



Ohio School
Boards Association

OSBA Membership Guide





OSBA mission

OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.

OSBA vision

OSBA is the recognized and respected voice of public education, leading through demonstrated expertise, active and engaged membership, and superior service in a competitive, global environment.

OSBA's guiding principles

The guiding principles are the attitudes, mind-sets or beliefs about how work should be accomplished within our organization and how people should act as they work toward accomplishing OSBA's vision.

- We value and expect effective communication.
- We value and expect integrity.
- We value and expect collaboration and partnership.
- We value and expect superior customer service.
- We value and foster expertise.



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WELCOME TO OSBA

“Always deliver more than expected.” This quote, attributed to Google co-founder Larry Page, speaks to the intention and focus of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA). To always go beyond your expectations and to learn, grow and evolve to meet the needs of our membership. That’s our charge, and we gladly pursue that cause.

At OSBA, we are proud to be the only association in Ohio that specifically serves school boards and their districts. Although many things have changed over the years, OSBA’s commitment to its members and public education has stood firm. Today, the association membership includes more than 700 school boards and nearly 3,500 board members representing Ohio’s local, city, exempted village, career center and educational service center districts.

With that commitment, we would like to remind you that we are here to support you and the districts that you serve. Your membership offers benefits you cannot find elsewhere. They include value-driven services ranging from policy development, administrative searches and risk management to training, labor relations and legal information. Dollar for dollar, OSBA membership is by far the best investment that public school districts can make – no other organization offers so much for so little.

For more information on your membership benefits and services or how to become more engaged with OSBA, please contact OSBA Membership Retention and Engagement Consultant Mark E. Bobo at mbobo@ohioschoolboards.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all you do for Ohio’s children.

Lee Schreiner
President, Ohio School Boards Association
Board Member, South-Western City



WHO WE ARE

Ohio school board members began holding conferences in 1950 to discuss the challenges facing public education. Over the next five years, four regional associations were formed and they banded together as the Council of Ohio Regional School Boards Associations in an effort to coordinate activities.

On Dec. 4, 1955, 300 school board members from 128 districts adopted the OSBA Constitution, which stated that OSBA's chief purpose was to "work for the general advancement of public education in Ohio." The following year, 486 of the 1,246 local and county boards of education were OSBA members.

Today OSBA is composed of more than 700 school boards. Nearly 3,500 elected and appointed members represent Ohio's local, city, exempted village, career center and educational service center districts. The administrative teams and district staff of member boards also have access to all OSBA services.

OSBA has changed significantly over the years in response to the changing educational landscape. But it remains true to its responsibility to help you, the local school board member, do your job more effectively. OSBA is guided by its mission to serve Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions. And the association stand ready to assist you in all areas of boardmanship.

To better serve its members around the state, OSBA is divided into five regions: Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest. Each region has its own governance structure that parallels OSBA's statewide governing system. Regional managers, who are OSBA staff members based in each region, lead and coordinate their activities. Learn more about the regions and view a region map at www.ohioschoolboards.org/regions.



HOW WE'RE GOVERNED

OSBA is governed by a Board of Trustees and an Executive Committee. Along with the Delegate Assembly, the governance team is responsible for ensuring OSBA operates effectively and meets the needs of its members.

OSBA's governing bodies include:

Elected officers: The president, president-elect and immediate past president each serve one-year terms. The president-elect is elected at the Annual Business Meeting of the Delegate Assembly, held during the OSBA Capital Conference in November.

Delegate Assembly: Policies are established by the Delegate Assembly. Every school board has a voice in the Delegate Assembly – one board, one vote. Each selects a delegate. The Delegate Assembly determines the association's positions on educational issues, and sets the constitution and bylaws under which it operates. At the Annual Business Meeting of the OSBA Delegate Assembly, held during the OSBA Capital Conference, board representatives vote on resolutions to the OSBA Legislative Platform that were submitted by school boards, the OSBA Legislative Platform Committee and OSBA staff. Resolutions approved at the meeting become part of the OSBA Legislative Platform, which is used to determine association policy and dictate what OSBA will fight for in the courts, in Columbus and in Washington, D.C. Delegates also elect the association's president-elect every year.

