



VSBA

Virginia School Boards Association

Leadership · Advocacy · Support

Frequently Asked Questions About COSSBA

What is COSSBA?

Founded by 22 state school boards associations in late 2021, the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) is a non-partisan, national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote, and strengthen state school boards associations as they serve their local school districts and board members. COSSBA is a voluntary, non-partisan federation of state school boards associations focused on:

- Support for the work of state school boards associations through effective staff collaboration, networking, and shared resources
- Networking opportunities for local school board members and association board members to enhance the effectiveness of their work
- Tracking and advocating for federal education issues and policies impacting local school boards and public education aligned with a statement of core values and beliefs of COSSBA
- Federal judicial advocacy impacting local control and public education



The Consortium shall strive to undertake all activities in a manner aligned with the following Guiding Principles:

- Focused and responsive
- Transparent and efficient
- Reflective and relevant
- Representative and accountable
- Unified

How is COSSBA different from any other national organization?

COSSBA is an alliance of state school boards associations formed by state school boards associations to support, promote, and strengthen each other in achieving excellence in local school board governance resulting in high quality public education and access to educational opportunities for every student. Its focus is on building and maintaining a unified Consortium that is flexible, focused, responsive, relevant, collaborative, transparent, accountable, reflective, and representative of our members.

How many states are currently members of COSSBA?

22 state school board associations are currently members of COSSBA, with additional state associations expected to join during Fiscal Year 2023. COSSBA is currently the largest national organization representing state school board associations in both the number of students and boards of education represented.

What is the Transition Steering Committee (TSC)?

The TSC is comprised of each of the 22 founding state school boards associations. It serves as the governing body of COSSBA until January 2023, when the permanent governance structure is implemented.

Is COSSBA non-partisan?

Yes, the founding state associations are committed to a national organization that remains non-partisan. While states are sometimes defined based upon party lines and voting patterns, the education of children is not. The core purpose of the Consortium is to form, serve, and empower a national, non-partisan alliance of state school boards associations that are dedicated to ensuring public school board leaders obtain high-quality training and support to provide excellent and equitable public education in local communities throughout the nation.

What is the status of COSSBA?

The Transition Steering Committee met in April and May with the following actions accomplished:

- Approved Articles of Incorporation.
- Approved the North Carolina School Boards Association to serve as the fiduciary agent.
- Approved the formation of the Urban Boards Alliance (UBA) and the members of the UBA Advisory Board. This board includes two representatives from Virginia.
- Approved a dues structure for membership along with a transitional dues formula for state associations.
- Employed a Transition Manager (Kathy Swope).
- Approved the COSSBA governance structure.
- Approved the FY 2023 Budget.
- Approved finance policies and sponsorship program guidelines.
- Reviewed proposals for federal lobbyists.
- Reviewed proposed constitution and bylaws. The TSC is scheduled to approve bylaws at its August 2022 meeting.

What opportunities will COSSBA provide for learning and connecting?

The inaugural Urban Boards Alliance Symposium is scheduled for September 8-9 in Atlanta, Georgia. The inaugural COSSBA National Conference is tentatively scheduled for March 30-April 1, 2023, in Tampa, Florida. A federal advocacy event is also scheduled for September 2023 in Washington, D.C.

How will COSSBA's legislative positions be determined?

COSSBA is a non-partisan consortium of state school boards associations. Public policy and federal advocacy positions will be formulated and based on position statements and resolutions approved by the Annual Business Session during the annual conference planned for Spring 2023.

What is the Urban Boards Alliance (UBA)?

UBA exists to provide support to boards that serve students in challenging environments in districts with issues in:

- Equity, literacy, and student achievement
- School infrastructure
- Bullying
- Broadband access
- Drugs and alcohol
- Gangs and violence
- Homelessness
- Human trafficking
- Mental health
- Poverty
- Food insecurity
- Suicide
- Trauma
- Socioeconomics
- Demographics

The Virginia School Boards Association also has representation from an urban school board member serving on the Urban Alliance Advisory Board to the COSSBA Board of Directors. VSBA's membership in COSSBA allows local boards to participate in COSSBA's Urban Boards Alliance — with no additional fees or dues.

The inaugural UBA Symposium is scheduled for September 8-9 in Atlanta, Georgia. All VSBA members are eligible to attend. For more information about the Symposium visit www.cossba.org/symposium.

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Where can I learn more about COSSBA?

To learn more about COSSBA and the most up-to-date information about upcoming events, please visit www.cossba.org.

Save the Date: Upcoming Events

Urban Boards Alliance Symposium

September 8-9, 2022

Omni Hotel – Atlanta, GA

State Board Leadership Conference

January 20-22, 2023

Hyatt Regency – Savannah, GA

National Conference

March 30 – April 1, 2023

Florida Convention Center – Tampa, FL

Federal Advocacy Conference

September 5-7, 2023

Hyatt Washington – Washington, DC