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May 20, 2016

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

REQUESTED ACTION

The Department of Education requests placing this item on the Consent Calendar.

Authorize the Department of Education to pay the 2016-2017 membership dues to the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), Washington, DC, (vendor code 170715), in an amount not to exceed \$39,000.00, effective upon Governor and Council approval for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. 100 % General Funds

Funds are available in the account titled Commissioner as follows:

06-56-56-560010-60010000-026-500251	Membership Fees	FY17 \$39,000.00
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EXPLANATION

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the nation's states. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on major educational issues. The Council seeks member consensus and expresses its views to civic and professional organizations, federal agencies, Congress and the public.

The Commissioner of Education and the Deputy Commissioner are active members of CCSSO. Participation provides the State of New Hampshire with direct support services and professional development activities in such areas as student assessment programs, academic standards development and implementation, advancing technology in college and career findings, public policy issues, accessing fiscal and other resources, higher education and federal legislation.

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 Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) was formed in 1927 and incorporated in 1948. New Hampshire has paid into membership since 1948.

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 agency that is a member?

All 50 states and the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Education Activity, Bureau of Indian Education, and five U.S. territories belong to the organization. The New Hampshire Department of Education is the sole state agency within New Hampshire eligible for membership.

4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)

Dues are based on a sliding scale calculated on the combined total of state and local expenditures for elementary and secondary education.

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

New Hampshire receives travel costs for national meetings, support for transformation efforts, and access to national and international speakers for state and local conferences. CCSSO also provides New Hampshire with direct technical assistance on implementation of the newly reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act, known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This technical assistance includes guidance documents specific to leading state education agencies, access to webinars and learning best practices from peer states and national experts, and one-on-one support and guidance as requested.

6. Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

Yes, materials and research are provided for dissemination to educators in the state at no charge. Professional development is delivered via calls, in-person trainings and webinars. Research materials are disseminated at meetings, via an E-newsletter, and an on-line community containing a resource library of tools.

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.

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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.

Yes. Membership dues typically cover travel (including flights, hotel accommodations, and per diem expenses) for each state chief to attend two annual member meetings a year, including the Summer Leadership Convening in July 2016 in New Mexico, and the state's choice of either the Annual Policy Forum in Baltimore, MD November 2016 or the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. in March 2017. As a member of the Board of Directors of CCSSO, the Commissioner would have her full travel costs covered at all three member meetings. In 2016, CCSSO will also cover travel costs to attend a one-day Rural Chiefs meeting in October 2016 in Columbus, OH. As part of membership, CCSSO also waives registration fees for the Deputy Commissioner to attend annual member meetings.

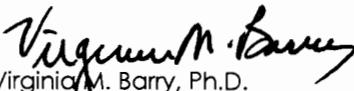
9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.)

The Commissioner of Education is a voting member of the organization. The Deputy Commissioner, state education agency federal liaison, and state education agency communications directors also receive direct support as part of membership.

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.

The Department would not have access to many research efforts or analysis of federal legislation. We would also not have the direct ability to quickly collaborate with other states on critical education issues.

Respectfully submitted,


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

VMB:cdd



Council of Chief State School Officers
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Washington, DC 20001

New Hampshire Department of Education
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Contact: Virginia Barry

Invoice Date: 04/06/2016

Terms: 7/1/2016 – 6/30/2017

Contact Person: Michelle Singleton
Michelle.Singleton@ccsso.org

Customer Number: 87951

PO Number:

Description	Terms of Service	Qty	Price	Amount
CCSSO Membership Renewal L4	7/1/2016 – 6/30/2017	1	\$39,000.00	\$39,000.00

FEIN: 53-0198090

Invoice Total: \$39,000.00

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO CCSSO & REFERENCE THE
INVOICE NUMBER **ENCLOSE A COPY WITH PAYMENT**

Amount Enclosed: _____