

80 YB



Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner

Paul K. Leather  
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord, N.H. 03301  
TEL. (603) 271-6133  
FAX (603) 271-1953

July 14, 2017

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education to **retroactively** pay the FY 2018 membership renewal fee to the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), 225 Reinekers Lane, Alexandria, VA (vendor code 172212), in the amount of \$10,386.00 effective upon Governor and Council approval for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. 100% Federal funds.

Funds to support this request are available in the account titled Special Education-Elem/Sec.;

06-56-56-562010-25040000-026-500251	<u>FY 2018</u>
Organizational Dues	\$10,386.00

**EXPLANATION**

This membership renewal fee is **retroactive** because the Department was not invoiced in time to meet the June 21, 2017 Governor and Council meeting.

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.

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council

July 14, 2017

Page Two

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-two (42) 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. Added options for NASDSE dues for their two Affinity Groups, the Part B Data Managers and the 619 Coordinators.
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.

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council

July 14, 2017

Page Three

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)

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

Ruth Littlefield, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education 619 Coordinator

Lisa Morrissette, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education Data Manager

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;

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council

July 14, 2017

Page Four

- 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Edelbut".

Frank Edelbut  
Commissioner of Education

FE:BJD  
Attachments

**National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.**  
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Tel: (703) 519-3800 www.nasdse.org

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

Invoice Number: 0803974-IN

Invoice Date: 5/31/2017

Customer Number:02-NH

Customer P.O.:

Terms: DUE UPON RECEIPT

Description	Amount
2017-2018 State Membership July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018	8,386.00
<b>Optional: (check all that apply)</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 619 Coordinator	1,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Manager	<u>1,000.00</u>

**TOTAL PAYMENT**

**\$ 10,386.00**

NH State Department of Education  
Bureau of Special Education

JUN - 6 2017

RECEIVED Initials\_\_\_\_\_



***National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.***  
*225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420, Alexandria, VA 22314*  
*Tel: 703/519-3800 Fax: 703/519-3808 [www.nasdse.org](http://www.nasdse.org)*

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Whom It May Concern

FROM: Bill East, Executive Director

DATE: June 1, 2017

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's mission is to work with state education agencies to ensure that all children and youth with disabilities receive the educational supports and services they need from birth to be prepared for post-school education, career and independent living choices.

NASDSE accomplishes its mission by establishing and maintaining relationships with those individuals and groups responsible for the development of policies, educational and other programs serving individuals with disabilities, and those responsible for implementation at the school, local district, state and national levels. NASDSE promotes leadership development through collaborative relationship building with these stakeholders based on its Leading by Convening initiative and strategies.



***National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.***

225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420, Alexandria, VA 22314

Tel: 703/519-3800 Fax: 703/519-3808 [www.nasdse.org](http://www.nasdse.org)

June 1, 2017

State Director of Special Education

On July 1, 2017 NASDSE's 2017-2018 membership year begins. These membership materials are being sent directly to you for your processing. The Board of Directors and I encourage you to make sure your state or federal jurisdiction is a member of the NASDSE organization this year. Please be reminded that in addition to your base membership, you are encouraged to also include your data manager and 619 coordinator in NASDSE's Affinity Groups for small additional fees.

NASDSE is a strong organization that has considerable visibility and influence in our nation's capital and throughout the country. We need to keep it that way. Our small staff is doing phenomenal work. Your Board of Directors is providing great leadership on your behalf. Together we are providing leadership and representing your states well in matters of policy, programs and services, while working to create the future for education services for persons with disabilities.

As you know, NASDSE is a small organization in number. To remain strong, we need all of you in the membership, not just for finances which are very important, but also for your state/jurisdiction's influence in keeping special education a very important part of general education as our nation makes changes to improve education outcomes for all children and youth.

In addition to this letter, I am providing (1) NASDSE member services document, (2) NASDSE Government Relations action agenda, (3) a 2017-2018 membership invoice, and (4) for those of you who may need it – a sole source letter. We encourage your timely action. If you need us to send the entire packet or just the invoice to someone else in your agency, we will do it. Just send me the name and contact information.

Again, remember that in addition to the basic membership fee, you have the options for adding your Data Manager and 619 Coordinator to their Affinity Groups. The invoice will provide options for adding one or both of these groups. I strongly encourage you to add these groups as they are very important to your success. Having them as part of the NASDSE family also strengthens our organization.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Theron (Bill) East, Jr.*

Theron (Bill) East, Jr., Ed.D.  
Executive Director

## 2017-18 NASDSE Member Services

State membership in the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) provides state education agency personnel with:

### I. Leadership

- A mission-driven organization with a focus on current implementation issues as well as helping states focus on the future (See NASDSE's Mission Statement in the sole source notice.
- Ongoing contact and 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), the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and other offices.
- On-going collaboration with national and state organizations that help states meet their missions through shared work, including the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), National School Boards Association (NSBA), American Association of School Administrators (AASA), National Education Association (NEA), American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).  
Collaboration with national disability organizations including the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD), the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), Easter Seals, other parent groups and special education stakeholders and national technical assistance entities.