Board of Trustees: The Board of Trustees, the association's official governing body, is composed of the president, president-elect and immediate past president of the association; the presidents, presidents-elect and immediate past presidents of the five regional associations; and one representative from each of the six Ohio districts with the largest pupil enrollment, together with no less than six (6) nor more than eight (8) other persons. Each region is entitled to a minimum of four (4) seats on the Board of Trustees, inclusive of the region officers and one at-large appointment and exclusive of the six (6) districts with the largest pupil enrollment. OSBA's chief executive officer and regional managers serve on the board in an ex officio capacity.

The Board of Trustees supervises association affairs, adopts the budget, reviews governance and operations policies and appoints the chief executive officer.

Executive Committee: The association's Executive Committee consists of the president, president-elect, immediate past president and five other members, one appointed from each regional executive committee. Members of the Executive Committee serve as the governing body between Board of Trustees meetings.

Regional executive committees: The five regional committees determine policy for the region and plan programs and activities designed to carry out the purposes of the organization. Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/regions to learn how to become involved in regional activities.

Statewide committees: OSBA has several committees to meet the needs of the association and its members. Committees such as the Capital Conference Planning Task Force and Legislative Platform Committee provide direction for the association. The OSBA Diversity and Equity Committee, OHSAA School Board Liaison Committee, OSBA Ambassadors for Education, OSBA Board Member Cabinet and Student Achievement Leadership Team serve as advisory/service groups, providing direction and guidance to OSBA staff members or outside agencies. Other networks, including the Urban Network, OSBA Black Caucus and Small School District Advisory Network, help similar districts find ways to solve unique problems. See a full listing of committees at www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-groups.

Governing documents

The association is guided by a constitution and bylaws. The Legislative Platform states OSBA's positions on a variety of issues facing public education. The platform also guides the association's advocacy efforts.

These documents are available online at www.ohioschoolboards.org/who-we-are.

Strategic plan

With the release of "Visionary Initiatives for Strategic Action" (VISA) in 2008, OSBA officially unveiled its strategic plan. Since then, the strategic plan has been updated twice, most recently in 2017.

The VISA plan is the product of collaboration between association members and staff. Board-member driven, the plan is a living document designed to guide OSBA now and into the future as it works to support Ohio's public school boards in the 21st century.

With its strategic plan, OSBA is positioned as the forward-looking voice of public education in supporting its mission of providing the best service possible for Ohio's public school boards, now, and long into the future.

To learn more about the plan, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/visa.





HOW TO GET INVOLVED

One of the most important aspects of OSBA membership is active participation in the school board community. Take advantage of the many opportunities OSBA has to offer. Get involved in setting the direction of the association and of Ohio's public schools.

Participate in training: Learning is an ongoing process. Expand your skill set by attending statewide and regional workshops and conferences or participating in on-demand training throughout the year. Contact OSBA if you would like to schedule a customized workshop for your school board.

Serve on a committee: Share your time and expertise by serving on a regional or statewide committee. Interested board members may contact their regional manager or OSBA for consideration. Contact information for regional managers is available at www.ohioschoolboards.org/region-managers.

Participate in advocacy events: Get involved in OSBA's lobbying efforts by participating in ongoing statewide legislative advocacy activities. This is your opportunity to speak face-to-face with state and federal government officials. For more details on these events, contact OSBA's legislative division.

Visit BillTracker at www.ohioschoolboards.org to receive up-to-the-minute information on critical legislation, along with background information and resources for taking immediate action.

Participate in the Delegate Assembly: Delegates are integral members of the policymaking body of OSBA. Each board selects one delegate to serve in the Delegate Assembly. Local school boards typically select a delegate during their annual organizational meeting.

