

Frequently Asked Questions About COSSBA

What is COSSBA?

Founded by 22 state school boards associations in late 2021, the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) is a voluntary, non-partisan, national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote, and strengthen state school boards associations as they serve their local school districts and board members.

Benefits of membership include:

- Support for the work of state school boards associations through effective staff collaboration, networking, and shared resources
- Networking opportunities for local school board members and association board members to enhance the effectiveness of their work
- Tracking and advocating for federal education issues and policies impacting local school boards and public education aligned with a statement of core values and beliefs of COSSBA
- Federal judicial advocacy on issues impacting local control and public education

COSSBA strives to undertake activities in a manner aligned with the following Core Values:

- Focused and responsive
- Transparent and efficient
- Reflective and relevant
- Representative and accountable
- Unified

IASB is a founding member of COSSBA. Through the state Association membership, IASB member boards of education have access to national services and programming.

To learn more about COSSBA, visit www.cossba.org.



How will IASB members receive information from or about COSSBA?

IASB shares information on behalf of COSSBA with its members through Association communication channels, including email. IASB members will want to be sure to have a correct email address included with their IASB member account and add send.iasb.com to their list of safe senders.

What opportunities does COSSBA provide for learning and connecting?

COSSBA events include an annual leadership training and networking conference for local school boards; an Association Leadership Symposium for state association officers and executives; a Federal Advocacy Conference in Washington DC; and the Urban Boards Alliance (UBA) Symposium.

How do states join as members?

Membership and participation are open to all state school boards associations. State associations may join upon approval by their board and submission of the first-year dues payment.

The IASB Board of Directors voted to join COSSBA as a founding member in 2021. The IASB Executive Director served as chair of the COSSBA Transition Steering Committee until January 2023, when the COSSBA Board of Directors and officers were seated to begin governance of the Consortium. Former IASB Executive Director Thomas Bertrand, Ph.D., became the inaugural Executive Director on July 1, 2023.

COSSBA is currently the largest national organization representing state school board associations in terms of both the number of students and boards of education represented. A list of member states can be found on the [COSSBA website](#).

How are COSSBA legislative positions determined?

Public policy and federal advocacy positions are based on position statements and resolutions approved at the Annual Business Meeting during the annual conference. One representative from each member state can vote on positions brought forth at the COSSBA Annual Business Meeting. For IASB, the president appoints a board member each year to serve as the Illinois voting delegate. Proposed federal advocacy positions and resolutions are reviewed by the IASB Board of Directors and the Board may submit proposals to COSSBA for consideration.

What is the Urban Boards Alliance (UBA)?

COSSBA offers at no additional cost the Urban Boards Alliance (UBA) resources to support school board members in creating educational strategies and sharing best practices that address and improve the educational outcomes of students within challenging environments. The UBA recognizes that these challenging environments and issues are not unique to urban school districts and encourages participation from rural and suburban school districts as well. UBA works to provide resources to address equity, literacy, student achievement barriers, broadband access, drug and alcohol abuse, and school violence through its annual symposium, special events, webinars, podcasts, and online information.

IASB currently has a board member from an urban board of education serving on the Urban Alliance Advisory Board to the COSSBA Board of Directors.

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