



New Jersey School Boards Association

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The Value of NJSBA Membership

Services and Representation Membership by all school boards in NJSBA enables the organization to achieve economies of scale not otherwise possible.

- For local school boards across the state, NJSBA's Alliance for Competitive Energy Services saved more than \$142 million in energy costs in the five years ending June 2014. The savings equate to 5 times the average annual dues per school district in 2013-2014. The funds can be directed to the classroom or toward property tax control.
- NJSBA dues cover fully the local school board's cost for essential services, including Accountability Act training, education goal-setting, superintendent evaluation training and guidance, the Critical Policy Reference Manual, school board self-evaluation, contract analysis, negotiations preparation, guidance on impasse resolution, and direct access to NJSBA's experts in education law, labor relations, policy, and school district governance.
- Unified membership also enables NJSBA to deliver other services in a cost-effective manner. These services, such as strategic planning and salary guide development, are available through NJSBA at substantially lower cost than they would be through other providers.

NJSBA is the only education advocacy group whose membership does not consist of school employees. That's an important distinction when addressing labor-management issues. NJSBA's unique status have enabled the Association to successfully advocate initiatives that benefit school district operations and finances, such as employee contributions to health coverage, changes in tenure and seniority laws, and critical changes in negotiations law.

Dues and Budgeting NJSBA is keenly aware of the financial challenges facing local boards of education. As a result, 2015-2016 will represent the 7th consecutive year that Association dues have not increased. NJSBA dues are limited to no more than one-tenth of 1 percent (0.001) of a district's budget. Most boards pay closer to one-twentieth of 1 percent (0.0005).

The Association is committed to continuing its prudent approach to budget development.

For 2015-2016, for the first time, dues revenue will make up less than 70 percent of the Association's budget (68.7%). In comparison, membership dues constituted 75.9 percent of total revenue in 2011-12, and 80 percent in 2010-11. The increased non-dues revenue comes from a variety of sources, including expanded income from Workshop; the NJSBA Corporate Partnership Program, and NJSBA's fund-raising arm, the Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey.

The budget, approved by the NJSBA Board of Directors in March 2015, is based on the following assumptions:

- An increase in service in response to the changing needs, as identified in NJSBA's 2015-2017 Strategic Plan;
- Continued development of an effective system of electronic communication and technology, and
- Delivery of high-quality mandated training programs for board of education members at no additional costs to school districts.

Local-Board Driven While local school board membership in NJSBA is required by state law, the Association is democratically governed, with every member given a voice in the organization's policies and operations. Each school board has a vote in the Delegate Assembly, which sets the organization's dues structure, approves its policies and by-laws, and elects its officers. School boards also elect members of the Board of Directors through their county school boards associations.

Public education is at a critical juncture. Local school boards today have an opportunity to secure long-sought changes in the management of districts. At the same time, school boards must stand together to prevent erosion of resources for our schools. More than ever, the services and representation made possible through unified NJSBA membership are critical to local school boards in fulfilling their mission.

March 2015

The New Jersey School Boards Association, a federation of boards of education, provides training, advocacy and support to advance public education and promote the achievement of all students through effective governance.