Become an OSBA Ambassador for Education: The purpose of the Ambassadors for Education Program is to spread the good news about Ohio public education and OSBA activities. Ambassadors may participate in regional events, seminars, meetings and other activities. They also may be asked to participate in local school board meetings on behalf of the association.

Attend the Capital Conference: OSBA's Capital Conference and Trade Show is the best place to receive up-to-the-minute information and learn critical new skills to help you effectively lead your district. National, state and local speakers shed light on innovative new ideas to help improve your schools. Nearly 600 vendors showcase new products and services on the exhibition floor. Numerous opportunities are available for you to network with colleagues.



WHAT WE DO

Serving as a board member can be one of the most fulfilling responsibilities you'll ever experience. OSBA has many member benefits to help you and your administrative team lead your district.

Direct services

OSBA's highly skilled and experienced staff provide free services supported by your dues, along with fee-based services. They include:

School board governance solutions

Board self-assessment: A self-assessment allows for open discussion about progress made toward district goals and objectives. School board members can assess whether the processes and protocols they've agreed to as a group are working well. Consultants can help your board create a self-assessment process and walk you through the evaluation.

Consultations: School board services staff members are just a phone call away, ready to answer your boardmanship questions. Consultants also are available for on-site consultations.

School board handbook service: Consultants help boards of education create a board handbook to serve as an aligned companion to district staff and student handbooks and the district's policy manual. The handbook can serve as an orientation piece for board members, a board meeting guide and reference, and link to larger information sources and resources within your district.

Strategic planning: Consultants help school districts prepare for the future. They can customize planning to meet individual district needs, guide districts through phases of their plans, serve as resource consultants and assist with annual reviews and updates.

Board-superintendent and board-treasurer relations

A strong connection among the board, superintendent and treasurer is a critical component of good governance. OSBA offers several fee-based services to help establish and nurture that relationship, including:

Superintendent and treasurer evaluations and job descriptions: Consultants provide training and oversight to help boards develop a customized evaluation process. They also provide sample instruments to measure leadership skills and progress toward goals and objectives. Consultants train boards in the process so they can carry out this legal responsibility.

Superintendent and treasurer searches: Consultants assist boards through the search process, including developing the ideal candidate profile; recruiting candidates; leadership assessment of candidates; processing applications; providing complete, confidential administrative support; making interview appointments; facilitating input sessions with

stakeholders and the community; and critiquing board interview techniques. Through the Achiever online assessment tool, OSBA provides board members objective information to help them understand their finalists' unique skills. OSBA's scope in superintendent and treasurer searches is national.

Communication/community engagement services

Board members continually deal with the public and the media. OSBA can help with community relations. Consultants provide information on working with citizen committees and resources to help boards communicate with their stakeholders.

OSBA offers tips on organizing and promoting a bond-referendum campaign; establishing comprehensive timelines; providing suggestions on public engagement; identifying key communicators; facilitating public forums; and developing public information techniques to effectively communicate the board's message.

Levy assistance: OSBA offers resources to help board members be informed about levy issues. Through our Levy University, OSBA can offer your levy campaign committee information and training.

Media relations: OSBA is the voice of local school boards in the statewide media. OSBA staff regularly respond to inquiries from the media on public education issues. In addition, we provide the media with news releases, position papers and informational pieces to promote OSBA positions.

Survey service: This service provides an effective way for boards of education to assess perceptions and levels of support in the district. OSBA's professional and knowledgeable staff will work with you to create customized survey questions, disseminate the survey and collect the data. Additionally, a team of communication and school board services professionals can analyze survey results, provide customized recommendations and deliver a final report, as well as suggested actions after the survey.

Consultation services

OSBA provides consultation in all areas of school board responsibility. Staff work directly with boards on issues that have an impact on their operations.

