

The e-Brief Monthly Newsletter

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- [MABE Website](#)
- [National School Boards Association](#)
- [Maryland State Department of Education](#)
- [Maryland State Education Association](#)
- [President Obama's Education Agenda](#)

Fellow MABE members:

In this time of budget cuts, please let's not cut down on our own education. As we lead our own constituencies through the rocky shoals of common core standards, new paradigms of teacher assessment, the dismantling of maintenance of effort, and the NCLB mandates, it is more important than ever to know what is expected of us.

Our Annual Conference is planned to keep us up-to-date, help us prepare for the future, and bring us together in the fellowship of common purpose. Let's all join together and learn together in Ocean City in October.

See you soon,

Tom Carr
MABE President

[2011 Annual Conference on the Website](#)

[Conference Brochure & Online Registration](#)



Jerrelle F. Francois, 2011 Charles W. Willis Award recipient

Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners member Jerrelle F. Francois is the 2011 recipient of the Charles W. Willis award. The award, named for the first Executive Director of the MABE, is presented to a board member who has made outstanding contributions to school board service in Maryland.

Since being appointed to the board in 2005, Ms. Francois has served at various times as chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, a member of the Personnel Committee, and as Vice Chair of the Board. She has actively represented the Board through professional associations, such as MABE, NSBA, the Council of Urban Boards of Education, and the Council of Great City Schools.



Ms. Francois graduated from Morgan State University, and retired after a career in education with Baltimore City Public Schools. She currently serves as an education consultant, furthering that commitment to improving the quality of public education and is a driving force on the School Board, serving it with the fervor only the most highly engaged Board member can exhibit.

The award will be presented at the MABE Conference in October.



[Register now](#) for MABE's Annual Conference!

Don't miss the benefits of attending the state's premiere conference for school system leaders:

- Training for effective & efficient school system governance
- Sharing of best practices and latest trends in education
- Access to quality speakers and presenters
- Networking among the 24 districts board members and superintendents

Keynote Speakers



Yong Zhao is currently Presidential Chair and Associate Dean for Global Education, College of Education at the University of Oregon, where he also serves as the director of the Center for Advanced Technology in Education (CATE). He is a fellow of the International Academy for Education. His most recent book, *Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization*, is the focus of his keynote address.



Dave Reynolds, Senior Public Policy & Research Manager for the Trevor Project, will discuss the ongoing problem of bullying in schools, and how social networking sites and new media have changed the nature of bullying. Reynolds will detail ways schools can and must play a major role in curbing bullying through creating safe spaces for all students.

Workshops

In-depth two hour interactive sessions designed to focus on a specific topic challenging school system leaders today:

Wednesday:

- What Would You Do? (School Law)
- Legal Issues Regarding Immigrant and ELL Students
- A Dialogue with the Interim State Superintendent

Thursday:

- Baltimore City's Process for Labor-Management Collaboration
- The Common Core Standards: Update for Maryland School Boards
- Shifting the Paradigm for African American and Hispanic Students
- Budget & Legislation: "2012: Same Song, Second Verse"

Focus Sessions (Thursday)

- One hour session that combine information sharing with opportunities for follow-up questions and discussion:
- Audits: What Board Members Need to Know
- The Trevor Project
- Getting to the Root of Biased Based Bullying in

Hot Topics Session (Friday)

Information packed sessions, each presented in a small, informal group setting. Two sessions will be provided with several topics being repeated.

- What Counts Sessions from school systems
- Staff Evaluation in the Corporate World
- Update on the New Ethics Law
- International Parents Academy
- Contract Schools: Expanding School System Options
- Redistricting Without the Pain: The Harford Story
- New & Thru: Different Perspectives on Board Service



Board Appointments & Changes

Two new appointments to the [Harford County](#) Board of Education

New member appointed to the [Caroline County](#) Board of Education

One new appointment and one reappointment to the [Wicomico County](#) board

[Garrett County](#) board plans superintendent search

[Somerset County](#) board appoints Dr. Marjorie E. Miles as superintendent

MABE signs on with new partner

MABE's newest partner, Capella Tax Network, is a pioneer in group pre-paid tax preparation and advice services. Through Capella Tax Network™, employers of all sizes can offer their employees discounted access to a network of highly qualified, credentialed Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) for tax preparation and year-round tax advice. For more information about your district's ability to take advantage of this new opportunity from MABE, please contact Steven James, Deputy Executive Director at MABE.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2011

Media Contact: Cheryl Knauer
410-568-8808
cknauer@nevinspr.com

Entrepreneur Launches New Concept with Capella Tax Network

New Employee Benefit Offers Affordable High Quality Pre-Paid Tax Preparation and Advice Services

BALTIMORE – Employee benefit consulting veteran Larry Devitt, president and CEO, announces the launch of Capella Tax Network, a pioneer in group pre-paid tax preparation and advice services. Through Capella Tax Network™, employers of all sizes can offer their employees discounted access to a network of highly qualified, credentialed Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) for tax preparation and year-round tax advice. ([more](#))

In the News

Already read these news items? You must be a fan of MABE's Facebook page! If not, join us:

[Montgomery County](#) approves first charter school

Supporters celebrate [Grasmick's tenure](#)

Fixing [No Child Left Behind](#)

American girls sweep the [Google Science Fair](#)

Linking [teacher compensation](#) to student growth

Maryland's [Environmental Literacy](#) requirement in the news

[Prince George's County](#) "middle college" program lets students get associate's degree and diploma



NSBA webinars available to MABE members

NSBA has announced new webinars for the 2011-2012 school year. If MABE members would like to watch an archived version from last year, visit www.nsba.org/webchannelna and click on the Webinars-On-Demand logo.

