

# Maryland Association of Boards of Education



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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Sandra L. Barry,  
President  
Maryland Association of Boards of Education

DATE: September 23, 2008

SUBJECT: Maryland Association of Boards of Education Annual Report on Programs and Services

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## PURPOSE:

To highlight the programs and services provided by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) to its members, including all 24 local boards and the State Board of Education, on the occasion of the association's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## BACKGROUND:

Founded in 1957, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) is a private, non-profit organization to which all of Maryland's 24 local school boards, and the State Board of Education, voluntarily belong. MABE's vision is to challenge, lead, and assist local boards to create and maintain excellent public schools for all of Maryland's children. MABE pursues this vision through a comprehensive and coordinated array of programs and services, including: government relations, professional development, legal and policy services, insurance programs, public/private partnerships, superintendent searches, community engagement, and participation in statewide policy initiatives.

Based on the belief that excellence in the classroom begins with excellence in the board room, MABE offers a comprehensive board development program including New Board Member Orientation, Boardmanship Academy sessions, the MABE Leadership Program, facilitation of local board retreats, and conducting candidate forums for elected and appointed boards. MABE receives an annual allocation from the Maryland State Department of Education to assist in delivering high quality professional development programs and, in particular, the annual New Board Orientation programs.

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MABE strives to be the primary voice for local boards at the state level. MABE's Legislative Committee holds monthly meetings to guide the association's lobbying activities in Annapolis, and invites policy and legislative leaders to exchange ideas. MABE conducts direct lobbying activities including written and oral testimony before the General Assembly and coordinates the Green Street Coalition, which is comprised of legislative liaisons from school systems and the superintendents association. MABE staff pens the weekly *GreenSheet* summary of legislative activity, and MABE continues to expand the scope of materials available on the MABE website to include the *MABE Monitor*, legislative testimony, correspondence, and links to other resources.

The MABE Legal Services Association (LSA) provides local boards with education, advocacy, information, and representation services. LSA's legal seminars are the finest education law training sessions for local boards and staff, and LSA provides regular alerts regarding the most significant developments in public school law. The *Maryland School Law Deskbook* is the premiere source on school law from Maryland and around the nation, and the 2008–2009 School Year Edition is now updated and a CD version is available for the first time. LSA has continued to expand the provision of policy services. The policy services initiative recognizes the primary importance of the policy development role of boards. The effort has resulted in the development of the MABE Policy Development Institute for local boards that is provided in a retreat or other setting.

MABE provides local boards the opportunity to participate in group self-insurance programs. The Group Insurance Pool provides casualty or liability coverage for claims made against member school systems and their employees. It also provides property insurance for school buildings and their contents in the event of fire or other covered peril. The Workers' Compensation Group Self-Insurance Fund provides workers' compensation coverage for employees of member school systems should they suffer work-related compensable injuries. The Pool and Fund deliver safety and risk management services to member boards, which helps to reduce the number of claims and to control the cost of those claims that occur.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

MABE's comprehensive array of programs and services continues to adapt and respond to the needs of member boards of education, and MABE looks forward to the continuing collaboration with the State Board of Education in the development and delivery of high quality professional development for all boards and board members.

#### ACTION:

For information only.