



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Federal Assistance Advisory Commission (FAAC)

GOALS AND POLICIES

Purpose

The Commission serves as an advisory group of Catholic education practitioners to the USCCB Secretariat of Catholic Education in its efforts to:

- Maximize participation by Catholic school students and teachers in federally-funded educational programs.
- To advocate on behalf of Catholic school students, teachers and administrators during reauthorization and/or revision of existing federal education programs.
- To evaluate and support proposed federal legislation that could result in positive benefits for Catholic school students and staff. To oppose any such proposals that could result in negative outcomes.
- To monitor the implementation of federal statutes, as well as the development of regulations and guidelines that affect Catholic schools, including their students and staff.

Membership

The FAAC membership shall include a geographic and educational cross section of Church leadership and shall be made up of Diocesan Superintendents, Diocesan Coordinators of Government Programs and Executive Directors, and Education Directors of State Catholic Conferences.

The USCCB Associate Director for Public Policy or a nominating committee of current members of FAAC shall recommend new members to the Executive Director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education. The USCCB Associate Director for Public Policy will extend invitations for membership.

Each member shall serve a three (3) year term beginning with the Fall Meeting. Members' terms shall be staggered, so that no more than four (4) terms will normally end at the same time. Terms may be renewed. A full Commission includes 12 to 14 members.

The USCCB Associate Director for Public Policy will be the Chair of the FAAC meetings.

The Vice Chair, elected by the members, shall serve a two (2) year term and chair the FAAC meeting in the absence of the Chair.

USCCB Staff to the FAAC

Executive Director, Secretariat of Catholic Education

Associate Director for Public Policy, responsible for the functioning of FAAC

A representative from the Office of Government Relations

A representative from the Office of General Counsel

An administrative assistant from the Secretariat of Catholic Education

Ex Officio Member of the FAAC

NCEA Director of Public Policy

Meetings:

The FAAC meets twice per academic year:

- a) One (1) full Saturday prior to the opening of the Fall NCEA Catholic Leadership Summit meeting (the “Fall Meeting”) at various sites; and
- b) Once in early Spring in Washington, D.C. (the “Spring Meeting”). The format of the Spring Meeting (conference call, meeting, advocacy event) shall be determined by the USCCB Associate Director for Public Policy.

Members are responsible for travel and lodging expenses related to the Fall Meeting.

USCCB will pay the cost of each member’s reasonable travel expenses to and from, and up to two (2) nights of lodging for, the Spring Meeting, in accordance with USCCB travel policies.

Incidental expenses will be each member’s responsibility.

The FAAC meetings are by invitation-only for Members; The USCCB Associate Director for Public Policy may invite guests/consultants to FAAC meetings to make presentations or add to the discussion of items on the meeting agenda.

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