



GUIDE TO MEMBER BENEFITS

**Excellence in local school board governance
supporting quality public education**

Your Association

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) is a voluntary organization of local boards of education dedicated, since 1913, to strengthening 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. Its work would not be possible without the continued commitment of volunteer school board members to public education for every child.

IASB's vision is excellence in local school board governance supporting quality public education and its mission is to *Light the Way* for its members by developing their competence and confidence through a robust toolkit that includes

- Premier training experiences;
- Networking opportunities for mutual support;
- Valuable benefits, pooled services, information, and expertise;
- Advocacy on behalf of public education; and
- A platform for a strong collective voice on common interests and concerns.

The following pages introduce a number of tools and services available to member school boards.



Conference, training, and events for you and your governance team

By developing an ongoing professional development plan, you can continue to gain knowledge and skills to apply to your school board service. IASB aligns its training to principles of effective governance. Programs and events are designed to accommodate individual interests in a variety of settings.



For learning at your own pace, online courses are offered to satisfy state-mandated training requirements and to build your essential knowledge and skills of board work. Additionally, the Association offers free webinars throughout the year to inform on a range of topics, from policy and legal issues to current education topics and trends to leadership best practices. Webinars are presented live and most are archived for later on-demand viewing.



Learning together with your fellow board members and superintendent will move your board forward as a governance team. IASB offers a number of in-district workshops to help you make an impact. Training activities can also be customized to the unique needs of a local board and district.



Opportunities to network with and learn from other Illinois school boards are available through IASB virtual events, regional meetings, and the Joint Annual Conference. IASB divisions hold events tailored to the professional development needs of the districts in the region. Statewide, Association members can participate in live webinars or other virtual events and interact through Q&A and chat features.



IASB • IASA • IASBO
Joint Annual Conference

The Joint Annual Conference is a premier training experience bringing together public school leaders from across the state for learning and networking through panel presentations, vendor exhibits, workshops, and more. Held annually in Chicago, the event is open to local board of education members, superintendents, school administrators, education officials, and other public education leaders. It is also where the annual IASB Delegate Assembly takes place.

Services and support for your board policymaking role



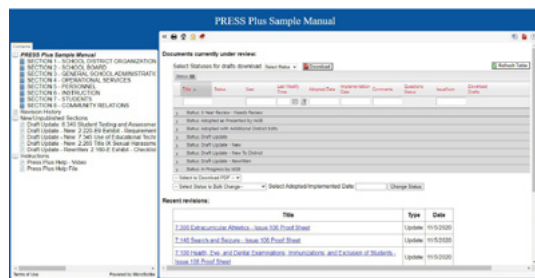
Having sound policies that govern the district is crucial to any board. IASB offers a full range of policy services designed to meet your school board's unique needs and align with the Association's Foundational Principles of Effective Governance.



PRESS is the foundational service. The annual subscription service gives your board access to footnoted, legally-referenced policy, exhibit, and administrative procedure sample materials through an online web portal. Each update is researched, written, and vetted by knowledgeable school law experts.

Additional subscription and one-time services include

- **PRESS Plus**
- **School Board Policies Online**
- **BoardBook®**
- **Policy Manual Customization**
- **Administrative Procedures Online**



While these services require an additional fee separate from your board membership dues, many school districts subscribe to IASB policy services to enhance the district's ability to function effectively and to ensure legal compliance.



Other Services



A service of the Illinois Association of School Boards

Member boards may take advantage of other fee-based services when need arises. IASB **Executive Searches** services assist school boards with recruiting and selecting a superintendent or other key administrator.

Other **Sponsored Programs** designed to save school districts money or ensure competitive pricing of some essential services are offered to districts through pooling or trust arrangements.



Resources to assist with your advocacy efforts

As key stakeholders in our educational system, board members serve as an essential local resource on educational issues. Involvement by school board members in both state and national legislative processes is imperative to shaping sound education policy.



