



Newsletter for April 2024

April 26, 2024 Meeting Recap

Our last in person meeting for the 2023-2024 year was held at United Technologies Center.



Many thanks to our breakfast sponsor, Devivo Bus. Matt provided an informative presentation which is available on our website: [Member Center > Meeting Archives](#).



David Bridgham of MDOE discussed DOE's Facility Inventory project. David's handouts are also available on our website: [Member Center > Meeting Archives](#).

MeASBO's Legislative Committee reviewed the many bills enacted during the 131st second session of the Legislature; many of these bills remain on the Appropriations Table. As those bills move through the process to receive funding or die, our spreadsheet at [Member Center > Legislative Information](#)

The Dave Holden Award for the 2023-2024 Outstanding Business Manager was presented to Sherry Moody for her dedication to MeASBO, which includes her engaged presence at meetings and her contributions outside of meetings to support other business managers. Congratulations, Sherry!

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

A “Year End Process” Lunch N’ Learn member panel discussion to focus on year end processes in ERP, Profund, APTAFund, and MUNIS will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at noon. Panel members are always welcome so, if you would like to participate as a panel member, please reach out to [Joanne](#). Additionally, if you have specific questions you would like to ensure that the panel addresses, please submit those to [Joanne](#) by Thursday, May 9. A Zoom link will be sent to all members in advance of the event.

Our final Lunch N’ Learn for the 2023-2024 year will be June 4. The Maine Department of Labor Paid Family and Medical Leave team will join us so, keep abreast of new developments on this topic via their [webpage](#) and have your questions ready. The Zoom link for the event will be sent in late May.



Last but not least, the annual Tri-State conference is May 22-24, 2024 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. Check out the program brochure [here](#) and then hop on over to the Tri State [website](#) to register. Registration deadline is May 6.

2024-2025 Membership Reminder

2024-2025 membership dues will remain at current levels: \$250 for an individual membership and \$500 for a district membership. Remember that purchasing a district membership allows all members of your team to receive the membership benefits of:

- ✓ ability to attend quarterly meetings featuring professional development opportunities and networking opportunities
- ✓ receipt of a monthly newsletter
- ✓ participation in Lunch N’ Learn
- ✓ participation in MeASBO’s voluntary certification program
- ✓ access to the “Member Center” of the MeASBO website which provides legislative updates, links to school finance information, and professional development/training links
- ✓ participation in the MeASBO list serve

Vendor organization membership dues will remain at \$600 annually. Vendor members wishing to receive a refresher on their benefits of membership should reach out to [Joanne](#) for a list or to schedule a call or Zoom meeting.

If you wish to make changes to your membership profile, please notify [Joanne](#) by May 17, 2024 so that changes can be entered into the system in time for the start of the new fiscal year billing cycle.

News and Upcoming Events from Our Partners



ASBO International

IRS FIRE System for 1099 filing

Earlier this year, ASBO International contacted the IRS about issues members were experiencing with the IRS FIRE system. The US Department of Treasury response to that outreach is as follows:

Leadership from the IRS' Tax Exempt & Government Entities Division apologized for any inconveniences ASBO members experienced during the e-filing process, and noted the IRS is striving to provide a higher-quality taxpayer experience through providing clearer and more timely communications and customer service support. They were appreciative of ASBO International flagging the issues members experienced and said they would explore ways to address the issues raised in our letter during our initial outreach. They noted that if school districts have questions about penalty relief because they filed late, the penalty notice the IRS will send has instructions on how to request relief and a toll-free number they can call. Late filers can request a waiver from paying penalty fees if they cite a reasonable cause and significant mitigating factors or events outside of their control that justify why the filing was submitted late, and show that responsible action was taken by the filer to try to meet the filing deadline. For specific questions regarding your district's unique situation, please call the number provided in the penalty notice.

Update Uniform Grant Guidance

Earlier this month, the Biden-Harris Administration [announced](#) substantial updates to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance, otherwise known as "Uniform Grants Guidance (UGG) for Federal Awards - 2 CFR 200."

[The updated guidance](#) (final rule) aims to streamline and clarify requirements for Federal funding and will take effect on October 1, 2024. The Administration notes this is the most substantial revision to UGG since it went into effect ten years ago.

