



## Newsletter for October 2023

### What's new



### Notes from your Executive Director, Joanne Allen

#### *Deadlines, deadlines*

As Kim Hall from MDOE said at our October meeting, “October.....”well, I can’t write exactly what she said but suffice it to say, there are A LOT of deadlines at the end of the month, with fiscal implications for your schools. For ease in refreshing your memory on those, as well as some for early November, I’ve indicated those in **bold text** so that you may quickly scan this document, until you have time to go back and read the newsletter in its entirety.

#### *Upcoming Meeting*

Our second meeting of the 2023-2024 year will be on Friday, November 17, at The Green Ladle in Lewiston. Our breakfast sponsor will be Androscoggin Bank and the theme of the meeting will be “All Things Federal”, with presentations from MDOE Federal Teams: ESEA, Local Entitlement, Federal Emergency Relief Programs and Child Nutrition. If you have specific questions you would like the teams to answer, please send those to [me](#), along with your **RSVP to the meeting by November 8**.

Just a reminder about RSVPs....while MeASBO has not requested a RSVP for regular meetings in prior years, we are doing so now as our meetings are full day, with lunch provided so a head count for the caterer is needed. Also, some of the facilities where meetings are being held have capacity limits. I realize that things come up quickly for school business officials so, if that happens to you and you have RSVP’ed for a meeting, please let [me](#) know as soon as you can as I can offer your spot to someone else.

Our full 2023-2024 meeting schedule may be found [here](#). And remember, Tri-State is May 22nd through May 24th – Maine is the host state this year and we look forward to seeing all of our Maine members there!

### *October 13 Meeting Recap*



63 attendees took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about state subsidy calculation and the data points which inform that calculation from Paula Gravelle, Kim Hall, and Kathy Warren. Not only did our longer meeting format provide more time for topic presenters to go into more detail and answer more questions, it also provided time for attendees to network over lunch with their peers and with our attending vendor members.



Our breakfast sponsor was SPC and in addition to their presentation, Alex Webster and Jamin Tilton hosted an informational table and joined the group for lunch.

The meeting recording will be located [here](#) later this week and will also be accessible via our website's "Member Center/Meeting Archives" link.

### *Legislative Update*

[LD 1160](#) was enacted this session and it states that *"the Department of Education will identify and conduct an analysis on school funding and allocation methodology. The Department shall provide monthly updates to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs"*.

The first monthly report was provided to the Education Committee on September 12. The MDOE presentation focused on the history of Essential Programs and Services.

The second monthly report was provided to the Education Committee on October 3. Maine Revenue Services provided information regarding the calculation of state valuation and MDOE discussed the calculation of fiscal capacity in the funding formula, to include how state valuation is used. The MDOE Team also reviewed the components of the total cost of education calculation, which is a major factor in the state share of 55%.

The Education Committee continues to express interest in tying classroom outcomes to EPS. This bears watching as it would likely result in the collection of additional data points, at the very least.

There will be one more report back on this enacted LD will be held on December 5. The meeting will be live streamed on the Education Committee [website](#) and any materials provided to the Committee during these sessions may be found [here](#), as well as on our website under “Member Center/School Finance”.

[LD 1283](#) was enacted this session and states *The Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System is established to examine the feasibility of establishing a four-year high school CTE program, and promote multiple pathways for awarding content area credit to CTE students.*

The first task force meeting was held on October 18 and featured a presentation from MEPRI regarding how CTE is currently delivered across Maine. MDOE also discussed how some schools are currently working toward ensuring CTE students have ease of access to core content credit, as well as a general overview of CTE models in other states.

Other topics of interest to the Task Force are waitlists in CTE schools, programming for grades 9 and 10, funding implications of changes in delivery models, multicultural student needs, and how to attract more teachers to CTE.

The next Task force meetings will be held on November 8 and November 30. All Task Force materials may be found [here](#).

### *Professional Development Committee*

Our renewed Professional Development Committee held its first meeting in early October. While this was a “get to know each other” and brainstorming meeting, the team already has some great ideas but, your input will be needed. Please look for a survey soon on this important topic. In the meantime, the team is working on programming for our March and April in-person meetings, as well as some virtual options for the months when we are not meeting in person.

# News and Upcoming Events from Our Partners



## *Education Organization Leadership Group*

MeASBO is currently represented in the education leadership group convened by MDOE. The group includes leaders from MSMA, MSSA, MSBA, MPA, MEA, MADSEC, MCLA (Maine Curriculum Leaders), and MACTE (Maine Association of CTE Directors).

The most recent group discussions included a presentation from the Governor's Office, highlighting the Office of New Americans Plan; if this plan is approved during the second session of the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature, the Office will be established early in the summer of 2024. Plan details may be found [here](#) and it presents opportunities for MeASBO and its members to provide input on educational and employment needs.

The purpose of the group is to provide an opportunity to bring concerns, questions, requests, and ideas to MDOE leadership. If you have a question, or a topic that you would like brought to the attention of MDOE, please contact [Joanne](#).

