to restrict state demands that would exceed the federal requirements.

We also want to be prepared to contribute to discussions regarding testing – including the use of diagnostic assessments in common use throughout

the year in most districts – value added and other elements appropriate for accountability to the public at the local level. (We may want to start by eliminating the term "report card" from any dialogue about district or school accountability.)

The group met in April and is in the process of formulating a document to assist them with the evaluative process. Based upon what we are hearing from ODE we do not anticipate needing to provide our stakeholder input until the fall because USDE has not yet provided the states with its final directives. Without those directives, neither ODE, nor the state's many stakeholders will know what will be required and where there may be some flexibility.

Capital Conference ~ 25th Anniversary

This year's annual meeting will be a special one: the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Alliance.

In November of 1991, two dozen high-performing, high wealth districts, came together out of concern for a concept taking root in various parts of the country called "Robin Hood" – the distribution of some of the revenues generated by voted tax levies in high wealth districts to lower wealth districts – and the threat of litigation in Ohio, which, if successful, could incorporate that concept in a court ordered remedy.

The early years of the Alliance, originally called the Alliance for Adequate School Funding, were targeted almost exclusively on fiscal issues, but, as the organization matured and the threat of "Robin Hood" dissipated, the Alliance expanded its focus to the full spectrum of education policy and adopted its current name, the Alliance for High Quality Education.

Thanks to a growing, increasingly engaged membership, the Alliance is now recognized as a well-grounded, contributing organization that offers responsible solutions intended to benefit all of Ohio's 600-plus school districts.

Plan now to join us at our 25th annual meeting and luncheon on November 14th at the Columbus Downtown Hilton. More details will follow.



CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 25th	Executive Committee 9:30 a.m., BASA Conference Room
Wednesday, May 25th	Accountability Committee and ESSA Task Group to follow Executive Committee meeting at noon



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING
& LUNCHEON
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14th
Hilton Columbus Downtown

*Come celebrate the Alliance's
~ 25th ANNIVERSARY ~*

Quality Profile - 2016 Release Date

This fall's release of the Quality Profile by participating districts will be the fourth year of this initiative. The goal of this process is to provide constituents and taxpayers a constructive, comprehensive review of their district's academic and non-academic programs, activities and performance. Watch for this fall's planned release date in future communications.

Annual Dues

Notices to all member districts are in the process of being emailed and, for the tenth consecutive year, they do not contain an increase. As always, a prompt, positive response will be appreciated.