Consultants provide on-site assistance in all areas of school district governance. Labor relations, legal, school security and policy staff provide consultation services in their respective subject areas. Call an OSBA staff member for help in these and related areas.

Labor relations services

A school board's ability to provide sound educational programs is directly affected by its collective bargaining agreements. The obligation to negotiate with the union over terms and conditions of employment and to administer the labor agreement affects a board's ability to govern the district efficiently and effectively. Because of the impact of collective bargaining on the educational process, OSBA offers the following labor relations services to boards:

Arbitration referral service: Members can send OSBA a list of arbitrators and staff will provide guidance as to which arbitrators to select and which to avoid. This free service includes insight into an arbitrator's past decisions as well as feedback and rankings from other state associations.

Collective bargaining and representation: Collective bargaining services are tailored to each school district and can range from a simple contract analysis up to drafting contract proposals and serving as the district's spokesperson at the bargaining table. OSBA's negotiators are versed in every type of bargaining model and can help you choose a method that best works for the culture of your district.

Contract analysis: Staff can analyze a district's negotiated agreement and identify provisions that are beneficial to the board and protective of the district's interests. This analysis also identifies ill-advised clauses that could adversely affect district operations as well as clauses that are nonnegotiable because they are inconsistent with the law.

In-district assistance: Staff will provide in-district consultations for the following: analysis of the district's collective bargaining agreements; analysis and advice on board and union proposals; assistance in planning bargaining strategy; preparation for mediation and fact finding; contract administration and grievance handling; advice on collaborative bargaining; and assistance in other specialized areas.

Strike assistance: Staff assist boards that are anticipating or experiencing job actions or strikes. Assistance may include meeting with the board to develop effective strategies; developing contingency plans, pleadings and policies; and assisting with public relations.

Policy services

Policymaking is your board's primary responsibility. OSBA provides services to help you formulate or revise policy; ensure that it is compliant with federal and state laws and codes; and is disseminated to the public. OSBA's policy services include:

Employee handbook service: OSBA consultants can help members create a concise and accurate handbook that is useful for employers and employees.

Online policy manual publishing: Policy staff can help boards publish their policy manuals on the internet. Web-based manuals are electronically linked to relevant statutes and codes, and are continually updated.

Policy clearinghouse: OSBA maintains an extensive policy collection submitted by its members. Staff can provide you with sample policies, regulations and exhibits from other districts in Ohio.

Policy Development Quarterly (PDQ): An e-publication sent to all subscribers explaining policy changes stemming from legislation passed at both the state and federal levels, and other directives and accompanying updated sample policies and regulations.

Policy manual development and writing: Policy staff can analyze your existing manual and update it to comply with federal and state statutes and codes. This may include writing, revising and deleting existing policies. OSBA has three levels of service to meet your district's needs.

Policy manual updating: Policy staff can review and edit a district's policy changes and enter them into its current manual.

School law services

Each day, OSBA attorneys provide legal information to members. Member districts can use the free legal hotline, available at (855) OSBA-LAW, to directly contact the OSBA Division of Legal Services. Attorneys field inquiries on a number of issues, including board member

ethics and conflict of interest; student rights; tenure and seniority; budget and finance; board elections; public contracts; and Ohio's Open Meetings and Public Records acts.

The OSBA Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) is available to help school districts involved in legal cases that are of statewide significance to all boards of education. Members may receive direct financial or legal assistance paid for by LAF.

Transportation services

Student transportation is a tremendous responsibility for boards of education. It not only involves buses and drivers, but careful planning and an awareness of a multitude of laws, rules and regulations. To help districts improve the effectiveness of their student transportation systems, OSBA provides the following transportation consulting services to members:

Bus bidding service: Consultants will work with your district management team to evaluate your needs and suggest options that we believe would be effective in your district. With this background information, we will build a customized bus specification for you that is included in the bid process that we manage on your behalf.

Virtual Transportation Supervisor program: This subscription-based service is designed to expand access to transportation expertise, guidance and training.