School Board Power to Erase the Opportunity Gap: A Vote for Achievement

Students from financially poor families often receive less rigorous curriculum, worse-kept building facilities, and less qualified teachers and principals than middle-class peers. It doesn't have to be that way. Changing policy and practices can prompt academic gains. This session will explore no-cost solutions for school boards and suggest a tool to conduct a resource equity self-assessment.

Date: Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Time: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm EDT

Space is limited. Reserve your webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/379895672>

The Power of One: What you can do to change what is happening on Capitol Hill

Join us for a Webinar on September 21 During this webinar, the NSBA Advocacy team will discuss the latest information on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), federal funding and other education legislation efforts in Washington, D.C. NSBA's Advocacy team is working hard but your involvement is essential to our success. In addition to providing the latest "inside the beltway" information and the potential impact on your district, we will also share how you can become more involved in these discussions. There is too much at stake to be a silent observer. Your school district's voice needs to be heard loud and clear.

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Time: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM EDT Space is limited.

Reserve your Webinar Seat Now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/975286720>

System Requirements for all webinars: PC-based attendees Required: Windows® 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server Macintosh®-based attendees Required: Mac OS® X 10.5 or newer

Education Week Article

Teachers March on Washington: Education Policy Critics March on White House

Teachers and their supporters gathered near the White House on Saturday afternoon to chant, cheer, and march for a variety of changes they hope to see in public schools—most notably, a 180-degree shift away from standards- and testing-based accountability.

Aside from that message, those who attended the [Save Our Schools](#) March and National Call to Action in the scalding sun preached everything from boosting support for teachers' unions, to booting U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, to getting more federal money for low-income schoolchildren. Student poverty was repeatedly cited as the most pressing problem in public schools. ([more](#))

Rethinking Suspensions to Keep Kids Learning

By Jane Sundius and Faith Connolly

Much of the discussion about education reform today centers on increasing the time that students spend learning. Extended days, Saturday school, summer learning programs, and even year-round-school initiatives all reflect the urgency of time on task. Yet many school districts are frittering away valuable instructional time with discipline codes that literally push the most vulnerable kids out of school. ([more](#))

National School Boards Association Publications

The Edifier: What the research says about homework

Whether homework helps students—and how much homework is appropriate—has been debated for many years. Homework has been in the headlines again recently and continues to be a topic of controversy, with claims that students and families are suffering under the burden of huge amounts of homework. School board members, educators, and parents may wish to turn to the research for answers to their questions about the benefits and drawbacks of homework. Unfortunately, the research has produced mixed results so far, and more research is needed. Nonetheless, there are some findings that can help to inform decisions about homework. What follows is a summary of the research to date: ([more](#))

American School Board Journal: School Boards identify NCLB regulatory relief needed

As part of continuing efforts to urge Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to grant regulatory relief from the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to school districts, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) recently surveyed school district leaders to determine the specific waivers that would be most useful. ([more](#))

Board Buzz: Late graduates to be counted

It took awhile but states will finally be able to count those students who take longer than four years to earn a high school diploma (late graduates) as graduates through a common graduation rate formula that all states must use starting this summer. ([more](#))

The Center for Public Education: Building a better evaluation system

The push to change teacher evaluation systems, and especially to include statistical measures of teachers' effect on student learning, is here. In 2005, 13 states were able to link teachers to their students' performance data; in 2010, 35 states were able to do so and the number is expected to grow. The Obama administration's Race to the Top effort urged states and districts to use this teacher-student link in teacher evaluations in order to be eligible for grants. In response, 17 states reportedly changed their evaluation systems to improve their chances of receiving RTTT funds. ([more](#))

From the NSBA Newsroom

NSBA: Before the School Year Begins, Schools Need Regulatory Relief

Alexandria, Va. (July 22, 2011) – With the short time before the start of the 2011-12 school year, and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's recent announcement that he intends to offer waivers from certain Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) regulations in exchange for reforms, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) is [urging Duncan](#) to take this opportunity to eliminate ineffective regulations that are flawed, costly, and ineffective rather than to impose a lengthy, time-consuming and complicated state application process that would mandate new reforms on local school districts that may not be manageable. ([more](#))

NSBA: Federal Investment in K-12 Education is Crucial for America's Success

Alexandria, Va. (August 1, 2011) – Addressing the plan to reduce federal spending, the National School Boards Association's (NSBA) Executive Director Anne L. Bryant issued this statement: "NSBA lauds Congress' action to address the nation's debt ceiling and begin steps towards a deficit reduction plan.

"While our nation rises to meet the fiscal demands and budgetary challenges of today's economy, our local school districts remain committed to raising student achievement to ensure America's economic recovery and long-term global competitiveness. When our students succeed, our communities, states, and nation also thrive. ([more](#))