



2017 STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

NSBA IS



the leading

Advocate for Public Education

Working with and through our state associations, NSBA advocates for equity and excellence in public education through school board leadership. We believe education is a civil right necessary to the dignity and freedom of the American people, and all children should have equal access to an education that maximizes his or her individual potential.

Since 1940, NSBA has been a powerful advocate for children in public schools, and today there are more than 50 million students who can count on the association to be their champion. Indeed, we continue to vigorously advocate within the administration, on Capitol Hill, and in the state and federal courts, and support those efforts with a robust effort to influence public opinion about the universal right of children to receive a high-quality public education.

As a vitally important issue that requires more dialogue, ideas, and action, NSBA made a commitment in its Strategic Plan to focus on improving equity in education. A key component of the Plan includes providing specific equity programming for the nation's 90,000 school board members, who belong to the state school boards associations, as well as to their superintendents and other administrators.

Today, one out of every six Americans will spend their day in a public school. There are more employees working in K-12 public education than the five largest American companies combined. This year, our nation will invest more than \$650 billion in public education. School board members are dedicated private citizens who assume the leadership responsibility for this massive investment of human and financial resources. More importantly, they assume responsibility for our nation's future as public schools prepare children to be America's next generation of business and civic leaders.

NSBA is increasing its efforts to empower school board members to meet the challenges of their leadership role so they can continue increasing student achievement and improving the lives of their students and enriching their communities. Whether it is the technical knowledge necessary to keep our schools running efficiently or the information to ensure our schools are preparing students for college and career readiness, NSBA and its state associations offer the tools and resources school board members need as the guardians of public education.



Message From Thomas J. Gentzel, NSBA Executive Director and CEO



NSBA produced another successful year by advancing our vision for public education and increasing our support for state associations.

Using our full array of legislative, legal, and communications tools, NSBA shaped federal education policy, raised public awareness of the successes—and the challenges—of our public schools, and championed the mission of public education.

NSBA also served and supported state school boards associations, including partnering and engaging with state leaders on board training, education research, and state and federal advocacy.

This past year has seen NSBA move forward on a number of fronts:

- Expanding and intensifying our advocacy efforts in Congress, federal agencies, and the courts.
- Influencing the implementation of the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA) to ensure that state and federal policymakers respect appropriate roles for local governance.
- Identifying and delivering key services and new resources to our state associations, including developing technical assistance and providing training on ESSA.
- Enhancing our communications and engagement with state association leaders.
- Strengthening our media relations efforts to put forward the facts—and dispel misinformation—about public schools as well as further establishing NSBA as a thought leader.
- Improving the financial stability of NSBA so it has the resources to continue its important work.

In this report, you'll learn more about specific initiatives and achievements of the past year to shape and impact the conversation about public education so all children have access to a great education, and to serve the state associations in their vital role.

I am privileged to work with the smart and creative people throughout NSBA and on our Board, and I enthusiastically look forward to continuing our worthy mission in the coming year.

Message from Miranda A. Beard, 2016-17 NSBA President



NSBA's legislative, legal, and public advocacy efforts are stronger than ever before. I have been honored to serve as president of this great organization.

Nothing is more important to our future than the learning and teaching that takes place in our K-12 public schools. The positive impact of a quality education stretches from each child to the neighborhoods and communities they live in—and to our nation as a whole.

Our public schools are more successful today than at any time in U.S. history, but more still needs be done, particularly for our struggling schools and our nation's historically underrepresented and underserved students. NSBA stands poised to counter any challenges that attempt to impede our path.

As school leaders, we are in a position to give our children hope today for a better tomorrow, and it all begins at the board table, where the tone is set for our districts. Each and every student deserves the chance to succeed regardless of his or her racial or socioeconomic background. I thank you leaders for your sacrifice and work to raise academic achievement through more equitable learning opportunities for all students.

I believe the future of America's public education system is bright—as bright as the possible future of each student in our public schools. The children in our classrooms are counting on us to prepare them for the world outside the classroom, and they deserve nothing less than our very best.

Message from Kevin E. Ciak, 2017-18 NSBA President



As I become NSBA's 70th President, concerns regarding the future of public education in the context of our country's political landscape have never been more real. Through our legislative, legal, and public advocacy efforts, NSBA will confront these challenges head on to promote and guard the birthright of a free, appropriate, public education for every child in our nation.

