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June 29, 2015

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education to pay the FY 2016 membership renewal fee to the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) (vendor code 172212), in the amount of \$7,987.00 effective July 1, 2015 or upon Governor and Council approval, whichever is later, through June 30, 2016. 100% Federal funds.

Funding for this request is available in an account titled Special Education-Elm/Sec, pending legislative approval of the next biennial budget, as follows:

06-56-56-562510-41100000-026-500251	Organizational Dues	FY 2016 \$7,987.00
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EXPLANATION

The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) is a strong organization that has considerable visibility and influence in our nation's capital and throughout the country. State membership provides New Hampshire Department of Education personnel with ongoing working relationships with U.S. Department of Education personnel within the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS), Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). NASDSE provides leadership and on-going collaboration with National and State organizations that help States meet their missions through shared work; national-level representation in the development of national policy, on-going support for State Directors of Special Education, annual conference and business meeting with discussions and presentations on timely topics, quality presenters and networking with peers.

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The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) works to ensure that the States have input on issues involving children and youth with disabilities at the U.S. Department of Education and on Capitol Hill as well as with education, disability, and parent organizations. The organization also maintains contact with the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. As New Hampshire implements changes in the regulations, it is important to keep these collaborations current and on-going.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?
The National Association of State Directors (NASDSE) of Special Education was formed in 1938; the NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education has been a member for the past forty (40) years.
2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?
No.
3. How many other States belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire State agency that is a member?
All States are encouraged to become a member of NASDSE.
Yes, as NASDSE is a National Association for State Directors of Special Education.
4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all States, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)?
Standard fee for all States.
5. What benefit does the State receive from participating in this membership?
On-going contact and working relationships with the US Department of Education, personnel within the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS); Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE); the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), and others. On-going collaboration with more than 50 national and State organizations that help States meet their missions through shared work.
6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included?
Explain in detail.
Included in the membership:
 - NASDSE publications and other media
 - Quarterly newsletter NASDSE Works!
 - High interest publications such as the RTI publication series, deaf education books and publications by Project Forum
 - Access to high quality information through NASDSE's website(s)

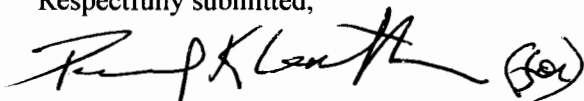
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7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.
No.
8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.
No.
9. Which State agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.
Santina Thibedeau, NH State Director of Special Education ~ Member and NASDSE Board Member
10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.
NASDSE is a strong organization that has considerable visibility and influence in our nation's capital and throughout the country, providing leadership and representing the States in matters of policy, programs and services, while working to create the future for education services for persons with disabilities.
The negative impact would include, but not limited to:
 - Loss of collaboration with other States to meet missions through shared work;
 - Inability to receive timely reporting on matters being considered by Congress;
 - Loss of collaboration in national coalitions working on national policy; Committee on Education Funding, the Elementary/Secondary Education Coalition, Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities;
 - Loss of regular communication on critical issues and developments in the field;
 - Inability to receive timely updates on policies and practices from the US Department of Education, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and various national organizations and associations.

In the event that the Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

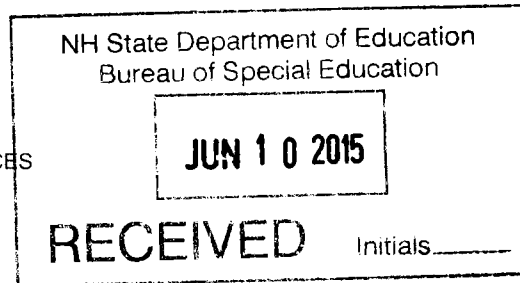


National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.

225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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BUREAU FOR SPECIAL ED SERVICES
NH DEPT OF EDUCATION
101 PLEASANT ST
CONCORD, NH 03301-3860



Invoice Number: 0803843-IN

Invoice Date: 5/12/2015

Customer Number: 02-NH

Customer P.O.:

Terms: DUE UPON RECEIPT

Item Code	Description	UM	Quantity	Price	Amount
	2015-2016 State Membership July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016	EACH	1.000	7,987.000	7,987.00

Net Invoice:	7,987.00
Freight:	0.00
Sales Tax:	0.00
Invoice Total:	7,987.00

NASDSE MEMBER SERVICES: NEW WAYS OF WORKING

THE WAY WE WERE

For the past 15 years, NASDSE has been supported by a combination of member dues and projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The OSEP-funded projects enabled NASDSE to provide a very high level of services to NASDSE members and the special education community as well as the general education community. It is important for you to understand that NASDSE dues alone have not and cannot sustain the high level of work that has been the hallmark of NASDSE over the past 15 years. NASDSE must diversify its offerings to support states as the needs of states change to ensure accountability for results for students with disabilities and their families.

These projects have ended or will be ending soon:

- *Project Forum*, which undertook original research often based on surveys or a distillation of lengthy research reports, making them accessible to busy educators. Project Forum had its own website where all of its reports were posted.
- *The Personnel Improvement Center*, which maintained a database of special education personnel programs, produced materials to attract individuals to the special education profession and worked on selected projects in states to help local districts 'grow their own' special education personnel.
- *The IDEA Partnership*, which brought together more than 50 national organizations to work on joint problem-solving initiatives, pioneered communities of practice in education at the local, state and national levels and established a website for the communities that has served as an online 'home' for the communities to collaborate and work online. (This project is ending on September 30, 2015.)
- *Special Education and Charter Schools*, a series of projects funded by the Department of Education's Charter Schools Office that trained charter school authorizers and operators on their responsibilities with respect to serving students with disabilities, including targeted work in a number of states.

