



New Mexico School Boards Association

Annual Convention
Albuquerque, NM
December 12-14, 2024

Don Hubler
NSBA President

Vice President, Macomb Intermediate School District Board of Education (Michigan)



Transforming public education, board by board

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A Special Olympics Unified Cheer team energized Annual Conference.

How NSBA Serves Its Members



The leading advocate for public education

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Enthusiastic and welcoming students made an NSBA experiential learning visit to Florida's Orange County Public Schools even more memorable.

**VISION
MISSION
TAGLINE**

OUR MISSION | To equip school board members with resources to advocate for each student in each community, in partnership with our members.

OUR VISION | Each school board ensures that each student can reach their full potential through quality and equitable educational opportunities.

NSBA | Transforming public education, board by board

NSBA's purpose is to ensure every student has access to excellent and equitable public education governed by high performing school board leaders and supported by the community. NSBA, a non-partisan association, leads through working with members, affiliates, and stakeholders to advocate for high quality public education and school board governance with the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

Adopted by the NSBA Delegate Assembly, March 31, 2023, Orlando, FL



The leading advocate for public education

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The leading advocate for public education

Four Key Focus Areas

- **Advocacy** – Focus on PreK-12 success by fully funding of IDEA through a trusted and respected national voice, inclusive of nonpartisan influential congressional champions, that amplify a student-centered voice.
- **Educational Equity and Excellence** – Define equity and excellence in education to minimize controversial interpretations and misunderstandings. We must act and renew our focus inclusive of rural communities.
- **Governance** – Restructure NSBA’s Delegate Assembly to support a renewed mission and redefined membership. Establish national governance structure that articulates the role and responsibilities of the executive director and board of directors and empowers the board of directors to elect their own officers.
- **Membership** – Establish a diversified membership model that delivers the value of NSBA as a national PreK-12 advocate. With renewed vision, NSBA and its members and stakeholders create a partnership for success, for each and every student in rural, urban, and suburban communities.



A talented singer from Florida's Orange County Public Schools opened an NSBA Annual Conference event.



Federal Advocacy Priorities: 119th Congress (2025-2026)

- **Securing Funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education (IDEA) Act:** NSBA urges Congress to maintain and build on the program's purpose of assisting local school districts in providing for the education of children with disabilities, supporting no less than 40 percent of the excess cost of educating eligible students, and providing flexibilities for local school districts to fulfill funding requirements.
- **Promoting Equitable Access to Technology and Technology Education:** NSBA urges Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to continue modernizing and strengthening programs such as the Broadband Equity and Access Development (BEAD) Program, to improve the capacity, quality, and speed of connectivity for students and educators in the nation's schools and communities.
- **Advocating for Student Nutrition and Funding Needs:** NSBA urges Congress to prioritize student health by reauthorizing the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act with increased flexibility for schools to administer the program successfully. Congress should fully fund a universal school meal program that provides free breakfast and lunch to all eligible students and amend the poverty level requirement to be based on the area's median income.
- **Maintaining and Improving the Education Workforce:** NSBA urges Congress to support the education workforce by ensuring competitive salaries and professional development opportunities for teachers and all school staff. Teachers and staff play a critical role in meeting the diverse needs of students every day. Investing in the well-being and advancement of education professionals can create a more robust and sustainable educational system that benefits both educators and the students they serve.



THE KEY WORK OF SCHOOL BOARDS GUIDEBOOK

Fourth Edition

nsba

NSBA's Key Work of School Boards guidebook outlines critical accountability standards.

The section on accountability addresses the questions the school board should ask itself and the questions the school board should ask their superintendent and staff.

The Key Work of School Boards guidebook follows with standards and expectations and how to improve school board accountability.

Learn more and get your copy at nsba.org/resources/.

Why I Serve

Federal Advocacy Priorities

In the nation's capital, we address issues that impact students and public schools, and we advocate for strengthening local governance.

We work to educate the public about the important role of school boards, enhance school board reputation, promote the value of public of education, and shape and lead the conversation about the future of public education.



