

Who we are

The Illinois Association of School Boards is a voluntary organization of local boards of education dedicated to strengthening the public schools through local citizen control. Although not a part of state government, IASB is organized by member school boards as a private not-for-profit corporation under authority granted by Article 23 of The Illinois School Code.

The mission of the Illinois Association of School Boards is excellence in local school governance and support of public education.

The Association's constitution provides that major policies be established by an annual Delegate Assembly and places governance in the hands of an elected board of directors. The board of directors, made up of officers and regional directors, employs an executive director and approves an annual budget to carry out the work of the Association through offices in Springfield and Lombard.

Programs designed to provide leadership, service and advocacy for local school boards fall mainly into four broad categories:

- Professional development programs providing school board members with opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills;
- Governmental relations programs for representing the needs and views of member school boards;
- Direct services that range from on-site consulting and evaluation to executive searches and policy development;
- Information services consisting of research, publishing and media relations.

The Association also engages in a variety of governance, leadership and public relations activities and is a federation member of the National School Boards Association. IASB offers a number of fee-supported services and sponsors several risk management programs that are governed by and for participating school districts.

Membership is also extended by invitation to affiliates (educational service agencies), associates (retired school board members), service associates (school vendors), school attorneys, and township and county school treasurers.



What we do

Member services

Many member services are provided at central and regional sites statewide, but they can also be tailored for delivery to individual districts and boards. Among the services IASB provides:

- Field Services
- Board Training and Development
- Executive Searches
- Policy Services
- School Law Resources
- Governmental Relations
- Books and Publications
- Media Relations
- Information Services, Surveys and Databases



Statewide leadership

Dedicated to the principles of local citizen leadership through effective governance, IASB encourages school boards to provide a vision for schools, provide an organizational structure that allows administrators and teachers to pursue that vision, hold the system accountable for results, and serve as an advocate for all children.

IASB also seeks public understanding and support for the important role of the school board. Through the Association's governance and representation process, that support is generated in the following ways:

Each district is assigned geographically to one of 21 regional divisions. Board members are encouraged to participate in Association governance by serving as division directors, chairmen, resolution representatives or other key positions. Each division elects a local school board member to serve on the Association's board of directors.

Each district gets a vote in the annual Delegate Assembly and has the opportunity to submit resolutions to this group to help the Association propose or oppose critical legislative or regulatory issues.



What you get

School board members in IASB member districts receive all Association periodicals, including *The Illinois School Board Journal* and the *Illinois School Board Newsbulletin*, as well as announcements, annual publications and other mailings.

You can call on expert staff members when you need information or advice – by mail, telephone, email, or in a personal visit to the Association offices in Springfield or Lombard.

You are invited to participate in regional workshops, division dinner meetings and the annual conference on school board leadership. Your attendance and participation in these leadership activities and personal professional development opportunities also earn credits toward statewide recognition programs.

You can purchase books, CDs and DVDs from the Association bookstore at member prices. These titles include school law, finance, governance, operations and maintenance, leadership, communication, collective bargaining, student achievement, student discipline, and more.

School board members, superintendents and board secretaries of member school districts also have access to the Association's Members-Only website. This is where you can track leadership points and course credits, participate in on-line surveys, prepare a personal schedule for and download handouts from the annual conference, and much more.

Most importantly, your active involvement in IASB will help you to build important and lasting relationships with hundreds of other elected school board members.



What your district gets

Benefits available to member school districts, including the expertise of field staff members, who are available to meet with your board to help with school board governance, board self-evaluations, goal-setting, policymaking, board-superintendent relations, superintendent evaluations, effective meetings and communications, board processes and monitoring, and customized workshops for interpersonal skills.

Member districts can also:

- subscribe to or contract for development and web-publishing of school board policy and administrative procedures manuals, maintenance or customization of policy manuals, sample policies; and electronic preparation, distribution and publication of board meeting agendas and documents.
- contract with IASB to conduct executive searches for superintendents and other administrative staff.
- submit and present panel sessions at IASB's annual conference.
- have automatic representation in the National School Boards Association, and are invited to become a National Affiliate Member, and to attend NSBA's annual conference.
- access the IASB Resource Center, including its library reference service, databases, surveys, and education-related research.
- access to programs designed to save money or ensure competitive pricing of essential services. These sponsored programs are offered to districts through pooling or trust arrangements, often governed by the districts themselves. They include cost-containment programs for funding workers' compensation risks, controlling unemployment claims and liability/casualty insurance; low-cost programs for investing school funds; buying electricity and natural gas; filing Medicaid reimbursement claims; and drug and alcohol testing for school bus drivers.



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