

State Board of Education

Member Responsibilities

The information below is intended to provide potential teacher member candidates insight regarding the responsibilities of a State Board of Education member.

Vision: To ensure all students have access to a world class educational system that prepares them to graduate ready for post-secondary learning, rewarding work, and success in society and life.

Mission: Provide leadership, set policy, and advocate for continuous improvement of Maryland's educational system to achieve the following:

- Assist every student to realize his or her potential.
- Develop and support a strong accountability system to increase academic success for all students
- Promote a safe, healthy, and orderly environment for learning and teaching
- Ensure educator and administrator effectiveness
- Promote students' physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being
- Expand high-quality educational opportunities for students and parents
- Work with districts to strengthen infrastructure
- Increase communication and partnerships with stakeholders statewide

Expectations of State Board Members

- Make decisions based on the best interests of the State, not those of a special interest group or local subdivision.
- Attend Board meetings. Board members should notify the President or the Board Office if they cannot attend part or all of a Board meeting. (A member of the State Board who fails to attend at least 50% of the meetings of the Board during any consecutive 12-month period shall be considered to have resigned pursuant to State Government Article, § 8-501 of the Annotated Code of Maryland).
- Read all written materials prior to each meeting in preparation for discussion and decision making.
- Actively participate in decision making.
- State Board members often possess expertise in education policy and practice. We must expect that they will, in their private capacities, work on, write, and speak about education issues. However, when a Board member is publicly engaging in an issue that is before the State Board or that is specifically about Maryland policy or practice, that Board member should make clear that s/he is expressing personal views and not speaking on behalf of the Board.
- Recognize that individual members have no authority to bind, speak, or act for the State Board or Department of Education, except as authorized by the State Board as a body.
- Avoid committing the Board to a position with public comments except when Board policy is already clearly established.
- Support official actions, policies, and positions of the State Board and refrain from publicly opposing decisions/actions once they are adopted.
- Respect and protect the confidentiality of all information shared and discussed in Executive Sessions of the Board.
- Comply with the State Ethics Law, including annual submission of Financial Disclosure Forms, and avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest.
- Show respect for fellow Board members, staff, and members of the public.
- Refrain from comments concerning family members, personal philosophy, and personal experiences in order to have public sessions conducted in a professional and business-like manner.
- Serve as a liaison to commissions, committees, and task forces for the Department of Education and external organizations, as needed, and provide regular updates to the Board.