

**ALLIANCE FOR HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION  
LEGISLATIVE/SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**October 11, 2017  
10:00 a.m.  
MEETING SUMMARY**

*In attendance on phone conference:* Andy Culp, Tim Pickana, Beth Weber, Phil Herman, Todd Puster, Jill Elliott, Mike Dovilla and Tony Podojil.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting by phone conference at 10:00 a.m.

**I. Current Political Landscape/Legislative Initiatives**

**A. H.B. 49 – Biennial State Operating Budget**

**1. Short/Long Term Strategies**

Mike updated the committee on the discussions currently being held with Sen. Dolan and Rep. Dever on possible next steps to advance our positions related to TPP, fair-funding, guarantees, and cap relief.

We are still waiting for an update from Sen. Dolan's office on whether he was successful in incorporating changes associated with TPP funding and the runout language into S.B. 8. That bill looks like it will be the vehicle for inclusion of additional items as the Senate and House begin to consider legislation during the fall session.

Mike indicated that he has been in discussions with Rep. Dever's office on developing a comprehensive approach to the foundation formula that reflects a more accurate picture of what the state share should begin to look like. While funding this new total is probably not possible, the hope is that some of our initiatives, such as fair funding and TPP, could be approved to satisfy the discussion at least at this point.

**B. ESSA**

The department is still waiting for a response from the federal government regarding the application submitted in August. We fully expect the General Assembly will hold hearings on the application once it is approved.

**C. High School Graduation Requirements**

The state Board of Education has begun to discuss the impact the new diploma standards may have on the class of 2019. This will be an item to watch closely over the next two months to see exactly what direction the board may take.

D. **Gifted Operating Standards**

The changes related to the increase in professional development requirements for gifted instructors are causing issues for many members. Currently, there is language addressing this change in S.B. 216 that would roll back this requirement.

E. **RESA**

Some of our members have expressed concern with an MOU that has been circulating that would impact the evaluation process of new teachers based on the changes made to years 3 and 4 of the RESA program.

II. **Legislative Strategies**

A. **House Education Committee**

H.B. 176 and H.B. 181, both of which are related to school assessment, standards, and the Common Core, are still pending in the House Education Committee. Chairman Brenner has indicated that while he anticipates there may be additional hearings on these bills, he was not confident that they would move out of his committee any time soon.

H.B. 200, legislation which would significantly expand the state scholarship program, remains in committee and could be voted out this session. While there appears to be support for this bill in the House, Chairman Brenner does not believe it would be favorably received by the Senate.

B. **Senate Education Committee**

No update at this time.

III. **Next Steps**

A. **Regional Meetings** – Member feedback on the items discussed above will be sought during the regional meetings held in October.

IV. **Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be **November 8, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.