Additional services include:

- board member in-service presentations;
- driver training seminars;
- administrative training seminars;
- routing efficiency audits;
- assistance with legislated procedures including payments in lieu of transportation;
- driver qualifications assurance studies;
- emergency plan development;
- general transportation consulting and assistance.

Additional programs

OSBA selectively works with outside providers to deliver products and services necessary to effectively manage schools. These endorsed programs and service providers offer a unique benefit to our members at a special value.

All OSBA members are entitled to free business travel/accidental death and dismemberment insurance, courtesy of OSBA. To learn more about this program, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/insurance-programs.

Other programs, available as a fee-based service, include:

Communication Services

- **300m:** social media, newsletter and communication audit services for school districts.
- **Hennes Communications:** crisis management and communications services for school districts.

Data Analytics

- **Forecast5 Analytics Inc.:** offers five-year forecasting, benchmarking, student data

dashboards, board reports, geospatial analytics and transparency dashboards.

Financial Services

- **PaySchools:** online payment program that simplifies payment, collection and balancing of school funds.
- **PNC Financial Services:** P-card program that gives back to your district with a no annual fee credit card that streamlines the traditional purchase order and payment process.

Insurance Programs

- **GradyBenefits:** plan manager of employee benefits.
- **Hylant Administrative Services LLC:** bond program, including surety and fidelity liability coverage for districts, including treasurer and superintendent position bonds.
- **Ohio School Plan:** fleet, liability, property/casualty and violence coverage offering affordable, quality and innovative insurance and risk management solutions.

Management Services

- **Rahmberg Stover and Associates:** salary analysis.

National Connections Program

- **National School Boards Association:** information and networking service that offers districts the tools and insights they need to champion student achievement in their local communities from a federal perspective.

OSBA Diversity & Equity Consulting Services

- **Diversity & Equity Consultants:** resources and training to effect change in diversity and equity.

Pooling Programs

- **BuyBoard:** cooperative purchasing offering a competitive bidding process that allows districts to get volume discounts via web-based shopping.
- **CompManagement Health Systems:** managed care organization (MCO) that medically manage workers' compensation claims; access to 24/7 claim reporting; and access to vocational rehabilitation counselors and local MCO specialists.
- **Ohio SchoolComp:** risk management and unemployment compensation, including workers' compensation group-rating, group retrospective rating, risk management programs, claim processing and representation for districts. This program is administered by CompManagement.
- **Power4Schools:** electricity purchasing, offering school districts the best deals on electricity with long-term price reductions.

Safety Programs

- **PublicSchoolWORKS:** online safety compliance, including a comprehensive, web-based compliance program built specifically for public schools.

School Board Services

- **BoardDocs:** turnkey paperless governance solutions.

For a complete list of endorsed programs, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-endorsed-programs. You can view service providers at www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-service-providers.

Information resources

OSBA keeps its members informed in print and online through a wide range of books, periodicals, online databases, electronic newsletters and research services.

The Journal, OSBA's flagship publication, covers association activities and features innovative articles and columns that will interest school board members and administrators. Free to all members.

The Briefcase is OSBA's bimonthly education newsletter. It provides timely information on a variety of subjects on state, local and national levels related to school operations. A Briefcase subscription provides important information on board and legal issues; grants and funding; unique programs in school districts; legislative information; and other topics pertinent to schools.

The Briefcase newsletter is free if all subscribers in a district sign up to receive it electronically. Otherwise, the district rate is \$145.

School Management News is a monthly school management update designed to provide districts with the latest news affecting day-to-day school operations. Topics include labor relations, human resources, business, finance, arbitrations, negotiation settlements, State Employment Relations Board decisions and relevant commentary. Subscription only.

Policy Development Quarterly contains articles on new laws or rules, both state and federal, which have policy implications. Districts can designate up to 15 subscribers to receive this e-newsletter, published four times each year. Subscribers can review the complete text of new or recently revised policies online. Subscription only.