Confident and engaged students become lifetime learners in Florida's Orange County Public Schools.

The National Landscape

As everyone now knows, Republicans will control the White House, the Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives after their clean sweep in the November elections, BUT

- Republicans only have 53 seats in the Senate, meaning they'll have to work with Democrats to get things done;
- Also, Republicans have a very narrow margin in the House, but President-elect Trump can probably get them to get in line, unlike in 2023-2024 when they struggled to agree on things as a party—remember when they struggled to elect a speaker?
- Republicans in charge means a lot of change at the national level, with ramifications for the state and local levels around federal funding, regulations and guidance, and programs



President-Elect Trump's Agenda

- President-elect Trump's agenda will be the congressional agenda. We expect the president to focus on immigration and economic issues, including tax reform and trade.
- We've heard talk about eliminating the U.S. Department of Education, but that takes an act of Congress, including 60 votes from the Senate. It's highly unlikely to get enough votes. **A 2023 vote in the House to abolish the department failed, garnering only 161 yes votes. Sixty Republicans joined every Democrat in voting no.**
- Still Trump's reelection will likely have a significant impact on the federal K-12 education and workforce policy landscape., including the Education Department, but also other agencies with authority over programs impacting children: Agriculture Department; Health and Human Services; the Federal Communications Commission; the Federal Trade Commission; and more.

President-Elect Trump's Education Agenda

Education wasn't a big priority in Trump's campaign, so we expect his focus on education to be limited, but likely in these areas:

- parental rights;
- school choice & vouchers;
- free speech and decreased censorship; and
- changes to Title IX guidelines that prohibit sex discrimination in educational institutions and programs that receive federal funding.

Possible Bipartisan Issues in 2025

Bipartisan work could pick up on issues from current Congress:

Workforce Issues:

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;
- National Apprenticeship Act; and
- A Short-Term Pell Grant program which would fund shorter-term education and training programs offered by postsecondary institutions.

Research & Technical Assistance:

- Education Sciences Reform Act;
- Artificial Intelligence and online safety, including legislation focused on digital literacy, student privacy, and wellness, such as the Kids Online Safety Act and the Children and Teens Online Privacy Protection Act, also known as COPPA 2.0.



Education Secretary Nominee Linda McMahon

- McMahon served briefly on Connecticut's state education board and has experience leading a federal agency after heading the Small Business Administration during Trump's first term.
- Some questions have emerged about her background, but her confirmation hasn't raised as many objections as other Cabinet nominees. The Senate confirmed her to lead the Small Business Administration by an 81-19 vote in 2017.
- Because she is seen as less controversial than other nominees and has been through the process before, she might be one of the first cabinet officials to be confirmed—possibly as early as the first week after inauguration.
- We'll learn more about her background and policy positions during her in the confirmation hearings, but we know she's a big voucher proponent.



Federal Communications Commission

Current FCC Commissioner Brenden Carr will be appointed by Trump to serve as FCC Chair after current Chair Jessica Rosenworcel steps down on January 20.

When she steps down, Trump can name another Republican to the five-person FCC panel, giving Republicans a 3-2 majority. The Senate must confirm that person so it may not happen right away.

When Republicans have the majority, the FCC may vote to eliminate Rosenworcel's "Learn Without Limits" initiative, which permitted using E-rate funds for Wi-Fi on school buses and mobile hot spots.

The FCC may also eliminate the K-12 Cybersecurity pilot program. Demand for the cybersecurity pilot far exceeded capacity, with requests totaling \$3.7 billion from school and library applicants nationwide for the \$200 million pilot program.



The U.S. Supreme Court & E-Rate

Next year, the U.S. Supreme Court will consider a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit's ruling that the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional.

The Universal Service Fund funds E-rate, the Lifeline program, and rural health care, among other programs.

