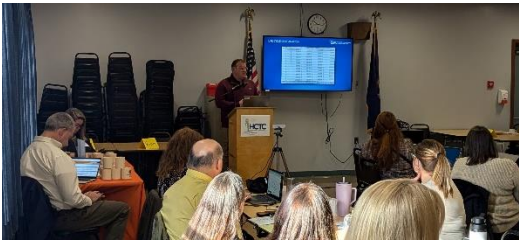


## Newsletter for November 2024

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### *November 8 Meeting Recap*



Our Friday, November 8 meeting at Hancock County Technical Center in Ellsworth was a full house! Center Director Bill Tracy and his team were so welcoming and supportive and Chef Camille Frost's Culinary Arts students prepared delicious meals to keep everyone going through the day. Thank you to [EMC](#) for sponsoring our breakfast and specifically to Jeff Yaeger for an informative presentation.

The MDOE Federal Fiscal teams shared a tremendous amount of information with us and the time they took to join us is greatly appreciated.



The MDOE Data Team previewed the new data visualization dashboards; the team is seeking feedback on data dashboard design in order to offer dashboards which are useful to you and your constituents. Please respond to the survey [here](#).



And thank you to Angie Snow and John Simko of Androscoggin Bank for joining us with their information table which included lots of “swag”! Photo credit to Nevaeh Look, HCTC Multimedia Program student.

Copies of all presentations, as well as the meeting recording, are posted to our [website](#) under Member Center > Meeting Archives.

## *What I Learned at the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Maine School Management Conference:*

As your MeASBO Executive Director, I had the good fortune to be invited to attend last month's MSMA Conference as a guest; thank you to MSMA for that opportunity. Sessions attended included:

Community Ability to Pay for Education presented by Amy Johnson and Lisa Morris of MEPRI. As you know, this conversation is part of the legislatively enacted EPS Funding study which MEPRI is conducting. More information regarding the study, as well as a public feedback form, is available at: <https://mepri.maine.edu/eps-study/>

Transitioning the FAPE Obligation from CDS to SAUs presented by Megan Welter and Sandy Flacke of MDOE. If your school unit is considering participating in Cohort 2, beginning in the next school year, you will want to view the presentation from this seminar, available on our [webpage](#), under the "Recent News" heading.

Comprehensive Approach to School Budgets presented by Superintendent Tim Doak, York Schools. This is a communication-centric approach to addressing current issues that school units are facing in building their budgets. Superintendent Doak will kick off this year's Lunch N' Learn series with this presentation on Monday, November 18. A copy of the presentation may be found on our [website](#) under "Recent News", for those of you who want to review it in advance and prepare your questions. Zoom link for the event:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88958763051?pwd=22om3IKwYd6yE2EtE86eFrOhOJeyxu.1>

School Finance 101-Essential Programs and Services presented by Donna Tiner and Ida Batista of MDOE's School Finance Team. This presentation was very in depth and thorough; the presentation document is available on our [website](#) under "Member Center >School Finance". The presentation contains two very important slides; one lists all the data points used in the EPS formula and one lists all the reports which impact the ED 279 calculation, to include their due dates. This presentation would also be a great document to provide to Board members or other constituents in your school unit.

### *Regional Groups are Off and Running!*

As a supplement to our regular quarterly meetings and Lunch N' Learns, MeASBO is supporting regional groups in an effort to help ensure that individual region professional development needs are met. Four regional groups are currently collaborating and scheduling meetings. The **Penquis Regional Group** has scheduled meetings for December 6, January 17, March 21, and May 30 at United Technologies Center in Bangor, from 9:00 AM to 12 PM. For more information regarding the Penquis meetings, reach out to [Barbara Grindle](#), RSU 34.

Opportunities for regional coordinators are currently available in Aroostook, Washington, Midcoast, Cumberland, and York regions. The role of a coordinator may be shared and includes:

- 1) Consistent schedule of meetings, with dates/times/locations communicated to the region's MeASBO members
- 2) Coordination/scheduling of topic(s) to be discussed/presented at each meeting
- 3) Report of region meeting activity at quarterly MeASBO meeting (report may be done in person or by written submission to MeASBO Executive Director)
- 4) If requested, MeASBO can create a discussion forum via the MeASBO website for each region to be used to ask questions, share information, announce meetings, etc. The regional leader would be the moderator of the forum, with the MeASBO ED as back up.
- 5) Coordinate with MeASBO's Executive Director to ensure accuracy of membership list
- 6) Periodically inform Professional Development Committee of any challenges/issues within region or regional model

If you are interested to know in what region you work, are interested in coordinating your region or, would like to partner with another region, please reach out to [Joanne](#) for ideas and information.

