



National Association of
State Boards of Education

Benefits of NASBE Membership

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) develops, supports, and empowers citizen leaders on state boards of education to strengthen public education systems so students of all backgrounds and circumstances are prepared to succeed in school, work, and life. For more than 60 years, NASBE has been the only organization focused on state boards.

Attending Events Designed for State Boards. NASBE hosts meetings each year for board members to engage with national experts and network with peers from other states. Membership includes the following:

- two free registrations to the New Member Institute, including travel and lodging (in 2020 only, available free to all state board members on a virtual platform due to covid lockdown)
- discounted registration for NASBE's Annual Conference
- discounted registration for NASBE's Legislative Conference

Building the Knowledge and Elevating the Role of State Boards. Throughout the year, members may take advantage of opportunities to learn more about trending education topics, explore the latest research and evidence available for policymaking, learn about initiatives in other states, and share their successes with the wider membership. NASBE offerings include the following:

- special interest meetings and convenings that bring together state board members and national policy experts to examine key policy issues affecting state boards
- webinars and publications on topics of high interest to state board members
- regularly scheduled virtual "office hours" for members to join with fellow board members across the country to gain insight into shared state policy issues.

Leveraging a Trusted, Knowledgeable, and Expert Staff. At a state board's request, NASBE's team will identify best practices, share policy lessons learned from other states, and provide a national landscape on a specific issue. NASBE's team can also offer personalized support, including needs assessment, a policy audit, or a goal-setting process.

Empowering State Boards and Capacity Building. NASBE offers member boards tools and resources to enable them to create the conditions for students to achieve excellence:

- state board strategic planning
- boardsmanship
- board self-evaluation
- leading for equity and excellence

Receiving NASBE Publications. Members turn to NASBE for accurate and research-based information about the latest issues in education.

- *State Education Standard.* Our journal, written by subject-matter experts, provides cover-to-cover insight into select education policy issues of the day.

- *Education Leaders Reports* cover hot topics as well as over-the-horizon thinking on education. They provide background on policy issues, relevant research, and practical steps that the research findings imply for state policymaking.
- *State Innovations* provide concise examples of the policymaking experiences of particular state boards of education. These reports serve as a source of new ideas for other states' policymaking, contacts to enable cross-state networking on key issues, and benchmarking.
- *Policy Updates* are two-page briefs on changes in federal education policy, state policy impacts, and trends in education.
- *Power of the Question*. Questions are a powerful policy lever. These brief publications help boards know what to ask on particular policy topics on their agendas.
- *State Board Insight*. Data and trend analysis drawn directly from state boards' monthly meeting agendas and minutes.
- *Boardsmanship Reviews* offer practical ideas on how to become a better member of a state board of education.

Applying for State Stipends. On selected board issues, NASBE offers competitive grant stipends to member state boards to further their state work. Stipends may be used to cover in-state meetings, technical assistance, and board professional development.

Elevating a National Voice. As the national voice of state board members in the United States and U.S. territories, NASBE has long represented its membership on critical education issues before Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, and other federal agencies. Member states are entitled to name one individual to serve on the Government Affairs Committee, which coordinates this work, and one individual to serve on the Public Education Positions committee, which develops NASBE's policy positions to guide this work.

Conducting Executive Searches. NASBE will assist state boards that are seeking a new chief state school officer. Member states receive a substantial discount.

Supporting Affiliated Organizations. NASBE recognizes two affiliate organizations whose members do not vote for NASBE officers but are otherwise entitled to the full benefits of membership.

- The National Council of State Boards of Education Executives (NCSBEE) is the national organization serving individuals who provide administrative and other support to state boards.
- The National Council of State Education Attorneys (NCOSEA) is composed of attorneys who represent and advise state boards.

Engaging in Governance Opportunities. State boards are encouraged to nominate their members to serve on NASBE committees and the national Board of Directors.

OUR MISSION

A nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, NASBE elevates state board members' voices in national and state policymaking, facilitates the exchange of informed ideas, and supports members in advancing equity and excellence in public education for all students regardless of race, gender, or circumstance.

Contact Robert Hull, NASBE's president and CEO, at robert.hull@nasbe.org with membership questions.

"NASBE was instrumental in designing the process for evaluating our state superintendent, leading us to identify goals and metrics based on our strategic plan. The partnership with NASBE enabled us to set up an effective means of self-evaluation and holding state leadership accountable."

—Dr. John Kelly, Mississippi State Board of Education

"I am a better state board member because of the training, counsel, and interaction with NASBE. NASBE has also been a direct support to our state. The Kansas State Board of Education developed stronger relationships with our school administrators, especially those in small school districts, through activities and programs underwritten by a NASBE stipend. NASBE provides state board members with the supports necessary to meet the challenges of our times. I cannot imagine serving my state without the support and fellowship of NASBE."

—Jim McNiece, Kansas State Board of Education

"NASBE provides a wealth of benefits that stretch from top-notch, unbiased policy research to professional development and a prominent voice in shaping national education policy. More crucially, NASBE offers a forum where state education leaders from diverse regions and backgrounds can come together and not only learn from one another but create a common vision for public education and what's best for children, regardless of whether they come from rural, urban, red, blue, north, south, or even non-states like the District of Columbia. Not only is NASBE great bang for the (minimal) buck, it is an amazing group of people."

—Mary Lord, past member of the DC State Board of Education

"With the passage of ESSA, which gives states important new opportunities but also important new responsibilities in the field of public education, it is important that state boards of education remain engaged in fully understanding the changing federal landscape and also in advocating for an implementation to that new federal law that does right by all of our students across this diverse country."

—Jay Barth, member of the Arkansas State Board of Education