If the Supreme Court rules the Universal Service Fund unconstitutional, the FCC will play a key role with Congress in developing a new framework around E-rate and these other programs;

There is strong support from both parties in Congress for E-rate, Lifeline, and rural health care so we don't expect the programs to go away.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



- **Lame-Duck Agenda**
 - Congress has until Dec. 20 to fund the government and avoid a holiday shutdown.
 - Most likely, Congress will pass another stopgap spending bill, known as a continuing resolution that lasts until either January or March.
 - At least two Republicans have come out against any CR, meaning that Republicans will need support from Democrats to pass a bill and keep the government open.
 - Activity expected to pick up closer to Dec. 20
 - NSBA is urging Congress to finalize its spending decisions before the end of the year, but we need your help!



Transforming public education, board by board

Urge Congress to Finish Its Work & Prioritize Education Funding: **TEXT “FINISH” TO 52886**

Senate and House are far apart on funding levels

- Senate: \$12 billion more in discretionary funding for the U.S. Department of Education
- Senate: \$300 million increase for Title I and special education;
- House: \$5 billion cut for Title I

The top priority for Congress should be completing the appropriations process before the year is over and passing an education funding bill that ensures that each student gets the academic, mental, social, and emotional support they need to succeed.



TEXT “FINISH” TO 52886

- You’ll receive a link you can tap to send a message to Congress, urging it to finish its work and prioritize education funding by:
 - 1) Increasing IDEA funding to move toward the federal commitment of 40% of excess costs, enabling districts to provide appropriate services for students with disabilities;
 - 2) Strengthening Title I funding to better support programs that help economically disadvantaged students achieve their full potential; and
 - 3) Enhancing Title II funding to support teacher and principal effectiveness through locally developed strategies.
- So far we’ve sent nearly 500 emails to members of Congress, but we need more.
- Text “Finish” to 52886 to get involved



Transforming public education, board by board

Coordinating National & Local Priorities

It is critical at this time that we coordinate national and local priorities for a Cohesive advocacy strategy.

As you know, most of the work of school boards deals with local issues like passing the budget, setting school boundaries, and holding the superintendent and school system accountable

But federal issues like Title IX guidelines, funding for Title I and special education, and E-rate dollars can certainly impact how you do your job; That's why I hope you'll join us in the advocacy campaign I just mentioned

At NSBA, we're not focused on "red" or "blue" issues. We're focused on the issues that impact all school board members and each student.



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Other Key Education Questions for 2025

- **Will the U.S. Department of Education be eliminated?**
 - As I said earlier. No. Eliminating the U.S. Department of Education requires an act of Congress, including 60 votes in the Senate. Republicans control 53 seats. A 2023 vote in the U.S. House to abolish the Education Department failed by a vote of 161-265, including 60 Republicans who joined every Democrat in voting no.
 - Even if the Education Department were eliminated, programs like the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are permanently authorized in federal law. It would take another law—and 60 votes in the Senate--to get rid of it. IDEA is a popular program among both political parties.
- **What kind of a relationship will NSBA have with the incoming administration?**
 - We are working on policy recommendations to share with the President-elect's transition team.



Fighting Vouchers in 119th Congress

Educational Choice for Children Act

- Likely to be included in a budget reconciliation bill in 2025—**Only needs 51 votes in Senate** (Republican have 53 seats in the U.S. Senate)
- Would establish a **national, federal voucher program** that would divert \$21.5 billion in tax dollars to private schools and families who homeschool.
- Would provide individuals a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for donating money to a “scholarship granting organization” that pays the tuition for students who attend private schools or reimburses families who homeschool.
- Operates less like a tax incentive and more like a direct transfer of taxpayer funds away from public education and into private schools.
- NSBA believes this legislation is fiscally irresponsible, enables student discrimination, undermines local control of education, and would severely damage public schools that educate 90% of American children.
- NSBA is part of a 30+ coalition of organizations working against this legislation

UPCOMING CONVENINGS

REMEMBER: Representatives from every school district are eligible to attend!
Your school board's NMSBA membership entitles you to reduced registration fees.