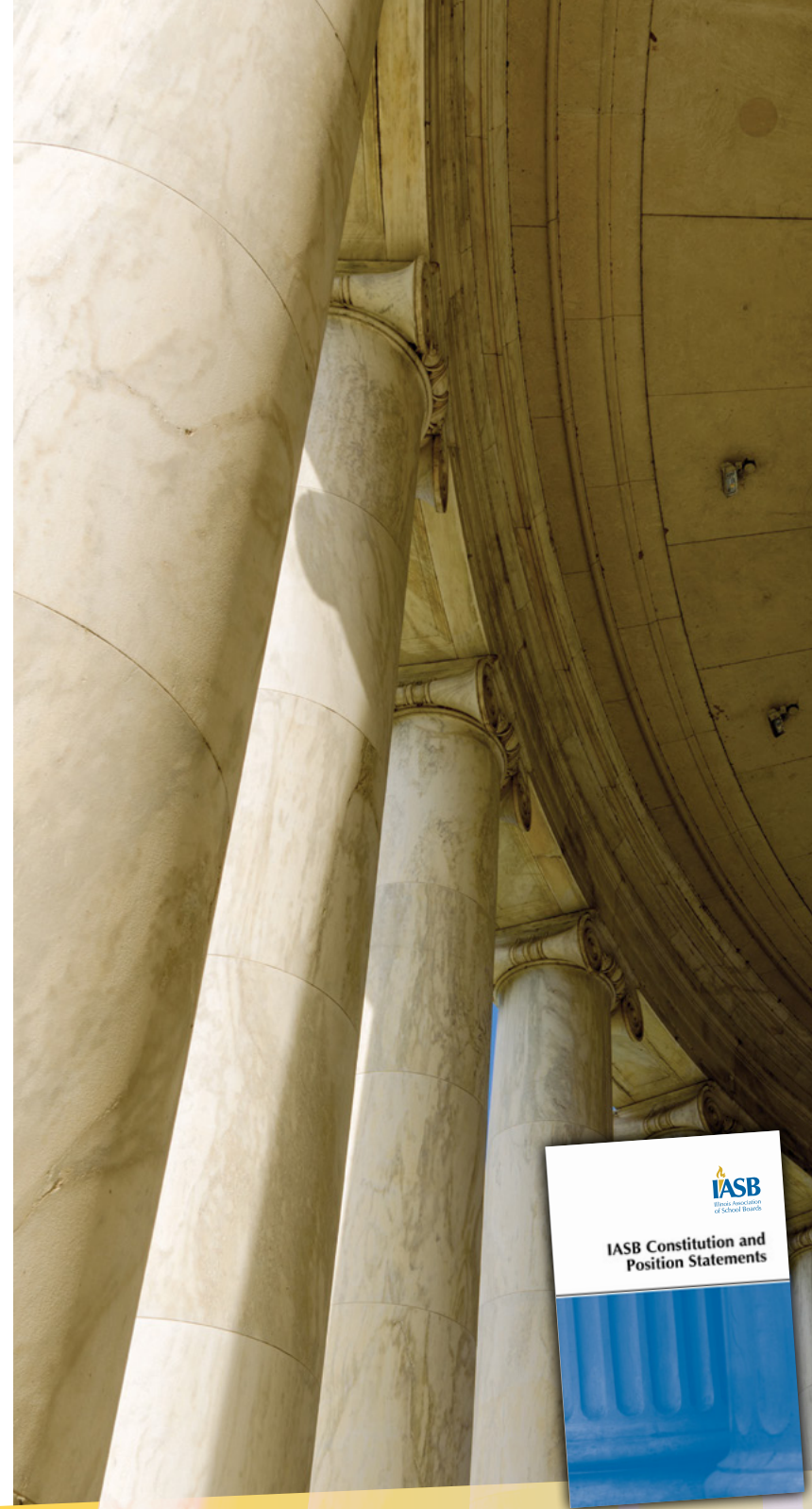
As a school board member, you'll receive legislative reports from IASB when important public education initiatives are being considered at both the state and federal levels.

When problematic legislation is forwarded, it is important that legislators hear from local school boards so they know specifically how these proposals will impact a local school district. Additionally, lawmakers need to hear from you when a proposal will benefit your schools and students.



You have multiple opportunities to influence and inform other constituents of successes, needs, and issues facing your local school district. IASB posts resources to provide comprehensive information on issues. IASB staff is available to assist with arranging meetings between school board members and legislators.

IASB lobbyists maintain close liaison with the State Board of Education, lawmakers, government agencies, and dozens of organizations and interest groups that influence public policy. IASB also supports a nationwide network of school board members organized by the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) to keep boards of education in touch with Congress.



Delegate Assembly

The Delegate Assembly is an important function of your board's membership. It gives the district ownership in the Association and the opportunity to establish the direction of the Association. Every member district has a delegate, a vote, and a voice. Each year, member districts have the opportunity to submit resolutions proposals to be considered by the IASB Delegate Assembly. Resolutions adopted by the Assembly become Position Statements or Belief Statements in the IASB Constitution, thus giving IASB staff direction on legislative positions.



Information and expertise to help you stay knowledgeable and up-to-date

IASB provides a wide range of information about everything from school governance to the requirements of state law and the challenges of school finance.



Information services provided as part of your district's dues are available online for your convenience at www.iasb.com.

This includes

- The digital version of the *Illinois School Board Journal* (issues are also printed and mailed to members);
- Surveys and data;
- Downloadable pamphlets and tools; and
- A compilation of daily education news headlines.



Additionally, IASB offers **guidance documents** to help provide clarity and understanding for a number of complicated laws and legal issues that impact local school governance.



To further expand your knowledge, or to aid in research, the

Get the latest IASB news and info by connecting with IASB online and watch your email for information on upcoming events.

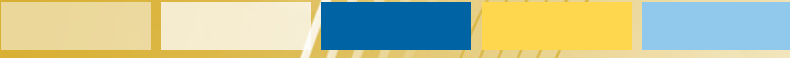


Additional Resources and Expertise

IASB Service Associates are businesses which offer school-related products and services and have earned favorable reputations for quality and integrity. This special arm of the Association provides an important resource for information and expertise helpful to Illinois school districts. Services include architecture and engineering, computer software, financial services, insurance, environmental services, and more.



The Illinois Council of School Attorneys (ICSA), which is adjunct to IASB, is a group of attorneys representing school districts throughout Illinois. ICSA attorneys often collaborate with the Association to provide straightforward, easy-to-use resources to assist local school boards.



Questions? IASB staff is happy to help.
Call (217) 528-9688 or (630) 629-3776,
or visit www.iasb.com/contact-us

www.iasb.com

