

LEGISLATIVE HANDBOOK
OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCIES

A contract agency of the
American Association of School Administrators
representing the interests of county,
intermediate and educational service agencies

Walter G. Turner
Executive Director

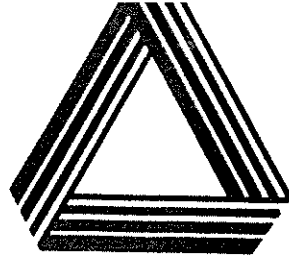
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AAESA
LEGISLATIVE HANDBOOK

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American Association of Educational Service Agencies / AAESA / 1801 North Moore St., Arlington, VA. 2221

Dear AAESA Colleague,

One of the primary driving forces behind the establishment of the American Association of Educational Service Agencies, and a major thrust of our present work scope, is a continuing effort to provide a strong voice and national visibility for ESA's. I'm pleased to report that this activity at the national level has paid off in many ways since the inception of AAESA. Our work with both the legislative and executive branches of the federal government has resulted in decisions that have benefitted ESA's and the students and school systems we serve.

The AAESA Legislative Committee is charged with the assignment of developing an effective communication system which will provide member organizations with the information necessary to influence decision making at the federal level. They have had numerous successes over the years. Obviously, AAESA's close ties with the AASA Office of Governmental Relations has been instrumental to our efforts.

This Legislative Handbook has been updated in order to provide all AAESA members with a general understanding of the procedures utilized by the committee as it conducts its business. I encourage you to contact committee members and/or the AAESA office when you have questions or suggestions regarding activities at the national level.

Sincerely,

Dennis Harken
AAESA Council President

LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION

**AAESA COUNCIL
RESPONSIBILITIES**

Any effective national professional organization must provide balanced representation in its organizational structure. Even though similarities exist among educational service agencies across the country, each has a unique nature reflecting the educational needs of the area it serves.

With this in mind, AAESA has attempted to provide each member with a voice in all policies and operating procedures. Through the formation of the AAESA Council, balanced representation feeds the national AAESA office with a steady flow of important information, ideas, and opinions, especially in the area of federal legislation.

For purposes of organization, the country has been divided into three areas as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| <u>Western Region:</u> | Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Texas, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma; |
| <u>Midwestern Region:</u> | Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska; |
| <u>Western Region:</u> | Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana; |

It is important to note that at the level of the AAESA Council and the Legislative Committee, each region of the country has three representatives, thereby providing equal and balanced representation among association members.

AAESA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Council Directors for Legislative Affairs

Eastern Region:	Freeman Van Wickler (Chairman)
Midwestern Region:	Les Martisko
Western Region:	Charles Terrell

Legislative Committee

A nine member committee exists as a means of implementing the AAESA Council's policy of federal legislation. Membership includes three representatives from each of the three regions. Members are appointed by the president and approved by the Council. A council member serves as chairperson of this committee. He serves for a three-year term.

Members other than the chairperson serve three year terms and rotate at three members per year, one from each region. Initial appointments from each region shall be for 1-year, 2-year and 3-year terms with the length of term per each initial appointee to be determined by chance.

Members 1986-89

Eastern Region:	Thomas Orr	(WV)
	Robert L. Thompson	(NY)
	Peter J. Schwalbenberg	(ME)
Midwestern Region:	Tom Pagan	(IN)
	William Simmons	(MI)
Western Region:	Richard H. Escott	(OR)
	Joseph Thomas Farmer	(TX)

State Network

One representative from each state is selected by the committee to aid in monitoring or networking any legislation needing quick response time. These members are responsible for passing information on to others within their state who may not access ACTIONLINE.

(See Directory Section for All Addresses)

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: POLICY AND PROCEDURES

LEGISLATIVE POLICY

AAESA Council members place a high priority on the consideration of national legislation and its subsequent implementation. "Legislative thrust" has become the by-word of the Association, Council, and Legislative Committee---a thrust aimed at making educational service agencies a familiar part of the nation's educational enterprise in the minds of federal legislators.