CommunicationPlus provides school communicators with public relations tips, ideas and articles on a wealth of topics. Also available electronically. Subscription only.

Success is an monthly e-newsletter that offers timely tips to improve student achievement. Free to all members.

OSBA website

OSBA's website is your electronic resource for education information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Located at www.ohioschoolboards.org, the site provides education news; up-to-date information on policy, labor relations, legal and governmental relations issues; association program information; and other exclusive web content.

OSBA members can access member-only information by logging into the OSBA website (www.ohioschoolboards.org). Once you have logged onto the site, you can also register online for OSBA workshops and view their membership profile.

How to log in

Click on "Log in to your account" on top right of website. Log in using your email address on file and your password. Click "Reset your password" if needed. An email with a link will be sent to your email address on file. Click on the link and you will be directed to reset your password. After resetting your password, click "Submit." You will be sent to the home page to log in. Log in using your username (your email address on file) and new password.

If this is your first time logging in to the site, click "Create new account." At the username prompt, enter your email address, select your affiliation and school district, and click "Submit." Create a password and add your job title on the next screen. An email with a

link to activate your account will be sent to your email address on file. Click on the link to activate your account, and you will be directed to a home screen.

OSBA publications

OSBA offers numerous publications geared toward board members. To order, visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/store. Titles include:

- Board Officers' Guidebook
- Board-Legislature Partnership
- Board-Superintendent Partnership
- Board-Treasurer Partnership
- Boardmanship
- Effective Booster Operations
- The Ohio School Ethics Guide
- Ohio Sports Law Handbook
- Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance
- Special Education Law in Ohio
- Sunshine Law for Schools

OSBA plaques

OSBA's customized plaques and awards are the perfect way to recognize the friends of education in your school district. Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/catalog/plaques to see examples of the plaques, or call (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA to request a brochure or learn more.

OSBA blogs

OSBA staff contribute to blogs that provide up-to-date information to help members in their roles:

- **Achievement Matters:** Covers timely student achievement topics. Sign up at www.ohioschoolboards.org/blogs/student-achievement.
- **Facts in a Flash:** OSBA's weekly legislative update. View at www.ohioschoolboards.org/blogs/facts-in-a-flash.
- **Legal Ledger:** Review the latest legal topics affecting school districts at www.ohioschoolboards.org/blogs/legal-ledger.

OSBA podcast

Listen to OSBA's podcast, OSBA Leading the Way, to stay informed about association news and the issues impacting public education. The podcast is available for listening anywhere podcasts are offered: Apple Podcasts, Google, Spotify and more. Visit www.ohioschoolboards.org/osba-podcasts to see an episode list.

OSBA brochures, fact sheets and other resources

OSBA has many free brochures and fact sheets available. Members can download brochures, fact sheets and information on other topics from the website at www.ohioschoolboards.org/resource-center. Review information on topics including:

- Board member compensation, benefits and expense reimbursement
- Competitive bidding
- Criminal records check

- District property disposal
- Educating adult students and emancipated minors
- Filling board of education vacancies
- Grandparents as caretakers
- How to create an education foundation
- Interstate compact: Educational opportunity for military children
- Misconduct reporting
- Ohio's Sunshine Law
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Regulating political activities of school employees
- Rehiring retirees
- School board organizational meeting and the oath of office
- School levy limitations
- Selecting design professional or design-build services
- Supplemental contracts
- Understanding school levies
- Voting makes a difference

Online databases

OSBA compiles information on a variety of critical topics and publishes the content in searchable online databases. All of the databases listed below can be accessed through OSBA's website at www.ohioschoolboards.org/databases.

BillTracker: Receive up-to-the-minute information on critical legislation, along with background information and resources for taking immediate action.

District levy history: This database lists all the issues districts have placed on the ballot since 2003. The database gives you the ability to view your district's history, same-sized districts' success, the success of certain issues and much more.

