The Minnesota School Boards Association is a private nonprofit organization and is a leading advocate for public education by supporting, promoting, and strengthening the work of public school boards. Effective leadership and a strong governance team are foundations of successful schools. The work of school board members today will shape a generation of Minnesota students as they become productive citizens and competitive workers in the global economy. MSBA is committed to providing services and programs to help its members navigate the complex world of education governance.

MSBA is located in St. Peter (70 miles south of Minneapolis) and employs more than 20 staff members with expertise in areas of governance, management, finance, communications, policy, legal matters, elections, and advocacy. Staff members provide on-call technical and risk-management assistance at no charge to the member school district leadership team, which includes board members, superintendents, business officials, administrative assistants, and staff.

Membership in MSBA is voluntary. One hundred percent of Minnesota’s public school boards are members of MSBA and many charter schools have joined as MSBA Associate Members. MSBA is divided into 13 Director Districts across the state. Members within each Director District elect a representative to MSBA’s Board of Directors. The Board selects its own President-Elect, who then serves as President and Past President.

### Membership and Governance

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- **Deborah Pauly**
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MSBA Consultation Service

Avoid expensive chargers from services providers and legal consultants by calling MSBA first. MSBA responds daily - and free of charge - to members across the state. We answer between 150 and 160 telephone calls and emails each month on topics ranging from administrative procedures and school board governance, to statutory requirements and personnel management. All board members and staff are encouraged to call. With over a century and one-half of collective experience, the MSBA staff is able to assist its members in almost every instance.
MSBA Resources

Access hundreds of exclusive resources on the following topics: school law, equity, human resources, elections, policies, meeting management, board development, and district operations. Whether you need sample forms, model contracts, resolutions, model policies, evaluation resources, or informational documents, MSBA has you covered. We also have an entire section of our website dedicated to the most up-to-date COVID-19 information available.

MSBA Strategic Planning Service

MSBA’s Strategic Planning Services can help you put your school district’s strategic plan on the right course with our experience and knowledge. School board-superintendent teams use different terms to describe school district planning and goal-setting, including developing school district ends and aims; strategic planning; strategic focuses and directions; or beliefs, mission, vision and goals work. Regardless of what the process is called, school boards are responsible for clarifying the school district’s purpose and direction.
Together Everyone Achieves More

MSBA School Board Workshop Series
Charter School Board Workshop
This workshop covers all three state-required training components for charter school board members: Board’s Role and Responsibilities, Financial Matters, and Employment Matters.

Phase III: Building a High-Performance School Board Team.
Focus on methods of decision-making, stages of board development, navigating board dynamics, and the MSBA School Board Self-Evaluation during this workshop.

Phase IV: Representing Your Community Through Policy and Engagement
This workshop features in-depth discussions about the board member’s role as a policymaker and walk through an actual community engagement activities including a segment on dealing with the media and public forums.

MSBA Officer’s Workshop
Board Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Clerks, and Treasurers learn the ins and outs of running an effective meeting at the Officers’ Workshop, including school board powers, unusual voting requirements, and the Open Meeting Law. There are also break-out sessions for individual officers to focus on the responsibilities on their individual office.

Developing Mutual Expectations
Conducted in a retreat setting, this activity allows board members and administrators to develop ground rules or clear the air concerning the unwritten norms, behavior, responsibilities, etc. This is an excellent activity for boards who are just beginning to work together or for boards who are undergoing some stress in their relationships.
MSBA School Board Self-Evaluation

MSBA offers an online School Board Self-Evaluation which provides data to boards that guides goal-setting for continual improvement. The School Board Self-Evaluation results reflect the collective responses of the board team (board members and executive director). These results build a profile of your board team’s work in five standards: conduct and ethics, vision, structure, accountability, advocacy and communication.

Administrator Evaluation Guide

Developed jointly with MSBA and the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA), the Administrator Evaluation Guide is designed to help school boards and administrators implement an effective, meaningful evaluation process that is focused on improve student achievement.

