



New Jersey School Boards Association

413 West State Street • Trenton, NJ 08618 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll-Free: 888.88NJSBA • Fax: 609.695.0413

NJSBA Dues-Based Services

The following is a summary of NJSBA Dues-Based Services. For a complete description of services, consult the NJSBA Membership Guide at www.njsba.org/Services-Guide.

Direct/Support Services

Consultation (telephone and in-person)

NJSBA dues enable members to receive legal information and consultation on school district governance, labor relations, and policy from our staff experts. These dues-based services include the following:

Labor Relations (dues-based)

- Teacher contract analysis
- In-district assistance, including analysis and advice on board and union proposals; assistance in planning bargaining strategy; preparation for mediation and fact finding; contract administration and grievance handling, and assistance in other specialized areas
- Salary guide review and analysis
- Assistance for boards that are anticipating or experiencing job actions, including meeting with the board to develop strategies, providing sample contingency plans, and assisting with communications
- Current Negotiations Data, a comprehensive source of teacher contract bargaining data, including settlement rates, salary guides, insurance provisions, leaves of absence, and selected contract terms

Policy (dues-based)

- *Critical Policy Reference Manual*, a compilation of approximately 200 legally sound, essential policies, along with detailed legal references
- Policy manual “wellness checks,” or audits
- A clearinghouse of policies in effect in New Jersey school districts
- The *Manual for the Development of Job Descriptions*, which provides qualifications, reporting structures, job goals, scope of responsibilities, and legal citations for the many school district positions

Governance (dues-based, in-district)

- Board self-evaluation
- Superintendent evaluation training and oversight
- Board governance workshops (e.g., ethics, parliamentary procedure, conflict resolution, consensus building, effective meetings).
- Goal-setting
- Community engagement

Training/Professional Development (dues-based)

NJSBA provides a wide range of professional development opportunities at no additional cost to local boards of education.

These programs encompass all New Jersey School Ethics Act and New Jersey School District Accountability Act training, including online, one-day in-person, and weekend programs. The New Board Member Orientation weekend, for example, is considered one of the nation's premier training programs. NJSBA has also instituted a successful weekend training program for school board leaders. In addition, NJSBA provides numerous other professional development opportunities at no additional cost to local school boards.

Throughout the year, NJSBA also offers school board members and district staff members free online training and webinars on subjects ranging from cybersecurity and E-Rate solutions to school security, labor relations, STEM and STEAM education, and alternative funding. In-person sessions on STEAM education and sustainable practices are also offered at no cost to local school boards and their administrative staff members.

County-Based Training

On an annual basis, NJSBA provides over 100 training, information and student-focused programs through the state's 21 county school boards associations. NJSBA covers all costs of county association training programs, including meals and facilities, thereby enabling local school board members to attend these meetings at no charge. In the past year, county-based training programs have addressed topics such as school funding, mental health services, social-emotion learning, advocacy/legislation, school security, and student testing.

Cooperative Purchasing/Cost-Saving Programs

NJSBA membership entitles local school boards to participate in cost-saving initiatives, including the following:

- **ACES** – An NJSBA member service, the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services has saved school districts statewide over \$225 million in electricity and natural gas costs over the past decade.
- **NJSBA TEC** (Technology for Education and Careers) – Most NJSBA members can acquire discounted technology products and services through the NJSBA TEC cooperative pricing system, which allows statewide procurement and saves districts administrative time and expense.
- **Grants Support** – This NJSBA service provides districts with free access to a searchable database of current federal, state, and foundation grant opportunities, email alerts of new opportunities and pending deadlines, and training on grant-seeking.

Partnerships

NJSBA has established partnerships that benefit local boards of education throughout New Jersey. For example, NJSBA is a founding partner of **Future Ready School–New Jersey** (with The New Jersey Institute of Technology and the New Jersey Department of Education) and **Sustainable Jersey for Schools** (with the Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey).

More than 56 percent of the state's operating school districts are members of Sustainable Jersey for Schools. The program provides guidance, resources, recognition and certification for sustainable practices, while advancing student learning in the STEAM education areas. In fiscal year 2018 alone, Sustainable Jersey for Schools awarded over \$330,000 in grants to school districts. Since its founding in 2014, it has provided over \$1.8 million in grants.

Advocacy

NJSBA works for the preservation of local school district autonomy and flexibility. Through advocacy before the Legislature and action in the courts, it has opposed efforts that would erode the authority of local boards of education to govern effectively. A recent case in point is successful opposition to a proposal that would place a cap on health care contributions. In addition, for the past decade, we have successfully opposed proposals to restrict a school district's option to subcontract services. Our advocacy on this issue, which we expect will continue through the current legislative session, has saved school boards statewide an estimated \$34 million to \$38 million annually.