School board election campaign

OSBA seeks to raise the profile of boardmanship and encourage high-caliber candidates to run for office. The association created the Get on Board campaign as a guide for those seeking office. In addition, Board Candidate Workshops are held throughout the state to provide information about boardmanship and to answer questions from candidates. Visit <http://getonboardohio.org> to learn more.

Representation and advocacy

OSBA develops, communicates and advocates the perspective of school governance teams. To fulfill its mission of unwavering advocacy, staff represent boards of education before the state legislature, the State Board of Education, the governor's office, Congress and other state and federal agencies. Advocacy activities include:

State and federal lobbying: The association maintains a high profile at the state and federal levels. OSBA lobbyists attend all meetings of legislative committees that consider bills affecting education. In addition, they meet with state legislators regularly to advise them of association positions.

Ohio Education Policy Institute: The legislative division also works with the Ohio Education Policy Institute. The institute's mission is to research and analyze changes in tax policies that affect funding for education and local services.

Legislative networking: OSBA provides opportunities for board members to network with federal and state government officials. These events inform the membership about pressing educational issues, offer effective lobbying techniques and provide an opportunity for face-to-face contact with elected officials.

Grassroots lobbying: Staff coordinate grassroots lobbying efforts to promote OSBA legislative goals and involve the public in achieving those goals.

In addition, OSBA publishes “Effective advocacy for school leaders,” which serves as a guide to effective advocacy. The Legislative Directory and online BillTracker provide tools to contact elected officials and follow important education legislation.

Legislative analysis: Staff analyze pending legislation to assess its impact on public education. Information is shared with local boards through OSBA’s weekly e-newsletter, Facts in a Flash, as well as in eAlerts, Briefcase, The Link and the Journal.

Kids PAC: Members can contribute to OSBA’s political action committee, helping to support lawmakers who believe in our goals. Raising money for Kids PAC helps OSBA support legislators who can help make a difference in public education. Join Kids PAC at www.kidspac.org.

Legal Assistance Fund: Districts can join the OSBA Legal Assistance Fund (LAF), a trust fund that helps school districts involved in legal cases that are of statewide significance to all boards of education. Members may receive direct financial or legal assistance paid for by LAF.

Training

Whether you’re a new board member or a seasoned veteran, there are always new leadership skills to explore. OSBA offers the following training opportunities to help you reach your full potential as a board member:

Board Leadership Institute: OSBA’s Board Leadership Institute is a two-day training event designed by and for board members. Courses cover a range of topics, including general boardmanship, governance, leadership, labor, policy and school law matters.

Board Member 101: Survival kit for your first 90 days in office: These two-day academies focus on the knowledge and skills new board members find essential to becoming effective contributors to their district’s management team. Topics include the world of boardmanship; decision-making and working as a team; how Ohio schools are funded; the Sunshine Law and executive sessions; and many more.

Board Member 201: Mastering your board leadership skills: Veteran board members and board officers serve critical leadership roles in their districts. Unfortunately, too many veteran board members believe on-the-job training is all they need to responsibly lead the board. These workshops, created with board officers and veteran board members in mind, will present the tools you need to improve your boardmanship skills and effectively lead your district.

New Board Member Passport: To help new board members start off on the right path, OSBA created the New Board Member Passport. This tour of workshops exposes new board members to topics that are important in their first year. It also includes stops at events in their region of the state to help them network with and learn from colleagues in other school districts. Learn more at www.ohioschoolboards.org/passport.

OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show: The OSBA Capital Conference, one of the nation's premier education conventions, offers exceptional opportunities for learning, sharing and networking. The three-day event offers general sessions, more than 170 learning sessions, the Student Achievement Fair and something for every member of your district's administrative team. The event includes a Trade Show with nearly 600 booths with products and services ranging from architects, curriculum and insurance to playground equipment, technology and transportation services.