## *Software User Groups*

Does your school unit utilize “**Infinite Visions**”? Is your team looking for shortcuts, tips, and answers? Reach out to [Jamie Youngblood](#) at Hermon Schools. Jamie and her team have been using the product since 2021 and have been frequently provided guidance to other school units and would be happy to help you!

A number of schools have migrated or are in the process of migrating to **AptaFund**. A support group for users began last month and is up and running with meetings every two or three weeks - generally on a Wednesday at 10 AM. We meet via Zoom for about an hour each meeting. If you are interested in joining our group, please email Sherry Moody at: [smoody@mcst8.org](mailto:smoody@mcst8.org)

## *Upcoming MeASBO Professional Development Opportunities*

**Lunch N' Learns** will begin on **Monday, November 18 at noon** with “Comprehensive Approach to School Budgets” with Superintendent Tim Doak, York Schools. Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88958763051?pwd=22om3IKwYd6yE2EtE86eFrOhOJeyxu.1>

On Tuesday, December 10, “Investment Strategies in a Changing Market” will be presented by John Simko, Director of Government Banking at Androscoggin Bank, beginning at noonComp. Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87854540521?pwd=TkXQdIqQZFl5vvHeNdgBBpqJ14Th0.1>

A January session is still in the planning stages; stay tuned for details!

If you have a topic that you feel would be pertinent for a lunchtime session, please reach out to [Joanne](#).

**Our February 28 meeting** will showcase the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards, discussing wage and hour information pertinent to Maine schools and MePERS will address all of your questions. This meeting will be held at the Senator Inn in Augusta.

**Our April 4 meeting** will include our annual meeting requirements of electing new board members, as well as professional development offerings. A location in the southern Maine area is still being finalized.

To view upcoming events, please refer to the MeASBO event calendar [here](#).

## FY 2025-2026 Budget Reminders

As you begin to build your budgets for next school year, a couple of things to remember:

- 1) Unallocated fund balance carryover returns to 5% of the previous fiscal year's budget. The statutory language may be found [20-A M.R.S. §15689-A \(6\)](#)
- 2) MDOE will be providing an adjustment for increasing hourly personnel to meet the minimum hourly wage requirement set forth in [20-A M.R.S. §4016](#) for the 2025-2026 year only.

## News and Upcoming Events from Our Partners



### Legislative Affairs

In late September, Congress passed a stopgap funding bill (a continuing resolution, or CR) to keep the government funded and running through December 20. In the meantime, the House and Senate are on recess until after the elections. The election results will play a major factor in determining how Congress will address FY25 appropriations at the end of the year, whether that involves passing a full spending package or another CR so the 119th Congress can take care of it next year.

During ASBO International's Annual Conference, we provided a federal update on FY25 funding and key federal laws, regulations, and policy proposals affecting schools for SYs 24-25 and 25-26 was provided. This updated is posted to the MeASBO website: Member Center>Legislative Information

### School Business Insider

Bus driver shortages is an issue that impacts many school business managers; “Innovation on Wheels: Combating the Bus Driver Shortage” is a recent School Business Insider Podcast which highlights how one district’s innovative, state-funded training program is making a difference and supporting neighboring communities. From recruitment to retention, this initiative offers valuable insights for districts facing similar challenges.

Listen here: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/innovation-on-wheels-combating-the-bus-driver-shortage/id1725186917?i=1000673113695>

“Funding the Future: Grants and Green Initiatives for School Facilities” provides an overview of the state of school infrastructure, the challenges schools face in securing funding, and the critical role of sustainability in shaping the future of K-12 facilities. This podcast also offers insight on numerous federal grant opportunities, including the EPA’s Community Change Grant and Clean School Bus Rebates.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/funding-the-future-grants-and-green-initiatives/id1725186917?i=1000675720032>

## *Maine Loves Public Schools*

Established in 2023, the Maine Loves Public Schools Initiative celebrates school communities by sharing stories to promote positive public engagement with Maine’s public schools. These great stories are shared across a variety of platforms; please give them a look and if you have a story you wish to share, go to the “Get Involved” link at <https://www.mainelovespublicschools.org/>

Other ways to view content (be sure to like and share!):

