Providing members with a strong collective voice and supporting local school board governance through professional development, advocacy and member services.
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to serving and supporting boards of education in Maryland.

We have been a leading advocate for Maryland public education since 1957 and currently all 24 Maryland boards of education are active members.

There are five entities within MABE which have their own board of directors or trustees who work together to fulfill our mission and vision, and to implement the Strategic Plan.

"For MABE, educational equity in Maryland means providing access to essential academic, social, emotional, and economic supports in order to engage each student in rigorous instruction with appropriate educational resources to achieve their highest potential."

- MABE’s Definition of Educational Equity January 2018
Core Values

MABE’s core values are integral to who we are and how we work. They are the guiding principles by which we conduct ourselves as we seek to fulfill our mission.

- We serve public school boards above all else.
- We champion local governance.
- We create collaborative relationships.
- We value the diversity that enriches our school communities.
- We champion educational equity and excellence for each student.
- We are a safe place to learn, laugh, share, and network.

Goals

Professional Development

We provide the skills and knowledge required for our members to become effective leaders engaged in governance that promotes excellent public schools for all of Maryland’s children.

Advocacy

We serve our members by being advocates for public schools, for local control of education, and for the leadership and legal authority of school boards.

Member Services

We provide value-added services that enhance the efficiency and capability of school system governance, management, and operations.
MABE believes that excellence in the classroom begins with excellence in the boardroom.

Our goal for professional development is to promote student achievement and effective local governance of schools by ensuring that all school board members understand the NSBA Key Work Model for effective school board leadership.

To achieve that, MABE offers comprehensive training for new and experienced members, and for individuals and boards as a whole, through the annual conference, leadership programs, workshops, and retreats.
Board Service Academy
The Board Service Academy is a series of workshops for board members and their local staff on current topics such as legislation, the work of the State Board and parliamentary procedure.

Leadership Program
After completing the first year of board service, members have the opportunity for comprehensive continuing education through MABE’s Board Leadership Program. This program provides members with the next level of knowledge and skills necessary to govern effectively.

New Board Member Orientation
This program is designed to teach the essentials of school governance, enabling new members to quickly assume an active role in school board decision making. Orientation introduces the Key Work of School Boards and immerse members in the basics of school law, policy, finance, advocacy, and more.

Annual Conference
Once a year MABE brings all local board members together for three days of professional development, break out sessions, and networking opportunities.
MABE strives to be the primary voice for public education in Annapolis. The unity of 24 local boards of education lends strength to our influence in the legislative process.

MABE services include lobbying representation before Maryland’s State Board of Education, General Assembly, and Congressional Delegation, and regularly distributes publications to inform and involve local boards of education in the legislative process.
Annapolis Advocacy Center

MABE’s Legislative Committee holds monthly meetings to guide the association’s lobbying activities in Annapolis, and invites policy and legislative leaders to exchange ideas. The Director of Governmental Relations, and MABE leadership, conducts direct lobbying activities including testimony before the General Assembly.

MABE annually adopts a Legislative Positions publication, publishes the Education Advocate legislative newsletter, provides bill tracking and testimony online during the legislative session, and publishes and presents summaries of the legislative session.

State Board Advocacy Center

MABE monitors and advocates on behalf of local boards before the Maryland State Board of Education and Maryland State Department of Education on myriad policy and regulatory issues. MABE frequently informs the State Board of the association’s positions on priority issues through testimony, correspondence, and meetings. In addition, MABE leadership and other local board members representing MABE routinely participate on state workgroups, task forces, and commissions.

Federal Advocacy Center

MABE’s Federal Relations Network (FRN) Committee meets throughout the year to discuss pending issues and coordinate meetings on Capitol Hill. The committee is comprised of board members appointed to represent the association in advocating the positions of MABE and the National School Boards Association (NSBA) to Maryland’s federal delegation.

MABE representatives also attend the annual NSBA Advocacy Institute in Washington D.C., and participate in the “Day on the Hill” congressional visits.
The Legal Services Association (LSA) was established in 1984 to supplement the legal services available to local boards of education through education, representation, and advocacy.
Information
The Maryland Law Deskbook is a concise and accessible guide written by experienced education law attorneys, and published by LexisNexis in cooperation with MABE. It offers current and authoritative information on legal issues facing schools within the context of state and federal education law.

Seminar Series
Each year LSA hosts a variety of seminars for local school staff, lawyers, and board members. These are offered free of charge for LSA members. Past seminars have included:

- Special Education Law
- First Amendment Issues
- Religion in Schools
- Search & Seizure

Representation
LSA provides members an approved list of law firms specializing in the areas of personnel and special education. Additionally, LSA maintains a litigation support fund to help local boards financially in cases of statewide importance.

Advocacy
Amicus Curiae, or “friend of the court” briefs, are filed on behalf of member boards of education in cases of statewide importance. LSA also presents testimony in Annapolis and before the State Board of Education regarding the legal implications of proposed legislation or regulations.
MABE keeps members and the public informed on key education issues through various publications, handbooks, special reports, and the website. Email alerts and updates are also sent to our members on issues that need immediate attention.

**Member Services Publications**

In addition to regular publications, MABE has other resources available throughout the year for members. This includes:

- **Advocacy Toolkit**—a portable guide to assist with lobbying efforts
- **Membership Brochure**—this booklet outlines the value of MABE membership
- **Partnership Services Brochure**—an outline of services and products available through companies partnering with MABE
- **What Counts**—outlines MABE’s communication engagement program
- **Annual Directory**—an annual publication that lists members, associates, committees, and affiliates
**MABE Brief**

The MABE Brief is sent out electronically on an as needed basis to keep our members informed of association and member news, news from the state and federal levels, and links to articles of interest for education leaders.

