

Policy Area: Committees	Bylaws: V. A.
Title of Policy: Legislative Committee	Number of pages: 3
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- I. **Policy Statement:** The Committee’s mission is to support our member boards by maintaining contact with legislators and their staff, MSDE, PSSAM, MACo, and the State Board of Education.

- II. **Rationale or background to policy:** In order for the Association to be prepared to respond to the dynamic nature of the legislative process, the Legislative Committee will meet throughout the year as needed to discuss and develop positions on education issues.

- III. **Procedures:** The Legislative Committee is comprised of a local board member from each member board. The Chair and Vice Chair of the committee are appointed by the President annually.
 - A. The Legislative Committee will develop and adopt legislative positions each year as a guide for lobbying during the annual legislative session.
 - B. The Association’s *Continuing Resolutions* will be reflected in the work of the Committee under normal circumstances. The Board of Directors and Executive Committee will have final discretion as to any deviation from existing positions and Continuing Resolutions.
 - C. The Committee’s positions shall be determined by a sixty (60) percent majority vote of the members present, but in no case fewer than eight (8) member votes. The votes of individual local boards shall remain confidential.
 - D. The Committee should strive to reach sufficient consensus and adopt advocacy strategies that reflect the degree of consensus achieved.
 - E. The selection of specific advocacy strategies in support of any legislative position is at the direction of the Chair with the assistance of the Association staff.
 - F. The positions, while advisory to the Board of Directors, will be considered the official positions of the Association. However, the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, exercising their statewide perspective and Association specific focus, reserve the prerogative to review and amend particular positions should circumstances warrant and time allow.
 - G. The Committee is responsible to consider the diversity of LEAs in size, population, finances, and special needs as it crafts legislative positions.

- H. When appropriate, the Committee will initiate legislation, upon majority vote and sufficient consensus, to be considered or sponsored by the Association.
- I. The Chair will provide periodic status reports to the Board of Directors and seek its guidance and approval for legislative positions as appropriate.

IV. Operations:

- A. Board members shall remain on the Committee until replaced by their local board.
- B. For purpose of holding a meeting or conducting business other than voting on legislative positions, no quorum is required.
- C. Local district staff is encouraged to attend as a resource to the Committee and may participate fully in all deliberation but shall not vote.

V. Duties and Responsibilities of members:

- A. Each member board will provide the name of their representative and alternate each July to the MABE office. Members and alternates are appointed for one year with no term limit as determined by their board; thereby ensuring consistent and active local board participation.
- B. Only one member from each board may vote on legislative issues.
- C. Each member is responsible for reporting back to their local board and representing the local board's interest in legislative issues.
- D. Each member shares responsibility for components of the lobbying process, such as letter writing, telephoning, or testifying at legislative hearings.

VI. The MABE Director of Governmental Relations will:

- A. Provide staff support to the Committee.
- B. Actively advocate the position of the Association.
- C. Take positions or no positions on legislation on behalf of member boards when deemed appropriate.
- D. Provide member boards with balanced information that includes potential implications of legislative positions.
- E. Provide multiple opportunities to local boards through their representative to receive and share information on issues.
- F. Provide assistance in identifying and in following legislative issues throughout the session.
- G. Shall lobby the approved position on normal legislation. When critical issues arise, the Executive Director shall immediately notify the Association President and Committee Chair and initiate an agreed upon communication process to alert and inform Committee members and local boards.
- H. Will liaise with other LEA legislative staff, PSSAM, and MNS through the Green Street Coalition.

- I. Will ensure that the adopted legislative positions are promptly posted on the Association website.
- J. Will produce a weekly GreenSheet, during the General Assembly Session and other times as required, and it will be distributed to:
 1. Legislative Committee
 2. Board of Directors
 3. LEA Board Chairs/Presidents
 4. LEA Superintendents
 5. All Local Board Members
 6. Other Education Partners
 7. Other Interested Parties