In addition to these large projects housed at NASDSE, our staff members also have worked as subcontractors on several projects, including:

- The National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO), based at the University of Minnesota;
- A national Transition Center, also housed at the University of Minnesota; and
- The National Post-School Outcomes Center (NPSO), based at the University of Oregon.

CURRENT NASDSE MEMBER SERVICES

As a NASDSE member, you will benefit from NASDSE's ongoing participation in the following OSEP-funded national centers/projects including:

- *The IDEA Partnership*. This project will continue until September 30, 2015, with the ongoing Communities of Practice of Transition and School Behavioral Health and with the development of tools for states to use in their work.
- *National Center on Systemic Improvement (NCSI)*. Five NASDSE staff members spend a portion of their time in our partner work in this Center by providing intensive, targeted and universal technical assistance to states as well as serving on Center work teams.
- *The Center on Online learning and Students with Disabilities (COLSD)*. This research center is led by partners NASDSE, CAST and the University of Kansas. NASDSE's primary work includes implementation of research forums of selected stakeholders, work on the annual center publication, co-authoring publications and making presentations at conferences and at OSEP.
- *Statewide Integrated Framework for Transformation (SWIFT)*. NASDSE provides leadership advice to Center staff and serves on the Policy and the State Capacity teams.
- *Mobilizing National Educator Talent (mNET)*. NASDSE has a subcontract with the Ohio State University to support selected states and local education districts by supporting ongoing special education teacher preparation and credentialing.

In addition, as a NASDSE member, you will continue to receive NASDSE services that are not project-specific. For example NASDSE members benefit from NASDSE's ongoing work on your behalf, including:

- Ongoing collaboration with more than 60 national organizations through coalitions and individual collaborative initiatives;
- Ongoing conversations/collaboration with Department of Education staff;
- Timely feedback on Congressional and Administration activities including a focus on NASDSE's Government Relations Board-approved annual priorities;
- Regular feedback on NASDSE activities through Bill's Notes;
- Support for new state directors through New Directors Academies;
- Support for small states through the Small States Consortium and large states through 7-PAK Consortium;
- Availability of NASDSE's professional staff to address members' specific concerns;
- Quick surveys of members to provide feedback to members with pressing information needs;
- NASDSE's participation in technical assistance centers that provides state directors' positions on key issues;
- Ability to tap into NASDSE's professional staff to speak at your statewide conferences;
- Participation in the CCSSO-sponsored special education SCASS meetings;
- Staff participation in more than 15 coalitions in support of states;
- Opportunity to participate in NASDSE business meeting opportunities;
- Representation by NASDSE staff on many boards and advisory committees; and
- Opportunity to use NASDSE office space when in the Washington, DC, area.

These are just some of the benefits derived from membership in NASDSE.

HOW NASDSE'S IDEA PARTNERSHIP AND NCSI WORK IS DIVIDED

In this last year of the IDEA Partnership and the first year of the NCSI Center, it is somewhat confusing for NASDSE members to sort out who does what. For 2015, NASDSE's work with states is now broken out into three components:

1. Work by the IDEA Partnership, which will continue through September 30, 2015, includes the following:
 - a. Communities of Practice: on transition, school behavioral health, autism and the brain Injury community of practice;
 - b. Maintenance of the IDEA Partnership and Shared Work websites (www.ideapartnership.org and www.sharedwork.org);
 - c. Development of tools for states supporting authentic stakeholder engagement; and
 - d. Completing the project's final evaluation.
2. Work by NASDSE staff with the National Center for Systemic Improvement on teams providing intensive, targeted and more general work with states as they ramp up their systemic improvement activities. (NASDSE staff are specifically assigned to states and to NCSI teams.)
3. NASDSE staff contracted work with individual states through work plans developed with states (one example is work with Georgia on its AWARE grant) that emphasize NASDSE's leadership on Leading by Convening.

NASDSE'S NEW BUSINESS PLAN OPTIONS

In addition to the services that are part of NASDSE's membership benefits, NASDSE is embarking on a new initiative to provide technical assistance to states that is not available through OSEP-funded technical assistance centers. This initiative will provide customized services to state agencies. We are in the process of developing and making available to states the following Customized Services:

Option 1:

- Providing consulting services to states on their SSIP implementation that is not available to states through the OSEP-funded TA centers using ***NASDSE's Blueprint for Authentic Engagement***.

Option 2:

- Leading statewide professional development specifically targeted to growing your state pool of special education leaders. NASDSE has been providing technical assistance to several states for a number of years for their leadership academies. NASDSE can assist you in developing and implementing a leadership academy in your state.

Option 3:

- Leading statewide collaborative professional development of key stakeholders around a key state-identified issue of importance.

Option 4:

- Facilitating existing communities of practice developed in conjunction with the IDEA Partnership (recognizing that the Partnership will no longer be able to support CoP after September 30, 2015). However, if a sufficient number of states are willing to invest in their CoP, this will help to continue to support the Shared Work website in order to continue this important work.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Whom It May Concern

FROM: Bill East, Executive Director

DATE: May 27, 2015

SUBJECT: Sole Source

The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. NASDSE is the only national membership organization whose members are solely the state directors of special education. NASDSE's mission is stated as follows:

“NASDSE operates for the purpose of providing services to state agencies to facilitate efforts to maximize educational outcomes for individuals with disabilities.”