[The updated UGG guidance:](#)

- Instructs agencies to make grant announcements as clear and concise as possible to make it easier to access federal grant funding.
- Clarifies that recipients can use federal funds to invest in the continuous improvement of their programs by making clear that funding can be used to support quality evaluation, data gathering and analysis, and community engagement.
- Instructs agencies to engage affected communities-including nonprofit organizations, labor unions, and Tribal governments-as well as requiring recipients to use responsible contractors.
- Reduces administrative burden on award recipients by:

- Reducing unnecessary compliance costs.
- Removing barriers to entry.
- Ensuring federal assistance serves intended communities.

OMB also issued [a related implementation memorandum](#) that gives federal agencies instructions and tools to enact the new UGG by October. Specifically, the memo:

- Instructs federal agencies to simplify their notice of funding opportunities (NOFOs).
- Requires federal agencies to improve the descriptions of their programs in the [Federal Program Inventory \(FPI\)](#). The FPI is a new searchable tool with information on federal programs that provide grants, loans, and other financial assistance. It leverages existing government data from SAM.gov, USASpending.gov, Grants.gov, etc. to provide a user-friendly website for accessing federal assistance program information. ([Learn more here.](#))
- Provides federal agencies ideas on how to increase accessibility, equity, flexibility, and utility of federal funding and support programs for Tribal Nations and Indians.

For more information about what's changing with UGG, [check out this blog from the National League of Cities](#).

MeASBO will also be working to schedule a presentation regarding these changes later this year.

Maine Department of Education

Federal Fiscal Programs Office Hours

The federal fiscal team looks forward to their monthly office hours on Thursday, May 30 and Thursday, June 27 at 10 am. Jump on and address any questions you may have for year-end. You can [register here](#) to attend.

The slide deck from the team's April Office Hours is available on our website for any member who couldn't attend or, wants a refresher on the discussion: Member Center > Professional Development and Training Links > Federal Funds Compliance Policies and Procedures.

School Construction Program Office Hours

This office hour on May 1 at 1:00 pm is intended to provide support for those school units completing a major capital construction project. You may join the webinar here: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/calendar#calendar-6c6f22e1-033b-47cd-8ea3-0906acf8c9e4-event-ls4nb850>

Maine Department of Labor

The list of classes at the link below shows availability in some Wage and Hour Compliance workshops at various locations across the state:

https://www.safetyworksmaine.gov/training/scheduled_classes/register.shtml

Remember, our June 4 Lunch N' Learn will feature the PFML team; please save the date and look for event's Zoom link in late May.

News clippings of interest

[Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes Rule to Increase Compensation Thresholds for Overtime Eligibility](#) - *US DOL*

[What the New Overtime Rule Means for Workers](#) - *US DOL*

[DOL will raise overtime salary threshold to \\$44K in July, \\$59K next year](#) - *K-12 Dive*

[DOE unveils \\$180M for energy efficiency, air quality upgrades in K-12 schools](#) - *K-12 Dive*

[School-based Medicaid billing concerns delay proposed rule](#) - *K-12 Dive*

[Why More K-12 Schools are Modernizing Their IT Procurement Process](#) - *EdTech*

[Electric School Buses Get a Boost from New State and Federal Policies](#) - *Education Week*

[School buses included in updated EPA emissions standards](#) - *K-12 Dive*

[Final Title IX rule enshrines protections for LGBTQI+ students](#) - *K-12 Dive*

[USDA Issues Final Rule on Updated School Meal Nutrition Standards](#) - *K-12 Dive*

[New webpage addresses common errors to correct employment tax](#) - *IRS e-News for Payroll Professionals Issue 2024-2025*

Reminders.....



MeASBO Website

Want more professional development opportunities? The website calendar includes listings from other state agencies and organizations that are hosting future opportunities. Can't find your newsletter? Want to refresh your memory on a topic presented at one of our meetings? Do you need school finance information and/or legislative updates? It's all available on our website!

MeASBO List Serve and Forums

The MeASBO List Serve has been reactivated and a test message sent to all members last month. If you did not receive the message, please check your "spam" folder and if it's not there and you wish to participate in the list serve, please reach out to [Joanne](#) as the list serve is being actively utilized to communicate information to members. The address to submit correspondence to the list serve is: measbolistserv@measbo.memberclicks.net

If you are a vendor member, remember that there is a forum board specifically for you. This allows you to support our members through providing educational information, and continue to build positive, supportive relationships with our members. The forum is moderated by MeASBO leadership to maintain the goals and objectives of the forum board.