MSBA Pre-Conference for Student Board Members
Centering Student Voice in School Governance

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 | 2:00 - 4:30 PM | Augusta Civic Center

Summary

This **new, interactive pre-conference** is designed to prepare student board members to participate meaningfully in school board governance. Led by the **National Student Board Member Association** (NSBMA), the session will introduce core concepts of school board policy, student representation, and the different avenues through which students can influence board decisions.



Who Should Attend

- Current student board members
- Incoming or newly selected student board members
- Students interested in school board leadership and governance

Learning Objectives

Participants will:

- Build a stronger understanding of the student board member role in school governance
- Learn how board policy and decision-making processes work
- Explore different avenues for change, from policy to administrative action
- Identify student priorities
- Strengthen skills in representation, communication, and advocacy

Session Outcomes

By the end of the pre-conference, participants will:

- Have a clearer understanding of how to contribute effectively in board settings
- Gain practical tools for identifying issues and connecting student concerns to governance processes
- Be better prepared to participate in the MSMA Fall Conference clinics on October 29
- Build connections with peers serving in similar roles across Maine

Why Attend

This pre-conference offers a unique opportunity for student board members from across Maine to connect, build core governance skills, and prepare for stronger participation at the Board table. For students attending the conference clinics the following day, it will also provide a strong foundation for deeper policy-focused learning, development, and collaborative work.

Format

The session will be delivered in-person, but hybrid participation can be made available.

Facilitated by the National Student Board Member Association. The only national association by and for student board members. Find out more at: www.nsbma.net

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nsbma NATIONAL STUDENT BOARD MEMBER ASSOCIATION