## *International Association of School Business Officials*

Daily clippings of interest:

From K-12 Dive is [this article](#) regarding proposed Federal guidance protecting LGBTQ+ individuals and potential conflicts with individual state and local policies. The EEOC is accepting comments on this guidance through November 1; the link to the proposed guidance and the link for comment submission may be found [here](#).

This article from The Hill regarding [USDA's expansion of the Community Eligibility Provision](#)

Two articles regarding the Clean School Bus Rebate program from School Bus Fleet: ["EPA Unveils 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program"](#) and ["Closer Look: What School Transportation Leaders Need to Know About the EPA's 2023 Rebate Program"](#) This news is provided from USA Today ["Wi-Fi on the way to school: How FCC vote could impact your kid's ride on the school bus"](#)

Education Week News article ["How School Districts Can Avoid Costly Mistakes That Make Auditor Grumble"](#)

Another Education Week article regarding funds available for facility upgrades necessitated by climate change: ["Schools Can Use These Little-Known, Unlimited Funds to Make Their Buildings Greener"](#)

And, K-12 Dive reminds you to keep your Federal Emergency Relief funds documentation handy for at least two more years: [“Education Department watchdog to audit pandemic aid dollars through 2025”](#)

## *MDOE*

### EPS Reporting for FY 2025 ED 279 Subsidy Calculation

October 1 Student Enrollment and Staff Certification for Essential Programs and Services (EPS) will be **due October 30**. This reporting is critical to calculating funding for school districts. Ensure that staff data is entered with accurate EPS FTEs and student data is collected as soon as possible once school is back in session. Timely collection and data entry will help alleviate some reporting demands in October. If you have questions regarding student and staff data reporting, please contact [the MEDMS Help Desk](#).

Please review the ED 279 Subsidy Reporting Information documents under the “Member Center/School Finance” tab of our [website](#) for more information on EPS reporting timelines.

### Child Nutrition Equipment Assistance Grants

Federal Equipment Assistance Grant Applications are **due October 30, 2023**. Information is available [here](#).

For those school units with CACFP programs, there is a grant opportunity from Oakhurst. More information is available [here](#), with an application **deadline of November 3, 2023**.

Child Nutrition publishes a short, weekly news alert which frequently contains items with fiscal impact. You may find the “Thursday Update” [here](#).

### Revolving Renovation Fund Applications

Applications to receive funding for school renovation projects are now being accepted; the **deadline for submission is October 31, 2023**. Please find all the pertinent information at: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/facilities/srrf>

### School Bus Purchase Program

Applications for state subsidized school bus purchases open November 1. Applications and supporting information may be found on the MDOE website:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/transportation/programs>

Remember, subsidy begins in the year after purchase. Therefore, if your school unit is approved to buy a bus, you must show the general fund expenditure for the year in which you were approved in your MEFS file upload (for example, you were approved to purchase in FY 2022-2023, you made the purchase, you showed the expense in MEFS for 2022-2023, and are receiving subsidy in FY 2023-2024). If that expenditure is not reported for the year of approval, subsidy for the bus purchase will be reduced on your ED 279.

Also important to remember is that if your school unit is approved for a bus but decide not to purchase it, please let MDOE know ASAP so that your subsidy can be adjusted BEFORE subsidy checks which include that approved amount begin to be issued AND, so that the approval can be offered to another school unit. As there is a finite amount of state funds earmarked for bus support, there is a waiting list for any cancellations.

There is a helpful presentation from MDOE at this link:

[https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/T%20SBPP\\_Update\\_081822.pptx\\_0.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/T%20SBPP_Update_081822.pptx_0.pdf)

### *Upcoming Events:*

#### Drummond Woodsum and MeASBO Law Seminar

Friday, November 3 will be a professional development opportunity, providing updates on the law as it applies to Maine school business officials. Featured topics and registration link for this annual event at the Augusta Civic Center may be found [here](#).

#### Northern New England Facility Masters Conference

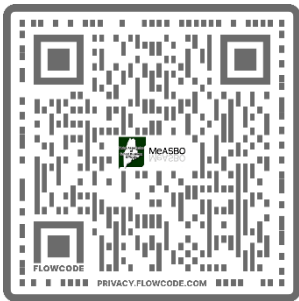
This conference will be returning to Portsmouth New Hampshire High School on February 28 and 29, 2024 to once again offer professional development opportunities for school facility managers and staff. [Check this link for more information](#).



## *MeASBO Forums*

Need some help solving a problem or looking for some advice on making a new purchase? Remember the MeASBO forums. Found under the “Member Center” heading at [measbo.org](http://measbo.org), the forums are a great place to interact with other business managers to receive answers to your questions. You can also view questions previously asked, and responses.

## *MeASBO Website*



Can't find your newsletter? Want to verify our meeting schedule? Looking for school finance information and/or legislative updates? It's all available on our website.