**The Education Advocate**

During the legislative session, the Education Advocate is sent each week to assist in keeping members informed on what is going on in Annapolis.

**The Monitor**

The Monitor is a monthly electronic summary of the Maryland State Board of Education meetings.

**Maryland School Law Deskbook**

The Maryland School Law Deskbook is a concise and accessible guide written by experienced education law attorneys and published by LexisNexis in cooperation with MABE. It offers current and authoritative information on legal issues facing schools within the context of state and federal education law. This publication is available for purchase through the LexisNexis Bookstore.

**Stand Up for Maryland Public Education**

MABE has joined NSBA’s Stand Up 4 Public Schools campaign to support public education. Along with weekly shareable social media facts about Maryland public education, a monthly electronic infographic is sent.
MABE offers a variety of programs and publications that help engage board members, staff, educators, and the community as a whole.

Programs for Local Boards

Programs for boards of education are designed as opportunities for local boards to experience training as a team and are generally conducted in the members’ school district. These programs can include:

- Board retreats
- Key Work of School Boards
- Vision Building
- Board Operations
What Counts? Forum

*What Counts* asks citizens – parents, students, community members, governmental and business leaders – their perception of the local public schools, what about them is important, and what should count when assessing their productivity and success. This sampling of the public’s perception yields data valuable to boards and staff in moving forward with continuous improvement and student achievement.

Candidate Information Session

In support of our commitment to quality leadership for Maryland’s public schools, MABE has developed a Candidate Information Session to help school and community leaders inform school board candidates. Customized for the school system and held locally, these sessions provide candidates with information on the following topics:

- Overview of school boards & members in the state & nation
- Board member duties, roles, & responsibilities
- The Board – Superintendent Relationship
- Characteristics of effective board members

Superintendent Search Services

MABE offers superintendent search services at a cost well below private search firms and specific to the needs of Maryland boards of education. Local school boards will work with a search consultant to plan and execute a thoughtful, responsive, and fair search process, minimize the possibility of legal challenges resulting from procedural flaws, and ultimately identify the best leader for their school system.
MABE manages two self-funded insurance programs that provide members affordable Property & Casualty and Workers’ Compensation Coverage. Our primary goal is to support public education by providing effective risk management services to best handle the assets of members and to avoid losses. In the event of a loss, we provide cost effective claims services.

Insurance Programs

In addition to the Workers’ Compensation Fund and the Group Insurance Pool, MABE has other programs to assist local schools provide services to their staff and students. This includes:

- **Flexible Spending Program** – Employees can set aside funds tax free, to pay for uncovered medical & child care expenses.
- **Group Term Life Insurance** – A group life insurance program with benefits such as Basic Life Insurance, Supplemental Life Insurance & Accidental Death & Dismemberment for employees of the participating school systems.
- **Student Accident Coverage** – For very reasonable rates, parents have the option of purchasing different levels of coverage for medical expenses should their child be injured in an accident.
- **Catastrophic Coverage** – Provides the participating school systems with coverage for the payment of medical & other expenses incurred from catastrophic paralyzing injuries.
Workers’ Compensation Fund

Established in 1984 with 17 members, the Workers’ Compensation Fund provides statutorily required workers’ compensation coverage for all employees of the member school systems, should they suffer compensable work related injuries. We strive to ensure that injured workers are returned to work when possible, and they receive all reasonable and necessary medical care.

The Fund is governed by a Board of Trustees, one from each member and four named by MABE. The Trustees operate under terms of the Trust and Indemnity Agreement and Bylaws. The Trust engages MABE to provide Administrative Services for the Fund.

Group Insurance Pool

Founded in 1986 and with 17 members, the Group Insurance Pool provides casualty or liability coverage for claims made by third parties against members, such as a parent tripping and falling on a sidewalk. It also provides property coverage against losses to the member’s owned physical property such as damage to a school caused from a lightning strike or a fire.

The Pool is governed by a Board of Trustees, one from each member and four named by MABE. The Trustees operate under the terms of the Trust and Indemnity Agreement and Bylaws. The Pool’s coverage terms are described in the Scopes of Coverage which are tailored to provide coverage needed by the members.

OPEB Pooled Investment Trust

A post—retirement health and welfare benefits as required by the Government Accounting Standards Board Statement 45.
MABE offers numerous opportunities for businesses wishing to connect with Maryland school member boards, show their support for public education, and participate in the programs and activities of MABE.
Affiliates Program

Affiliates are able to reach key decision makers with information about products and services through our publications, website, sponsorships opportunities, and conference exhibit hall.

Affiliates are:
- Listed in the MABE Directory
- Listed in the Annual Conference Program
- Listed on the MABE website with a link to their website

Affiliates receive:
- The MABE Directory of school systems & members
- Publications including legislative updates, event invites, & news releases
- Access to key decision makers in Maryland public school systems

Sponsorship Opportunities

MABE's primary sponsorship opportunity is during Annual Conference. Opportunities include sponsoring speakers, meals, and promotional items. Benefits are based on sponsorship levels.

Partnership Services

MABE partners with select companies, providing member districts with services that enable them to operate more efficiently, offer benefits to staff, or generate revenue. MABE Partnership Services contribute to the mission of serving and supporting Maryland boards of education.
The MABE staff brings an array of skills and educational background to the organization. As passionate public education advocates, we are available to assist as needed.

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