Public education holds the promise of enriching and improving children's lives, preserving and perpetuating the democratic ideals under which our country was founded, and ultimately powering the economic future of our nation. School leaders recognize the value, potential, and uniqueness of each student and are in the best position to help ensure their needs are addressed. Children entering kindergarten this year will be the Class of 2030. We must ask ourselves: What are we doing, now, to prepare them to live productive and rewarding lives?

At the heart of public education are America's 90,000 school board members, who play a vital role in advancing student achievement, closing the achievement gap, and celebrating and sharing the remarkable achievements of our nation's public schools. In the year ahead, NSBA, together with our partner state associations, will ensure that public education continues to serve as a beacon of hope to guide the students in our schools today and those of generations to come.



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Working to shape and strengthen our nation's federal education policy

NSBA's advocacy efforts spring from the conviction that the education of our public school children must be the nation's top priority. NSBA is committed to ensuring that the local school board voice is heard in every public policy forum in which education decisions are made or influenced. We take very seriously our role as the Washington, D.C. office of our state association members.

Ensuring Adherence to ESSA Implementation

Since passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), NSBA has engaged in extensive consultations with members of Congress, congressional staff, and the U.S. Department of Education to help shape the rules and regulations that will guide implementation of the new federal law.

This is an incredibly important task. ESSA, as the

replacement legislation for the ambitious, if flawed, No Child Left Behind Act, will influence how federal education policy impacts the everyday decisions of school boards and administrators for years to come.

One priority for NSBA in this implementation process is to ensure that regulators adhere to ESSA's legislative mandate to reverse decades of federal overreach in K-12 education policy—and issue regulations that return more policy decisions to the state and local level.

NSBA also is encouraging federal officials to ensure that funding is not diverted from serving the needs of disadvantaged students.

For example, NSBA's federal advocacy staff met with officials of the Office of Management and Budget and the Domestic Policy Council, and also filed public comments with the U.S. Department of Education, to express concerns with proposed regulations that will

interpret how federal funds must supplement, not supplant, state and local funds.

NSBA devoted extensive efforts to informing state associations about these developments, through numerous conference calls, webinars, and written materials. We also provided templates to enable state associations to easily and quickly submit their own comments on proposed rulemaking.

Engaging a New Administration

In the months following last year's presidential election, NSBA's advocacy staff met with members of then-President-elect Donald Trump's education transition team to share NSBA priorities on federal education policy.

In an effort to help the new administration understand the policy challenges ahead, NSBA also submitted a memorandum to the transition team detailing key policy issues to consider on ESSA implementation, child nutrition, career and technical education, and education funding priorities—and expressed NSBA's strong opposition to vouchers and other proposals that would divert funds from public schools.

Attention also was devoted to the new Congress. NSBA staff met with members and staff of the House and Senate education committees to discuss legislative priorities for the coming year. NSBA also submitted recommendations to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions regarding issues to discuss during the confirmation hearing for Betsy DeVos, President Trump's then-nominee for U.S. Education Secretary.

The advocacy efforts of NSBA were bolstered in January when NSBA hosted a landmark NSBA/National School Boards Action Center (NSBAC) event for the inauguration, "Public Agenda for Education," featuring remarks by NSBA Executive Director and

CEO Thomas J. Gentzel and a briefing on NSBA's advocacy agenda, followed by a panel of national experts on education policy.

The event showcased NSBA as the leading advocate for public education, and provided for the discussion of important topics with five other representatives from education think tanks and organizations. It was the first in what is expected to be periodic "thought leader" sessions NSBA will conduct to increase its exposure in the nation's capital and to ensure that the voice of school boards is heard by policymakers, the news media, and the public.

In addition, more than 700 school board members and state association leaders participated in January's Advocacy Institute, when state and local education leaders visited Washington, D.C., to learn more about the policy issues being debated in the nation's capital—and school board members went to Capitol Hill to reinforce NSBA's policy ideas in face-to-face meetings with members of Congress and their staffs.

Education Investments

NSBA, in conjunction with NSBAC, rallied thousands of school board members to send messages to members of Congress urging passage of a final appropriations bill that sustains federal investments in education.

NSBA is supporting legislative proposals to increase funding by \$2 billion for Title I, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and new Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants.