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mainelovespublicschools>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mainelovespublicschools>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@mainelovespublicschools>
- X (formerly Twitter): <https://x.com/MElovesPS>

## *Maine Department of Education*

### Data Team

#### EPS Reporting Deadlines

The three major data sets to be used in the calculation of FY 2025-2026 state subsidy, 2024-2025 staff, October 1, 2024 student counts, and FY 2023-2024 actual expenditure and revenue, are due to be reported to MDOE **no later than November 15**. In the case of your actual expenditure and revenue uploads to MEFS, those files must be in migrated status in order for MDOE to access the data. Migrated status means that the files are error free to enable MDOE to approve the files; once MDOE approves, you must “sign off” on the file. This timeline is extremely important in order to ensure the accurate calculation of your school unit’s FY 2025-2026 state subsidy, as well as to ensure that MDOE requests an accurate amount for GPA in the state budget. If you have questions or need additional information, please reach out to the [School Finance Team](#).

#### Federal Fiscal Programs Updates to Federal Fiscal Office Hours:

November 28th office hours will be cancelled as MDOE team members presented updates at the MeASBO meeting on 11/8 in Ellsworth and, November 28<sup>th</sup> is Thanksgiving.

December 26th office hours will be cancelled as this date falls in school vacation with schedules varied over the winter break.

To ensure office hours remain purposeful and meaningful; the team is transitioning to quarterly office hours. The new cadence for the meetings is as follows:

January 23, 2025   April 24, 2025   July 24, 2025   October 23, 2025

Current registration links will remain active so no need to re-register. We will update the Maine DOE professional learning calendar to reflect the quarterly cadence.

### School Finance

Upcoming School Finance office hours are scheduled for Tuesday, November 19; Tuesday, December 17, and Tuesday, January 21 at 10:00 AM. You may access the session via the [MDOE Calendar](#).

### *Maine Department of Health and Human Services*

The Office of Maine Care Services is excited to share new resources where you can learn more about how Maine Care Covered Services are delivered in Maine schools. All courses may be accessed using a desktop, tablet, or mobile device. For more information and specific course offerings, visit <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/providers/childrens-services/school-health-related-services>

### *Maine Department of Labor*

The Paid Family and Medical Leave Program has completed a webinar series as part of the public education campaign. The recordings of the webinars along with the PowerPoint presentations can be found [here](#) under the Educational Webinars tab.

### *Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI)*

A public feedback form is now available to gather stakeholder input for the EPS funding study, as enacted by the Legislature. You can find the form, and other pertinent information related to the study at this link:

<https://mepri.maine.edu/eps-study/>

### *US Environmental Protection Agency*

\$965 million is now available for rebates to help schools transition their school buses from diesel to zero- and low-emission models. The application will close on January 9, 2025. Please join us on **November 18th from 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST** for a live overview and Q & A on EPA's 2024 Clean School Bus Rebate Program. [Click here to register](#)



[FCC releases cybersecurity resource guide for budget-constrained schools](#) – K-12 Dive

[EPA final rule will require replacement of lead pipes delivering water to schools within next decade](#) – K-12 Dive

[Education Department releases highly anticipated AI toolkit for schools](#) – K-12 Dive

[Tips to promote 'zero waste' on school campuses](#) – K-12 Dive

[School ransomware attacks are on the rise. What can districts do?](#) - K-12Dive

[How to navigate the rising cost of cyber insurance for schools](#) - K-12Dive

[Most applicants consider E-rate vital, but want cybersecurity supports, too](#) - K-12Dive

[Latest Round of Clean School Bus Program Rebates Are Open, but the Devil is in the Details for Operators](#) – School Bus Fleet



The MeASBO website updated resources for you:

**NEW** in our “Recent News” section: [Transitioning FAPE Obligation from CDS to SAUs](#)

**Revised and Updated** [School Finance Resource Page](#)

## MeASBO List Serve and Forums

The MeASBO List Serve and Member Forums are a great way to ask questions of other members, share job openings in your school unit, and receive updates about current events which impact your work. If you are a vendor member, remember that there is a forum board specifically for you, allowing you to support our members through providing educational information, and to continue to build positive, supportive relationships with our members. The vendor forum is moderated by MeASBO leadership to maintain the goals and objectives of the forum board.



The forum can be found under the “Member Center” tab of our website. Use this QR code or, <https://www.measbo.org/>

To post a list serve question, send your question via email to:

[measbolistserv@measbo.memberclicks.net](mailto:measbolistserv@measbo.memberclicks.net)