



**MEETING WITH SENATOR WARNER'S STAFF –  
Elizabeth F. Falcone, Legislative Assistant  
Marvin B. Figueroa, Education and Commerce Fellow  
11:25 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.  
April 21, 2011  
at VFEL-VASSP Offices  
Richmond**

Representing VFEL and VASSP were VASSP President Richard Turner, VASSP Past President Dr. Carol Robinson, VASSP Past President and current VFEL Vice President Larry Lenz, VASSP Executive Director and VFEL President Dr. Randy Barrack, VASSP Director of Government Relations Elizabeth Neale, and VASSP Senior Associate Dr. Robert A. Bracey, III.

Elizabeth Falcone acknowledged that Senator Warner sees problems with NCLB, but also sees positive aspects related to accountability. He is interested in going forward in turning around failing schools. The senator is interested in school improvement growth models. The timing is critical for reauthorization of ESEA now – full-scale reauthorization.

In addressing the Administration's blueprint for ESEA reauthorization VASSP-VFEL stated that states should not be required to adopt the Common Core State Standards as a condition of either allocated or competitive funding.

Discussion ensued about "data days" and led to a question that requires follow-up by VASSP.  
**QUESTION:** What data does the federal government require that is not useful or important to improvement of instruction? What data is important/useful to administrators, teachers, etc. and is required to be collected or should be collected?

Professional development was a key topic of discussion and staff seemed interested in the role that is played by professional associations such as VASSP. Specific questions requiring follow up are:

**QUESTION:** What types of professional development opportunities need to be available to principals to help them achieve success? One area discussed was training in continuous improvement.

**QUESTION:** How can the ESEA legislation encourage/support necessary training opportunities, such as those offered by professional associations?

Measuring success and improving failing schools will be key components in any plan. Discussion included the importance of "support before sanction."

**QUESTION:** How would VASSP measure success? Turn around failing schools? Assist principals in failing schools?

In addition to providing answers to specific questions, VASSP agreed to solicit additional feedback from members and send corresponding materials such as *Virginia Principal White Paper*, *The Virginia Model for School Improvement: Profiles and Common Themes*, that would be helpful to Senator Warner's staff.