

School Board Member Professional Development

(Adopted 1991; re-adopted 1994, 1997; amended 2000, 2002, 2004;
re-adopted 2007, 2010; amended 2013, 2016, 2019)

WHEREAS, ensuring the highest quality of educational services by the public school systems requires a continuing comprehensive program of professional development for teachers and administrators; and

WHEREAS, effective governance of public school systems also requires a continuing comprehensive program of professional development for school board members, and

WHEREAS, effective governance and administration of public school systems requires diligent adherence to the letter and the spirit of state and local ethics laws and procedures by board members and staff; and

WHEREAS, professional development for school board members should focus on leadership development and the key work and actions of school boards designed to promote student achievement and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the key work of school boards focuses on leadership for higher levels of student achievement, and the key actions of school boards include developing and supporting a vision, standards, assessment, accountability, alignment, climate, collaborative relationships, and continuous improvement; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA) provide ongoing professional development programs for school board members focused on the key work and actions of school boards; and

WHEREAS, the professional development programs and services provided by MABE include:

- Board Service Academy seminars;
- Leadership and Advanced Leadership programs;
- The Master Board Program;
- New Board Member Orientation;
- Board retreats;
- Legal Services Association (LSA) seminars;
- The Annual Conference; and
- Other ad hoc meetings; and

WHEREAS, the professional development programs and services provided by the NSBA include:

- The Annual Conference;
- The Annual Leadership Conference;
- The Northeast Regional Meeting;
- The Annual Presidents' Retreat;

- The Annual Advocacy Institute; and
- The Annual Equity Symposium;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MABE strongly encourages local boards of education to participate in ongoing professional development through MABE and other providers designed to help school board members provide the leadership needed to ensure quality public education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that individual board members be strongly encouraged to develop a continuing professional development plan based on a personal needs analysis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each local board of education is strongly encouraged to develop a local policy affirming the importance of ongoing professional development that is integral to individual roles and responsibilities for board members as well as for staff.