To reflect this priority, the Mission Statement and Responsibilities of the AAESA Legislative Committee were reviewed and adopted October 30, 1985 by the AAESA Council.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the purpose of the AAESA Legislative Committee to propose and formulate federal legislation initiatives that will strengthen the role of the educational service agency concept in public education.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Legislative Committee has these primary responsibilities:

1. To prepare and propose, in each even numbered year an AAESA legislative platform.
2. To aid in seeking support for both AAESA and other desired legislation.
3. To help in opposing undesired legislation.
4. To maintain the Legislative Handbook.
5. To perform other legislative related duties as assigned by the Council.

PROCESS FOR FORMULATING LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

1. The Legislative Committee will meet annually with members of the Legislative State Network to formulate the AAESA Legislative Agenda.

A status report will be given by the AASA Office of Governmental Relations (OGR) staff in coordination with AAESA staff regarding past, present, and future federal legislative issues.

Key concerns will be addressed by committee membership regarding pending legislation, reauthorization issues, and new legislation.

Needs of ESAs will be discussed and a determination made regarding federal legislative and focus of AAESA for the upcoming legislative session.

2. The AASA Office of Governmental Relations (OGR) in coordination with AAESA staff will prepare a first draft of the AAESA Legislative Agenda and submit the draft to individual members of the Legislative Committee for modification.

3. A final draft of the AAESA Legislative Agenda will be presented to the AAESA Council for action at the AAESA annual conference in February.

4. Upon final adoption by the members present at its annual business meeting, the Legislative Agenda will be disseminated to the total membership.

REQUIRED REPORTS

1. February
(every year) Status report to the Council at the annual meeting.
2. February
(every year) Report required changes to the Legislative Handbook to the Council at each annual meeting.
3. By April 15
(every year) Submit preliminary proposed legislative agenda platform to council president.
4. By September 15
(even numbered years) Submit final proposed legislative platform to the council president for consideration by the Council at its Fall meeting.

TASKS

(With suggested target dates)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| April 1
(every year) | Prepare a preliminary proposed AAESA legislative platform. |
| September 1
(every year) | Prepare a final proposed AAESA legislative platform. |
| As needed | Work with AAESA/AASA staff in the development and introduction of proposed legislation to implement the AAESA approved legislative platform. |
| As needed | Work with AAESA staff in generating and coordinating support for both AAESA and other related legislation in the best interest of ESAs. |
| As needed | Work with AAESA staff in coordinating opposition to legislation not in the best interest of ESAs. |
| Annually | Review the Legislative Handbook for necessary changes. |
| December 31
(every year) | Survey the AAESA membership regarding desired/necessary legislative action. |

**RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES
LEGISLATIVE MONITORING PROCESS**

The AAESA Legislative Committee will be responsible for the exchange of information and reaction of AAESA membership to federal education initiatives under consideration by Congress.

Process for reacting to legislative initiatives:

1) The AAESA Legislative Committee will assist the AAESA staff in updating the list of state contact individuals (one ESA chief executive from each state) responsible to disseminate the flow of legislative information between AAESA and affiliate members within each state.

2) Each state contact representative can become better informed of federal legislation effecting education through utilization of the AASA electronic network system "ACTIONLINE" and, therefore serve the needs of both their state's ESA membership and AAESA more intelligently.

The AASA ACTIONLINE provides an up-to-date accounting of federal legislative action and an opportunity for questions to be generated from the field with appropriate responses from the AASA Office of Governmental Relations. To be selected as a state contact each representative must agree to participate in the AASA ACTIONLINE. Because of the current nature of the information provided, all ESAs are encouraged to participate in the AASA ACTIONLINE.

3) Should action be required by AAESA members on a federal legislative issue, AAESA staff and/or the AASA Office of Governmental Relations will provide Legislative Committee members a plan of action to be relayed to each state contact representative. Each state contact representative will then disseminate the plan of action within 24 hours to other ESAs within their state.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORY

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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AAESA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

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