Education Technology

NSBA coordinated with E-rate supporters in Congress, the Federal Communications Commission, and other national organizations to bolster support for the E-rate program.

NSBA also participated in planning the advocacy efforts of the Education and Libraries Network

Coalition (EdLiNC), a coalition of national organizations that is promoting legislation and regulatory efforts to close the “homework gap,” the lack of home internet access among poorer students that undermines their ability to complete work and maintain their academic progress.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

NSBA advocated for CTE legislation based on the proposed Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, a bill that passed the House of Representatives but failed to make it into law.

To bolster its argument that legislative action is needed, the advocacy staff circulated research provided by NSBA’s Center for Public Education that underscores the value of CTE programs in K-12 schools.

National School Boards Action Center (NSBAC):

This independent, yet allied, organization continued its advocacy on behalf of public education and school board leadership. NSBAC expanded its roster of grassroots advocates, its “Friends of Public Education”,

to more than 16,000 concerned citizens and education leaders and increased its social media engagement by nearly 50 percent.

Center for Public Education (CPE): The research arm of NSBA supported school board advocacy efforts with the publication of numerous research reports providing evidence in support of the legislative goals of NSBA. Among those reports:

- “School Segregation Then & Now: How to Move Toward a More Perfect Union” looked at the state of segregation and integration in public schools.
- “Career and Technical Education: Building New Pathways into the Labor Market” examined today’s CTE programs and updated CPE’s previous groundbreaking study of this important education issue.
- “Fixing the Holes in the Teacher Pipeline” reviewed the problem of teacher shortages at the state and local levels and offered insight into “best practices” in teacher preparation, recruitment, and retention.



LEGAL ADVOCACY

The legal voice for public schools

NSBA's legal advocacy team is nationally recognized for its expertise in school law and issues related to public employment.

Over the past decade, NSBA has filed more amicus curiae (“friend of the court”) briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court and federal appellate courts than all other major national education organizations combined. The credibility of NSBA is such that its opinions are regularly cited by the Supreme Court.

Speaking to the Courts

Six legal briefs were filed in the past year in support of public school boards and public education. Among those:

Andrew F. v. Douglas County School District RE-1—A case to determine the level of educational benefits that school districts must provide to children with disabilities—and under what circumstances parents can enroll a child in private school and seek reimbursement.

Gloucester County School Board v. G.G.— A case to determine whether a government agency can reinterpret regulations and statutory language that affect a school district—without providing stakeholders notice of proposed new regulations and the opportunity to comment on such changes.

This latter case is just one of many efforts in which NSBA's legal advocacy program provides a consistent challenge to federal agencies that seek, by regulatory fiat, to make policy decisions that rightfully belong to local school leaders.

Providing Legal Guides for School Boards

An important goal of NSBA's legal advocacy effort is to provide school attorneys and their school boards with the information they need to navigate the complex legal issues of the day. This past year, a number of valuable legal guides have been published:



- “Transgender Students in Schools” continues to be an often cited, frequently updated online resource for school boards and their communities that examines the legal landscape associated with educating transgender students. First issued in March 2016, the guide avoids one-size-fits-all legal advice for what are sensitive and complex social and legal issues.
- “Data Security for Schools” offers school boards information to ensure their districts have sound policies and practices in place to protect all the data created, collected, and stored as part of school operations and to respond appropriately in the event of a data breach.

Council of School Attorneys (COSA): The mission of COSA is to support school attorneys in their representation of school boards and in their legal advocacy on behalf of public education. To that end, COSA works to create opportunities for professional development and to provide technical information and practical assistance to attorneys.

Highlights:

- A monthly “Inquiry & Analysis” newsletter that includes in-depth issue discussions, information on legal seminars, and important action alerts on timely legal matters.
- “Legal Clips” is COSA’s definitive compilation and analytical summary of key court cases, “hot button” legal issues, and news stories. It recently has been upgraded to a premium offering available by subscription only.
- The 2016 School Law Seminar, meeting this year

in conjunction with NSBA’s annual conference in Denver, includes programming on such issues as video-email use in schools, services for students with autism, religious accommodations, superintendent contracting, serving LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) students, handling community dissent, and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

- The 2016 School Law Practice Seminar in Portland, Oregon, included topics such as working with law enforcement, the reauthorization of IDEA, updated advice on data privacy, and applying religious freedom, nondiscrimination, and accommodation standards for Muslim students and staff.
- School law webinars offered this year by COSA examined legal issues surrounding transgender students, special education, student data privacy, school resource officers, mental health issues, and teacher discipline.