ADVOCACY & EQUITY INSTITUTE

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INSTITUTE

FEBRUARY 2-4, 2025 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

AN nsba EVENT



Keynote Speakers



Brandon Farbstein
Global Empowerment Speaker



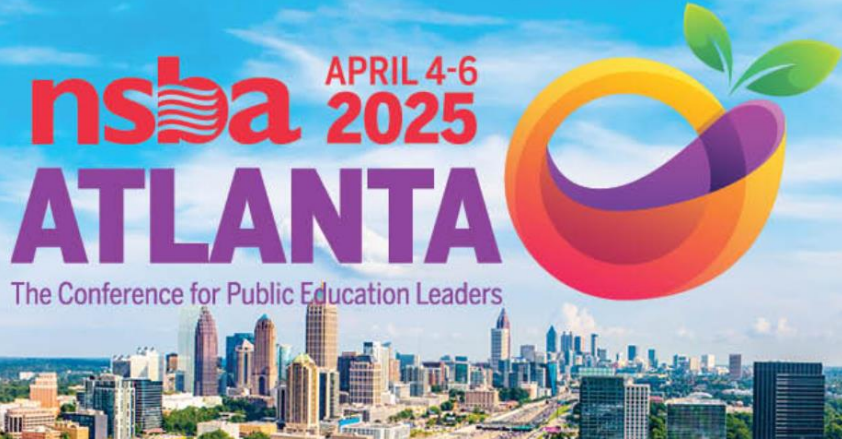
Robert Kelty
Head of Outreach, Government
Relations, and Development
International Baccalaureate,
North America



Holly Robinson Peete
Actress, Author, Activist,
and Philanthropist

- Explore the latest developments in education policy and legislation
- Leave empowered with knowledge, tools, and strategies needed to champion the interests of public K-12 students
- Hear from and meet with federally elected officials

Early Bird Savings End Dec. 13!
Register today at nsba.org/advocate



- Connect with peers from across the country.
- Learn Best Practices: Enhance governance and leadership skills.
- Stay informed about key student success factors.
- Discover programs and technologies to enrich learning.
- Network and build relationships with like-minded professionals.

Join us in Atlanta for leadership, growth, and inspiration!!!

Keynote Speakers

FRIDAY GENERAL SESSION



Melissa Stockwell
American War Hero & Paralympic Medalist

SATURDAY GENERAL SESSION



Ravi Hutheesing
Global Education & Cultural Futurist

RURAL EDUCATION BREAKFAST



Dr. Joe Sanfelippo
Retired Superintendent, Author, Speaker

COUNCIL OF URBAN BOARDS OF EDUCATION (CUBE) LUNCHEON



Pedro Antonio Noguera, Ph.D.
Dean, Rossier School of Education
University of Southern California

NATIONAL CONNECTION JOINT COUNCILS LUNCHEON



Dr. Gholnecsar (Gholdy) Muhammad
Professor, Literacy, Language, and Culture
University of Illinois at Chicago

Join us at the largest gathering of school board members in the country!

Stay Tuned for Sunday General Session Keynote Speakers!
(Hint: One is a Golden Globe-winning actor)

Early Bird Savings End Friday, Jan. 10!
Register today at nsba.org/nsba2025



Working with the Go Green Initiative and our state affiliates, NSBA will provide education and training for school staff, administrators, and school board officials involved in improving school indoor air quality and reducing climate pollution across all 50 states.

We will also provide targeted, intensive technical assistance and capacity building in Tribal and low-income school districts in all 10 EPA regions.

Stay Connected, Stay Engaged: The NSBA Alumni Network!

Through this program, your commitment to public education doesn't end with your school board term.

- Stay connected with school board members across the nation and continue making an impact;
- Serve as a champion of NSBA's mission, mentor emerging leaders, and contribute to education through webinars, workshops, and more.
- Be part of a legacy that continues to shape public education.

Learn more at nsba.org/alumni.

AN nsba PROGRAM

Alumni Network

Committed to Public Education, Beyond the School Board Term

Remember NSBA is about the common challenges facing ALL school board members, whether they reside in our largest cities or our most remote rural areas.

We welcome ALL school boards and ALL school board members to participate in ALL NSBA events and activities. Because we believe in a great public education for each student.

THANK YOU!