OSBA Master of Transportation Administration (MTA) Program: OSBA's MTA Program offers a training curriculum to support administrators responsible for student transportation. The three-year curriculum includes classes in each of three proficiencies: compliance and safety, operations management and governance, including policy and fiscal matters. Participation in the program includes access to online class materials, OSBA's advanced pupil transportation library, transportation data summaries and cost calculators. You may register for individual classes or purchase the training-level subscription on a yearly basis. Learn more at www.ohioschoolboards.org/master-transportation-administration.

Below are just some of the additional workshops OSBA offers each year:

- Administrative Professionals Workshop
- Attendance, Tuition and Custody Law Workshop
- Cyberlaw Workshop
- Levy University
- OCSBA School Attorney Workshop
- SchoolCompWorkshops
- Special Education Workshop
- Sports Law Workshop
- State Legislative Conference
- Transportation State Reports and Cost Analysis Workshop

OSBA also holds workshops on topics of interest to the administrative team. These workshops cover alternative funding resources, collective bargaining, school finance, trauma-informed education, student achievement, board roles, communication and other timely topics.

Please review OSBA's website at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops for a complete listing.

ESC Academies: Many ESCs have contracted to host academies throughout the year, bringing experts to the ESC to train board members. Contact OSBA to learn more about the academies.

Customized or individual board training: To help boards work effectively as a team, OSBA also offers customized workshops on a variety of topics, including:

- Board ethics and trust
- Board operating protocols
- Board relations and coping strategies
- Board self-evaluations
- Classified staff professional development
- Community partnerships
- Effective board meetings
- Goal setting
- High-stakes decision-making
- Internal and external communication

- Leadership team roles and responsibilities
- New superintendent, treasurer or board member transitions
- Preparing for and leading through change
- Succession planning for leadership teams
- Superintendent or treasurer evaluations
- The board's role in improving student achievement
- Updating policy manuals or staff or board handbooks

On-demand learning: To make learning more convenient, OSBA offers a growing number of training programs through webinars. You can view some of OSBA's informational webinars at www.ohioschoolboards.org/events/webinar. Topics include:

- Creating and sustaining a workplace free of harassment
- Crowdfunding best practices
- I'm drowning in records (but afraid to throw anything away): a record retention webinar
- Ins and outs of board committees
- Parliamentary procedure in action
- Storytelling in a digital age

Upcoming webinars are included in the workshop listing at www.ohioschoolboards.org/workshops.

Recognition programs

OSBA offers several program to recognize school boards and those who help their districts:

All-Ohio School Board: The OSBA All-Ohio School Board Award honors board members who demonstrate outstanding boardmanship and service to public education. Each region selects a nominee for the All-Ohio School Board, the association's most prestigious honor.

Master Board Member: This lifetime distinction is given to board members who complete the four components of the STAR Awards.

Media Honor Roll: School boards can honor local media for fair and balanced reporting through the Media Honor Roll program.

Ohio Board of Distinction Award: This award honors school boards that have engaged in activities and modeled behaviors that lead to excellence in local school district governance in support of quality education.

OSBA Business Honor Roll: School boards can recognize local businesses that support their districts through the Business Honor Roll program.

School Board Recognition Month: Each January, boards of education are recognized during School Board Recognition Month. OSBA sends districts personalized certificates and a poster to use in recognition celebrations.

STAR Awards: Four awards comprise the program: service, training, aptitude and recognition. Board members accumulate points for the Service and Training awards by participating on OSBA committees and local board offices and committees and attending professional development events and activities delivered by OSBA or the National School Boards Association. The Aptitude Award requires a board member to receive an 80% passing score on an online assessment by demonstrating an understanding and comprehension of a variety of board governance skills. A board member may be nominated for the Recognition Award by his or her own school board by a majority vote of the board.



CONTACT OSBA

There are a variety of ways to reach association staff. Let us know how we can help you fulfill your leadership role and ensure high levels of student achievement. We're always available to assist you.

OSBA office

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