GSBA – Georgia School Boards Association

Programs & Services

Mission: Ensuring excellence in the governance of local school systems by providing leadership, advocacy and services, and by representing the collective resolve of Georgia’s elected boards of education.

Advocacy

GSBA maintains an active presence in all areas of advocacy at the state and national levels. To keep our members and audiences informed on legislative issues affecting public education, GSBA has developed Capitol Watch Online where viewers can read daily reports of action under Georgia’s “Gold Dome” while the Georgia General Assembly is in session and find out about certain bills and pieces of legislation. The association also provides numerous opportunities for engagement in the process through workshops, forums, participation in the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Advocacy Institute Conference.

Board Development

GSBA conducts training and workshops on topics such as, school safety, school law, board chair training, school finance, budgeting and much more. Although most board members receive their mandated training through these workshops, many boards receive the annual training through customized whole board retreats provided by GSBA.

GSBA designed its board development program to comply with both the letter and spirit of Georgia law. Local school systems must maintain records and offer verification indicating that local board members have received the required annual training.

Mentor Program

GSBA offers new board members a mentor who will provide counsel, be a valuable resource and be a guide on the path to good boardsmanship. The mentors give advice about school board roles and responsibilities based upon best practices. The mentors do not offer legal counsel or advice on how to vote. The mentors will be using various ways to communicate with new board members such as face-to-face, telephone and email communications.

Policy Development

GSBA assists local school boards and system staff in policy development through a number of services: full policy manual revisions, an update service for policy manuals revised by GSBA within the last five years, a policy maintenance service and sample policy information. You can also find up-to-date changes to state policies and regulations affecting your manual in the quarterly Policy Update Newsletters.
Public Engagement

GSBA believes that informing and engaging stakeholders at the district level can lead to a more well-informed and supportive community. GSBA can assist the district in making strategic decisions about how to engage stakeholders at various levels of the organization, internally and externally. We can also provide assistance on matching the engagement activity to the issue so that the information and result is what you need to move the district forward.

Risk Management

Membership in GSBA’s Risk Management Fund and Workers’ Compensation Fund provides school boards with a proven means of preserving lives, protecting facilities, minimizing disruptions and recovering from unexpected events. Innovative resources provided to members include safety training for employee groups such as bus drivers, custodians and food service staff; special webinars and training on safety and liability issues; and special knowledge of school operations that traditional insurance companies may not have.

Simbli (eBOARDsolutions)

With so much strategic work to be done, board members and leaders need to feel confident in their ability to communicate effectively, follow streamlined processes, and keep their strategy in focus at all times. Simbli makes board management easy by providing school boards, governments, nonprofits and other decision-making bodies with the tools and resources they need to simply get more done.

Simbli is a web-based governance portal that boards and school systems can use to communicate about and manage meetings, policies, strategic plans, evaluations, news, documents and legal information.

Strategic Planning

In collaboration with the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI), GSBA provides a multifaceted strategic planning process that begins with a community engagement component. The process involves many stakeholders in the development of a plan that reaches from the central office level to the school and classroom level. The Simbli Strategic Planning Module can assist with managing the plan.

Superintendent Searches

The GSBA Superintendent Search process is designed to allow each board to individualize the search process for its next superintendent around a framework of leadership competencies that reflect the best practices in educational leadership.

The GSBA Superintendent Competency Framework includes nine indicators that are aligned with the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) Leadership Standards, a set of nationally recognized criteria that outline what education leaders should know and be able to do.
Financial Services

In partnership with GSBA, the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) has two financing programs available to school boards: the Direct Lease Program and the Bricks & Mortar Program.

Since 1990, GMA has completed lease purchase transactions in excess of $1.2 billion for cities, school districts and county governments.

*Direct Lease Program* – provides school boards with low-interest installment leases for the acquisition of essential equipment.

*Bricks & Mortar Program* – provides long-term financing of essential school real estate projects through GMA.

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The BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative helps save time and money while purchasing the products school systems use every day.

Currently endorsed by the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and several state school boards associations, the program’s purpose is to obtain reduced prices for its members through the benefits and efficiencies of a purchasing cooperative.

GSBA membership entitles your district to become a BuyBoard member for FREE. Once you sign up for BuyBoard, your district has the ability to make purchases from an approved list of vendors that have gone through a competitive bidding process.

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The GSBA Hub

The GSBA HUB is a FREE online community exclusively developed for GSBA members only. Dedicated to serving the talented, hard-working board members and district leaders of GSBA, the HUB is intended to be an online community of learning and collaboration, facilitating more efficient and effective board governance – a give and take of helpful information, anecdotes, advice and wisdom.

Members may log in to the GSBA HUB website or download the GSBA HUB app via the Apple Store for iPhone and iPad, or the Google Play Store for all Android mobile and tablet devices.