### II. National-level representation in the development of national policy

- Board of Directors approved annual priorities for government relations work. (See attached priorities for 2017.)
- Up-to-the-minute reporting to members on matters being considered by Congress and federal agencies with opportunities for member input on NASDSE's positions
- Staff participation in a number of national coalitions working on national policy (including the Committee for Education Funding, the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, the Teaching Effectiveness Coalition, the Non-Defense Discretionary Coalition and others).

### III. On-going support for the state directors of special education and other state education agency staff

- Regular communication on critical issues and developments in the field that includes NASDSE's Executive Director's *Bill's Notes* and timely Government Relations updates from NASDSE's Director of Government Relations.
- Support for new state directors through our New Directors Academy and mentorship opportunities.
- Access to surveys of state director peers and other pertinent stakeholders that provide timely information on state issues including critical issues in the area of special education and early intervention.

- Representation by NASDSE staff on numerous advisory committees, task forces and OSEP technical assistance project advisory boards.
- Leadership and facilitation for NASDSE sponsored 7-PAK and Small States Consortium ongoing collaborations.
- Access to, and support from, NASDSE staff to address member concerns, including 'quick surveys' to gain member input into critical issues raised by members.
- Staff provides recognized national leadership in specific areas such as online learning and special education, charter schools and special education, multi-tiered systems of support, Universal Design for Learning and linkages between IDEA and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Participation in the CCSSO-sponsored special education SCASS meetings.
- NASDSE's office provides a home-away-from-home for members visiting the metropolitan DC area.
- Staff support for NASDSE's new 619 Coordinators and Part B data managers affinity groups, providing ongoing support and collaboration and meeting support.

#### **IV. Other Member Collaboration Opportunities**

- Annual conference and business meeting, along with specialized meetings for Small States Consortium, 7-PAK and affinity groups.
- Opportunity to participate in NASDSE webinars and member conference calls.
- Complimentary copies of NASDSE publications with an opportunity to purchase additional copies at a 15% discount.

#### **V. Enhanced Opportunities Through NASDSE's Optional Business Plan**

- NASDSE offers contractual services to states and other groups through its business plan options.



## *National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.*

225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420, Alexandria, VA 22314

Tel: 703/519-3800 Fax: 703/519-3808 [www.nasdse.org](http://www.nasdse.org)

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AGENDA FOR 2017

#### Action Agenda\*

- **Budget and appropriations**  
NASDSE will advocate for increased spending for all education programs and to lift the caps imposed by sequestration.
- **ESSA implementation**  
NASDSE will monitor regulations and guidance and other initiatives affecting Implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- **School choice (charter schools, vouchers)**  
NASDSE will continue to oppose private school vouchers using public funds.
- **Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act**  
NASDSE will track initiatives to reauthorize the Higher Education Act and work to resolve issues stemming from the Personnel Preparation regulations and address personnel shortages.
- **Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**  
NASDSE will circulate and promote its Principles for IDEA Reauthorization and lay the groundwork for reauthorization while continuing to work on issues related to IDEA implementation as they occur (e.g., RDA; disproportionality). NASDSE will continue to oppose piece-meal amendments to IDEA.
- **Medicaid**  
NASDSE will work to ensure Medicaid protections for families with children with disabilities.
- **Career and Tech Ed reauthorization (Perkins)**  
NASDSE will work to ensure equal access to all programs under Perkins for students with disabilities.
- **Mental Health**  
NASDSE will watch for opportunities to address mental health issues in proposed legislation and/or regulations and guidance.

#### Watch Agenda

- **Child welfare**  
NASDSE will track issues related to students with disabilities in the foster care system, particularly with respect to ESSA implementation and issues that cross-cut IDEA and the Fostering Connections Act.
- **Respite care**  
NASDSE will support reauthorization of the Respite Care Act and funding for respite care programs.
- **ADA/504 issues**  
NASDSE will work to preserve protections afforded by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

- **Technology (including accessibility issues; online learning)**  
NASDSE will continue to look for ways to address the technology needs of students with disabilities, including access to online learning and providing ongoing support to the Data Managers Affinity Group.
- **Early childhood**  
NASDSE will monitor early childhood legislation and other initiatives and continue its support for the 619 Affinity Group.
- **Implementation of WIOA**  
NASDSE will continue to look for ways to connect education entities to vocational rehabilitation as WIOA implementation moves forward.

#### **Non-Legislative Topics of Interest**

- **The impact of strict immigration policies on schools**  
NASDSE will monitor this issue.
- **Teacher shortages**  
NASDSE will continue to address the teacher shortage issue through the promotion of non-legislative initiatives and legislation, if appropriate.
- **Virtual schools and students with disabilities**  
NASDSE will continue to find appropriate venues to address our concerns about students with disabilities and online learning.
- **High expectations for students with disabilities**  
NASDSE will continue to address this issue through every appropriate opportunity
- **School Climate**  
NASDSE will track opportunities to address school climate, including discipline issues, through our School Climate Consortium and other collaborations.

\*Note: UDL issues may crop up in any legislation