MSBA Series of Publications

Receive complimentary copies of all three MSBA publications. The daily MSBA eClippings features web links to local education-related stories. The bimonthly Leader Newsletter features critical information on hot topics and advice on how to properly manage day-to-day issues. The MSBA Journal Magazine comes out six times a year and features editorials, stories about local schools, art from Minnesota students, and articles of current interest related to education.
MSBA Executive Search Services

MSBA’s Executive Search Services are grounded in providing collaborative, highly professional, affordable and efficient search processes that support school boards in fulfilling one of their most important responsibilities — hiring a director. MSBA’s process approaches all searches from a school board perspective, with every decision made through the lens of board leadership. From start to finish MSBA’s search team partners with the school board and provides assistance to ease the onus of the search process, professionally handling all details of the search and guiding the school board through the entire process. The Minnesota School Boards Association is a member of the National Affiliation of Superintendent Searchers (NASS) and has conducted nearly 80 executive searches.

MSBA Conferences

Leadership Conference
MSBA’s Annual Leadership Conference is a top-notch, two-day conference with no registration fee. MSBA provides this free conference in January as part of members’ annual dues. The conference features nationally recognized speakers, workshops on a variety of topics, a School Excellence Showcase, and an Exhibit Hall with more than 200 exhibitors.

Summer Seminar
The Summer Seminar focuses on leadership issues and includes the latest information on legislation, curriculum, and management topics. The seminar invigorates school leaders as they plan for the new school year.
MSBA Policy Services

Essentials at No Cost
Receive free access to all the model policies that are required by state and federal law.

Comprehensive Coverage
Subscribers to MSBA’s Policy Service get access over 150 model policies covering every aspect of school operations and management.

Diligently Maintained
All model policies are carefully examined by the law firm Knutson, Flynn & Deans and updated annually.

MSBA Legislative Advocacy

The breadth of MSBA’s representation — combined with the reputation of its respected lobbying team — has made MSBA the state’s premier organization lobbying on behalf of public school districts.

News from the Capitol
Members can stay up-to-date on issues impacting school boards and public education with a weekly e-newsletter and an online blog through each legislative session and a legislative summary that provides everything you need to know.
Invest today to secure tomorrow

Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus (MSDLAF+)

MSDLAF+ is a financial and cash management program specifically designed for Minnesota schools. Consider it a special bank account for schools - one that offers security, liquidity, and competitive interest rates. The MSDLAF+ Board of Trustees is supported by: PFM Asset Management, US Bank, and Knuston, Flynn & Deans. The investment options offered to schools through MSDLAF+ are pools and individuals portfolios.

Minnesota School Boards Association Insurance Trust (MSBAIT)

MSBAIT was established by the Minnesota School Boards Association to effectuate cost savings in the procurement and administration of such insurance programs. MSBAIT provides resources to MSBA Charter Associates to help them and their insurance agents assess members’ risk management needs and endorses companies with a proven record of service.

- Workers’ Compensation
- Tenant User Liability
- Group Term Life
- Long-Term Disability
- Cyber/Data Breach
- Causality
- International Travel
- School Leaders’ Legal Liability

Contact Joel Stencil at jstencil@mnmsba.org find out more
**MSBA Endorsed Products and Services**

**Vetted by MSBA. Trusted by you.**

The Minnesota Schools Boards Association have numerous business partnerships to save you time and money. The companies we endorse have been thoroughly vetted by MSBA. Their products and services are designed to save charter schools time and money with a focus on maximizing efficiencies and reducing operating costs.

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**BoardBook**

**Agenda smarter, not harder.**

BoardBook is an online application that streamlines the process of building agenda packets for board meetings so board can work more efficiently, reduce costs, and improve collaboration.

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**PaySchools**

**Simplifying school payments.**

PaySchools is an online payment processing system that provides schools with an easy and efficient method of collecting fee and receiving electronic checks.

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**Employee benefit experts.**

Educators Benefit Consultants, LLC (EBC) works with employers and employees to best determine how their benefit dollars should be spent.

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**Minnesota’s P-Card provider.**

Streamline the purchase of supplies, furniture, construction materials, utilities and more with the Minnesota Payment Solutions P-Card Program.

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**Pooled borrowing power.**

The Minnesota Tax and Aid Anticipation Borrowing Program (MNTAAB) is available to any district that expects to have a cash flow deficit in an operating fund or the capital expenditure fund.

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**Be sure, not just insured.**

National Insurance Services (NIS) is a team of school district benefit specialists in touch with the political atmosphere and budgetary constraints to are unique to the charter school world.