Such services have helped COSA grow to more than 3,100 members and add Indiana as the organization’s 38th affiliated state association.

COSA’s Golden Anniversary: This year marks a major milestone for COSA: 50 years of excellence and leadership in legal advocacy for public schools.

This year’s School Law Seminar is spotlighting the anniversary with special programming and a retrospective look at school law topics and how COSA has helped shape the law. A 50th anniversary logo and specialized publications for the celebration have been designed.



PUBLIC ADVOCACY

Promoting the story of public education and supporting members

NSBA employs a range of communications and marketing activities to strategically engage the media, the public, policymakers, policy influencers, and education groups to advance the association’s mission —advocating for public education and supporting our members so they can achieve their goals.

We continue to leverage the power of our ideas and communications capabilities to enhance our brand, strengthen our thought leadership, foster connections, and motivate people to action. And, we will extend our advocacy efforts to generate support for America’s public schools.

Leveraging the Power of the Press

NSBA’s use of public policy statements, press releases, interviews, and research reports are essential tools to generate awareness and support for NSBA’s key initiatives and points of view. The past year saw NSBA

make great strides in delivering its message through top-tier media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, National Public Radio, and CNN.com

In December, for example, *The Atlantic Online*—a popular online news site with a monthly audience of 33 million—interviewed NSBA Executive Director and CEO Thomas J. Gentzel as part of an article on the future of the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights under the Trump administration.

In its pursuit of national media coverage, NSBA also took advantage of the potential outreach available through state and local news outlets. For example, we distributed to news outlets in communities nationwide a NSBA press release about its amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in a case dealing with special education services to increase coverage at the local level.

NSBA also attracted significant attention to public education policy issues during the presidential campaign when it secured coverage in *USA Today* and newspapers in more than a dozen states of NSBA-hosted receptions at the Democratic and Republican national conventions.

Serving as a Thought Leader

NSBA used major media platforms to enhance its position as a thought leader. It was a regular contributor of opinion pieces to the Huffington Post, which is among the nation's largest media platforms, on topics as far-ranging as charter school fraud and waste, the progress of public schools, and the paucity of education policy ideas being discussed by last year's presidential candidates.

NSBA also worked with national education organizations to bring public attention to a number of timely education issues, including the harassment at school of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students and the need for policymakers to expand career and technical education programs.

Capitalizing on Social Media

Nearly two-thirds of Americans get some of their news on social media, and NSBA made it a priority to expand its messaging through its digital properties to broaden its reach and enhance its impact.

Driven by a strategic content plan, NSBA now has more than 22,000 followers on Twitter, including U.S. senators; state representatives; state departments of education; national education organizations and associations; superintendents and educators; education journalists, bloggers, and editors; and advocates for public education. The number of people following NSBA on Facebook also has increased to more than 5,100.

Refreshing Stand Up 4 Public Schools

No day is "ordinary" in public education. If anything,

each day is notable for any number of amazing success stories in our nation's schools—stories of students who flourish academically and teachers who go well above and beyond the job to educate our most challenged youth.

These are stories that need to be told. That's why NSBA's Stand Up 4 Public Schools campaign is embracing a new concept that is the focal point of the refreshed campaign: There is "No Ordinary Day" in our public schools.

In the past, the Stand Up campaign featured well-known public figures who explained how their public school experiences helped prepare them for later success. Among those who shared their stories: basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson, television celebrity Montel Williams, and teacher-turned-astronaut Barbara Morgan.

This year will see the campaign focus on unique and uplifting stories of everyday students and teachers in schools across the nation, a mosaic of all the extraordinary teaching and learning that takes place every day.

These stories will enhance public awareness of the good work occurring in our public schools and, at the same time, debunk the message of detractors who falsely claim that public education is failing and lacks the ability to find creative and innovative solutions to the challenges facing many American schoolchildren.

Marketing Events and Ideas

The Marketing and Creative Services Department oversaw the development of advocacy and marketing materials designed to bolster our advocacy initiatives and participation at every NSBA conference, including Annual Conference and Advocacy Institute, as well as raising awareness about equity issues and data privacy.

