NYSSBA membership offers numerous benefits and services designed to make your board service easier and more effective. Our mission is to provide you with the advocacy, information, training and customized services needed to maximize student achievement.

Since 1896 our goal has always been – and continues to be – empowering school board members in their work.

We deliver on our promise by offering comprehensive benefits and support tailored to you. We invite you to review this guide to see the many services available to support your work as a school board member.

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Better school boards lead to better student performance.
We recognize that we are all united in our goal of making public education the best it can be, but that the challenges and strategies for achieving education excellence are unique to each district. That’s why NYSSBA’s Member Relations team maintains an open line of communication with each of our member districts. In order to understand the pressing education issues in each school district, the member relations team travels thousands of miles each year to visit face-to-face with board members and superintendents, makes hundreds of phone calls and meets virtually with governance teams regularly throughout the year.

The member relations team is an extension of the Association that will help:

- **Advance governance skills** by connecting members to the right leadership development programs.
- **Strengthen public education advocacy** by sharing your district’s specific issues with the governmental relations experts so they can advocate on your behalf.
- **Save your district time and money** by listening to financial concerns and connecting you to the appropriate school services partner that will assist in making your district run cost effectively and efficiently.
- **Keep you informed of the latest public education news** by demonstrating the multiple forms of communication vehicles NYSSBA offers to keep you up-to-date via video, reports, podcasts and *On Board*, our award-winning newspaper.

And that’s not all … additional services include new member onboarding, annual virtual member appreciation event, recognition programs, virtual focus groups and consultations for your board and leadership team.

Call us anytime at 1.800.342.3360 to get the conversation started.
Regulatory and legislative activity is complex. That’s why our skilled governmental relations staff is here to support you in advocating on state and federal issues that affect public education. From meetings with legislative and executive staff to bill drafting and testifying at hearings, we are your eyes, ears, and voice in Albany and Washington. Plus, our partnership with the National School Boards Association provides inside information on pressing federal issues.

**Resources you need to influence public policy:**

- **Advocacy Action Materials:** Sample board resolutions, sample letters to legislators and other government officials and background information on key issues.

- **State Aid Expertise:** “What School Board Members Should Know” guidebook, state aid database, state aid factors trend analysis and free school finance webinars.

- **Advocacy Events:** The Capital Conference, in-district visits, lobby days and local training.

- **Timely Advocacy Updates:** Advocacy Alerts emails, Key Issues web page and the Online Action Center.
Members tell us the service they value most is information. In today’s complex and rapidly changing environment, it’s challenging to stay on top of all that’s happening in education. We provide news you can use on a variety of platforms so you can catch up on the go or enjoy over a cup of coffee.

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- Our award-winning newspaper, On Board, is published 17 times a year and mailed to your home.
- On Board Extra brings you late-breaking education news via email.
- Eclips, emailed daily, gives you the top-trending education stories.
- Research reports highlight challenges and trends that impact your district.
- Executive Director’s message, a comprehensive weekly email update on the latest NYSSBA, state and national education news.

MULTI-MEDIA:

- Our monthly President’s Gavel podcast provides insights into being a leader on the board.
- Share ideas with colleagues via the Board Officers’ Forum Ning.
- The School Board Member Experience website informs newly elected school board members how to navigate their first year.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Choose from more than 20 titles such as Running Effective Board Meetings and an Evaluation Guide for Boards and Superintendents. There’s a resource for every topic.
- School Law is our premiere publication that covers every aspect of education law in New York State. It is reviewed and updated every two years. (fee-based)
A savvy board member is an effective board member.

Since school board service is a volunteer position, we make it convenient for you to learn about key topics throughout your board service. Whether it's governance, fiscal, legal or leadership based skills, our staff specializes in delivering training that will give you confidence at the board table.

Our comprehensive programs (fee based) offer you premier training resources online, in person or on a district-by-district basis.

- **Regional Workshops and Seminars:** Each year a variety of training events are held at multiple locations throughout the state or virtually so you can choose a day and time that fits your schedule. The Board Officers Academy and Policy Workshops are annual favorites.

- **State-Mandated Training:** Bring your mandatory training home and complete it online, virtually or attend an in-person event where you can interact with the presenters and network with your peers.

- **Custom Board Retreats:** Board dynamics are unique to each district and its community. Our CBRs are tailored to meet your specific needs and scheduled at your convenience as an in-person or virtual retreat.

- **Legal Seminars and Workshops:** Our legal team monitors the ever changing legal requirements for public schools and offers practical guidance your district can use.

- **Annual Convention & Education Expo:** This October event is the largest in the state. You’ll have access to a myriad of educational sessions and the largest exhibition of educational products and services.
BOARD POLICY

Powerful tools for effective board governance.

Confidence at the board table starts with a well maintained policy manual. Our streamlined, user friendly manuals are written in plain language so that you and your community can quickly access your district’s operating procedures. You can count on us to help you stay up-to-date on changes in state and federal laws and regulations that affect your district’s policy manual.

You’ll always receive one-on-one support from our experienced knowledgeable policy team when using our fee-based policy services*:

- **The Essential Policy Manual**: A newly developed customized policy manual for your district.
- **E-Policy Service**: Conversion of a paper manual into an easy to access electronic format.
- **Policy Update Service**: Quarterly updates of new and/or revised sample policies.
- **Policy by Design**: Design your own policy services package to best meet your district’s needs.

As a member, you can request guidance and consultation at no cost.

*Most policy services can be delivered via the BoardDocs platform.

Don’t compromise your district with outdated policies. Let our staff help you develop and update policies that promote effective governance and efficient administration.
Efficiencies are the key to making the most of every budget dollar. We’ve partnered with companies that can streamline your district processes to free up staff to work on other tasks. Current School Services Partners include:

- **BoardDocs**, a user-friendly approach to paperless board meetings and an online district policy platform.
- **PERMA**, an association that is the premier provider of workers’ compensation to public employers.
- **School Aid Specialists**, a statewide firm that can maximize your district’s state aid and other revenues.
- **OMNIA Partners, Public Sector**, the largest public sector cooperative purchasing organization.

We are proud to be working for you – a statewide network of nearly 4,800 board members.

Together, we will make an important difference in the lives of our public schoolchildren and in the future of communities across New York.
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