ANNUAL REPORT
2023

CONSORTIUM OF STATE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATIONS

PRESENTED BY:
Thomas Bertrand, Ph.D.
THOMAS BERTRAND, PH. D.

Message from the Executive Director

COSSBA incorporated in April, 2022 as 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.

In only its second year of existence and by every metric, COSSBA is already the largest national organization serving state school board associations. COSSBA serves 25 state school board associations. Member state associations serve nearly 6,700 school boards comprised of over 42,000 school board members. COSSBA member states serve nearly 24 million students.

Our core values as an organization are embedded in all that we do. We know that strong, effective state associations produce excellence in local school governance which ultimately produces better outcomes for the students and families served by our nation’s schools.

In August the Board of Directors adopted the Association’s first Strategic Plan. This roadmap to the future inspires and guides our work on behalf of our member state associations. I am looking forward to the work ahead and am grateful for the support of COSSBA.
MISSION, VISION, & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

MISSION

COSSBA's mission is to be a non-partisan, national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote, and strengthen state school boards associations.

VISION

To build trust and confidence in public school governance for the success of every student.

COSSBA’S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

• Focused and responsive
• Transparent and efficient
• Reflective and relevant
• Representative and accountable
• Unified
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

ENVISION
COSSBA will be the preeminent organization for state school boards associations, providing robust education and recruitment of members who share the same mission, vision, and guiding principles.

IMPACT
COSSBA will serve as the voice and leading advocacy organization in support of local school governance and public education in the United States of America.

DEVELOP
COSSBA will provide high-quality and relevant education, training, and resources designed to enhance the work of our members as state school board association leaders.

INVEST
COSSBA will support the work of state school board associations through effective staff collaboration, shared resources, and by providing products, tools, and services that convey value to our members.

ENGAGE
COSSBA will provide networking and collaboration opportunities for our members to share best practices and enhance the effectiveness of their work at the state level.
HIGHLIGHTS OF COSSBA’S WORK

In August 2023 COSSBA hosted its second Urban Board Alliance Symposium in Chicago. This was followed by a sold-out inaugural Federal Advocacy Conference in September in Washington D.C. This year’s annual conference in Dallas marks the second national conference and networking opportunity for local school board members and association leadership. COSSBA will host its second Leadership Conference in June for the leadership of the state associations.

COSSBA’s Urban Board Alliance (UBA) offers both in-person and virtual events. In January UBA hosted the fourth part of a webinar series, Empowering Students Through Literacy. All webinars are recorded and archived on the cossba.org website.

Advocacy remains a key focus of COSSBA. The member associations establish the legislative positions of COSSBA at the Annual Member Meeting held in conjunction with the national conference. In partnership with BOSE Public Affairs group COSSBA provides regular federal legislative, regulatory, and judicial reports to the member associations. COSSBA is now monitoring state legislative trends across the country and releases bi-monthly reports highlighting significant legislation.

In 2023 COSSBA launched a structured mentoring program for new state association Executive Directors. COSSBA also convenes monthly meetings of the Executive Directors to share best practices and information regarding timely topics.
COSSBA’s non-partisan Federal Advocacy concentrates on a few major federal issues with widespread impact on the nation’s public schools and students. Our advocacy position statements are adopted annually by leaders of the member state school boards associations, requiring a two-thirds majority support. They serve as a unifying agenda on behalf of America’s public school students.

- Prioritizing K-12 Public Education As Schools of Choice
- Increased Funding for K-12 Education
- Teacher and Principal Training And Recruitment: Title II, Part A
- Broadband, Connectivity, Cybersecurity, and E-Rate
- Child Nutrition Programs
- Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
COSSBA OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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New Hampshire

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Chair Elect  
Louisiana

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Immediate Past Chair  
Illinois

Thomas Bertand  
Executive Director  
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Executive Director
Idaho

Scott Walter
Director
Montana

David Woodard
Appointee Director
Virginia
FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Financial Position
For the year ended June 30, 2023

Assets
Cash $1,819,024
Prepaid expenses $75,279
Total assets $1,894,303

Liabilities
Accounts payable and accrued expenses $44,054
Deferred revenue $1,127,600
Total liabilities $1,171,654

Net Assets
Net assets without donor restrictions $722,649
Total liabilities and net assets $1,894,303
# Financial Report

## Statement of Activities
For the year ended June 30, 2023

### Revenue
- Member Dues: $708,992
- Meetings and conferences: $1,009,560
- Sponsorships: $100,000
- Other revenue: $492,423
- **Total revenue**: $2,310,975

### Expenses
- Professional and technical services: $442,840
- Travel: $14,271
- Miscellaneous: $3,711
- Office expense: $98,317
- Meeting: $1,029,187
- **Total expenses**: $1,588,326

### Change in net assets
- $722,649

### Net assets, end of year
- $722,649
THANK YOU

CONTACT:

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