In partnership with Honeywell, NSBA launched the Clean, Green and Safe Schools initiative to provide

school board members with information they can use to provide a healthy and safe environment for students, teachers, administrators, and visitors.

A number of videos also were produced to support NSBA's advocacy efforts, such as a video of NSBA Executive Director and CEO Thomas J. Gentzel discussing issues of school equity that is available on YouTube—and a video featuring teacher-turned-astronaut Barbara Morgan, a project that won a Bronze Telly Award at the 37th Annual Telly Awards.

American School Board Journal (ASBJ): As a major source of information on school board governance, ASBJ devoted its energies to a series of articles on such topics as environmentally responsible schools, improving student health services, preschool services in rural communities, improving school disciplinary policies, and

closing the “homework gap”—the lack of home internet access among poorer students.

ASBJ was honored with two 2016 EXCEL Awards from Association Media and Publishing. One award was presented for “Mission: Space,” a profile of teacher-turned-astronaut Barbara Morgan; the other for “Comeback Season,” which examined a New Jersey school district recovering from a hazing scandal in its football program.

The April 2017 issue of ASBJ highlights successful and innovative school district programs across the nation, with award winners honored at the School Leaders Luncheon at this year’s Annual Conference in Denver. The three grand-prize winners of NSBA’s Magna Awards program each receive a \$5,000 prize from Sodexo.



MEMBER SERVICES

Connecting with and serving NSBA members

As a federation of state school boards associations, NSBA has a responsibility—in addition to its legislative, legal, and public advocacy work—to collaborate with and support its state associations.

State association leaders, for example, need to network, convene, and stay up to date on the policy deliberations in the nation’s capital, as well as what is happening in other states. Member Services attempts to meet that need through meetings, services, and products designed specifically for state association members, so they can better serve local school board members in their states.

Providing New Services

This year saw the development of several new resources for member states:

- The micro-website, Executive Director Connection, is a member networking resource for state association executive directors.
- “NSBA 101” is a guidebook for state association executive directors and provides useful information about NSBA’s governance, member services, advocacy work, as well as answers frequently asked questions.
- An online portal for state association presidents was created.
- A new partnership with the Canadian School Boards Association will offer opportunities for sharing resources, international support on mutual issues, and cross promotion. A strong contingent of Canadian members is expected to attend NSBA’s 2017 Annual Conference in Denver.
- The launch of NSBA’s Speakers’ Bureau allows easy access to NSBA experts available to discuss key issues in education.

In addition to services for state associations, NSBA provides national-level programming for school districts that complement the benefits they receive from their state associations.

Strengthening National Connection

This program provides executive-level support to school boards, with and through the state school boards associations.

National Connection's online presence, aimed at connecting school board members across the country to both information and one another, continues to expand. Along with additional districts added to the program, a new marketing campaign through the state organizations is planned for this fall, and the data available for National Connection districts will be updated.

In addition, a push is under way to engage with other national nonprofits that work in education and the child service sector that may have information relevant to school district leaders.

Enhancing National Connection Hub

This online portal gives participating districts access to National Connection's online program, with benefits that include a discussion forum, blogs, videos, podcasts, toolkits, and other resources.

Among those resources are "National Connection Daily," a morning education news briefing report; "Federal Insider," our quarterly report on legal and legislative issues affecting education; and "NewsBytes," a biweekly e-newsletter to keep members up to date on resources and NSBA news.

Convening the Conference for Education Leaders

The NSBA Annual Conference and Exposition brings together education leaders at a time when domestic policies and global trends are combining to shape the future of our students.

More than 6,000 school leaders participated in the 76th annual conference held in Boston in 2016. The conference featured keynote speakers Dan Rather, former CBS news anchor; Robin Roberts, co-anchor of ABC's Good Morning America; and education innovator Tony Wagner; along with more than 300 educational workshops, sessions, and study halls.

With the debut of the NSBA Mobile App, conference-goers created personalized schedules, reviewed session descriptions and locations, accessed handouts, searched for exhibitors, and tapped additional services from their laptop, tablet, or mobile device.

Working to Support Equity for All Students

Through its Equity Department, NSBA brings needed attention to one of the most pressing issues in public education today. The department's mission is to promote educational equity and excellence in public education by providing programming and technical support to state school boards associations and their members.

The Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE), the National Black Council of School Board Members, the National Hispanic Council of School Board Members, and the National Caucus of American Indian/Alaska Native School Board Members are key participants in this equity effort. Their staffing needs are provided by the Equity Department.

In 2016, the Equity Department hosted the first combined planning meeting of all four groups to discuss issues of equity for the students they serve.

NSBA also has created a new Equity Advisory Committee to assist the department in strengthening the capacity of state school boards associations and local school boards in addressing equity barriers in schools and improving educational outcomes for all students.

In June 2016, more than 250 attendees participated in

the inaugural Equity Symposium in Washington, D.C. The forum for school board members, educators, and other stakeholders allowed participants to examine and discuss strategies, trends, research, and best practices positively impacting the educational outcomes of academically and economically disadvantaged students.

Technology Leadership Network: NSBA, in partnership with AASA the School Superintendents Association and the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), developed the “Online Assessment: From Readiness to Opportunity” report and the “Online Assessment Planning Tool.”



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A LOOK AHEAD

At a time when the impact of public education has never been more important, NSBA continues to advocate for public schools and the local leadership role of school board members. Here is a brief summary of upcoming initiatives and events that bolster advocacy capabilities and the ability to serve students and communities:

The Conference for Public Education Leaders

NSBA returns to Denver for its 2017 Annual Conference. The keynote speakers are astronaut and retired U.S. Navy Captain Scott Kelly, media executive Arianna Huffington, and best-selling author and youth advocate Wes Moore. Hundreds of workshops, meal events, master classes, focus areas, and experiential learning visits are available for the more than 6,000 school board members and other school leaders who attend. A campus expo featuring more than 250 companies will be on hand to spotlight unique products and services that can aid school leaders and their districts.

Stand Up 4 Public Schools

NSBA's national advocacy campaign gets refreshed and relaunched. The campaign is focused on raising awareness and growing support for the great things that happen in America's public schools.

Clean, Green and Safe Schools

The new Clean, Green and Safe Schools initiative provides school board members with information they can use to develop policies and protocols to provide a healthy and safe environment for students, teachers, administrators, and visitors.

Becoming a Better Board Member

The revised “Guide to Effective School Board Service” will incorporate the latest Key Work of School Boards concepts and reflect new governance realities, including requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Equity Symposium

School board members and policymakers from around the country will gather on Saturday, February 3, 2018, in Washington, D.C., to examine and discuss strategies, current trends, research, and best practices that positively impact the educational outcomes of academically and economically disadvantaged students in K-12 public settings.

Advocacy Institute

School board members will develop a federal and local legislative strategy to help them become better advocates for their school districts at the Advocacy Institute February 4-6, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Participants will swap best practices, challenges, and successes with other school board members from across the country, as well as attend timely and topical breakout sessions led by NSBA’s staff and outside experts.

Golden Celebrations

Both the Council of School Attorneys (COSA) and the Council of Urban School Boards (CUBE) celebrate their 50th anniversaries with special programming and recognition events.

About NSBA

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) is the leading advocate for public education. For more than 75 years, we have been leading the effort to support and enhance public education. We are succeeding in creating the best possible environment for students to realize their dreams.

NSBA is a federation of 50 state and territorial associations representing more than 90,000 school board officials across the United States. These local officials govern more than 13,600 local school districts serving the nation’s 50 million public school students. Working with and through our state associations, and serving as their Washington, D.C. office, NSBA advocates for equity and excellence in public education through school board governance.

We believe public education is America’s most vital institution. It is a civil right necessary to the dignity and freedom of the American people, and all children deserve equal access to an education that allows them to reach their potential.

In pursuit of these beliefs, NSBA and its members will continue to lead the national conversation about public education, advocate for public policies that ensure all students everywhere have access to a great public education where they live, create a better understanding of the importance and benefits of the role of school boards and local governance, and enhance the effectiveness of school boards.

NSBA and its members utilize our resources including the Council of School Attorneys (COSA), Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE), council and caucus groups, Conference of State Association Legislative Staff (CSALS), Federal Relations Network (FRN), Friends of Public Education Network (FPE), National School Boards Action Center (NSBAC), the *Stand Up 4 Public Education* campaign and a robust continuous media program to fulfill its mission.

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