# **Association Advocacy**



The New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) is your voice in Trenton—and on Capitol Hill—and wherever decisions are being made that affect the governance of our schools.

Our governmental relations staff carefully monitors the activities of all policy-making branches of federal and state government. We alert you when critical issues arise that may have an impact on our schools. And we speak up for you by testifying whenever a crucial vote comes up on a school-related matter.

You can't always be where the action is taking place—so we make sure that we are.



NJSBA: We're your people on the ground in Trenton.

#### SURVEYING THE LANDSCAPE

NJSBA keeps an eye on the action wherever it occurs—whether it's on the state or federal level. We provide you with the latest news and analysis on significant developments in public education, including:

- Developments occurring in the Legislature and Congress
- Decisions of state and federal courts
- Rulings of the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law
- Actions by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education
- Activity by the New Jersey State Board of Education

### **ALERTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

NJSBA has all the resources you need to keep informed about the latest legislative developments affecting our schools. You can stay on top of the news by:

- Visiting the Advocacy portion of NJSBA's website, which features important information about pending legislation and other developments that may affect school governance
- Reading NJSBA's weekly School Board Notes newsletter and bimonthly School Leader magazine, where you'll find informative articles written by our experienced governmental relations staff

- Taking action on Advocacy Alerts, prompting you to send letters and make calls about pending legislative action
- Reading NJSBA's Legislative Directory, which explains the legislative and code processes and provides contact information for all legislators
- Follow NJSBA on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

#### SPEAKING UP FOR OUR MEMBERS

Our mission is to represent the interests of our school board members whenever critical decisions are being made. Our advocacy and outreach activities include:

- Testifying on proposed legislation before legislative committees and the State Board of Education
- Reaching out to key legislators to enlist their support or to help stop a bill contrary to school district interests
- Lobbying the Governor's office to block unfavorable bills from being signed into law
- Organizing phone-in and email campaigns
- E-mailing alerts that urge our members to take specific actions in favor of or against a proposed law
- Drafting Sample Resolutions local boards can adopt to express their stance on pressing legislative issues





#### **HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED**

- Volunteer to join us when we meet with legislators from your district
- Participate in NJSBA-organized advocacy campaigns
- Attend our annual Legislative Day, which provides an opportunity for our members to meet key decision makers and learn more about educational issues
- Invite us to meet with your board to conduct training on grassroots advocacy
- Become actively involved in NJSBA's governance by serving on the Legislative Committee or in the Delegate Assembly
- Attend the Legislative and State Board of Education Programs at Workshop

#### **CONTACT US**

Do you have a question about a special issue? Has your district encountered a particular problem? You can call or email NJSBA any time for assistance. A member of our governmental relations staff will help you find the answers you need.

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**New Jersey School Boards Association** 

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