
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON NGA'S IDEA WORKGROUP THAT YOU ARE CO-CHAIRING
DATE 12/26/01
CC: FILE

Fred and I have begun conversations with the NGA staff on how to proceed with the IDEA Workgroup that you are co-chairing with a designee of the Council of Chief State School Officers. The Chiefs earlier indicated that Suellen Reed, Indiana's Superintendent of Education, would serve as their co-chair, but they have not finalized all of their representatives.

Based upon a conference call of governors' staff and a meeting between NGA staff and CCSSO staff, we all agree that the following four principles should be addressed in the joint policy issued by NGA and the CCSSO: 1) accountability/individual assessment, 2) funding, 3) discipline, and 4) identification/teacher quality. At this point, NGA foresees bringing staff to DC for three meetings. The first two meetings will encompass discussion and drafting of language and the third will entail a public comment period for advocates. Due to time constraints, it is most likely that these meetings will be held during three consecutive weeks in January. I have suggested that we meet on Fridays since Tuesday-Thursday are heavy days in the session.

Fred and I made it clear to Dane Linn and Anna Lovejoy of the Center for Best Practices' staff that we need to hear from all constituencies concerned with IDEA before we start agreeing to policy language. Ray Scheppach, NGA Executive Director, would like to see the policy agreed to by the NGA Winter meeting. Fred and I want to ensure that governors' staff members have enough time to draft the language, receive input on the draft language from advocates and interest groups, and finalize the language. We have agreed to move forward with a goal of drafting the policy's general principals by the winter meeting.

At this point, NGA foresees your involvement at possibly a Governors' Only at Winter Meeting or during a joint meeting or conference call of the governors and the Chief State School Officers prior to the Winter Meeting.

Fred and I will keep you posted as to developments.