



Dear MSBA Members,

Last week, your board of directors met and made the difficult decision to withdraw MSBA's participation in the National School Boards Association, effective immediately.

This decision was not made lightly. The National School Boards Association, through its recent actions, such as its letter to the White House, has demonstrated it does not currently align with MSBA's guiding principles of local governance.

School boards have always been asked to make tough decisions, and to do what is right for the students under their responsibility. These decisions often bring about thoughtful and rigorous discussion, which we believe is crucial to the discernment process.

We also believe that no school board member or educator should ever have to endure threats of violence or acts of intimidation against themselves or their families for making these difficult decisions. However, attempting to address that issue with federal intervention should not be the first step in most cases, and is antithetical to our longstanding tradition of local control. Further, the use of inflammatory terms in the NSBA letter is not a model for promoting greater civility and respect for the democratic process.

On Friday, the National School Boards Association distributed an [apology statement](#) for the letter issued by their interim executive director and president. While that is a step in the right direction, we believe NSBA still has significant work ahead, both implementing processes and procedures to prevent similar problems in the future, as well as repairing their fractured relationships.

Please know that our withdrawal from NSBA will not have any effect on the MSBA programs and services that you rely on. MSBA will continue to offer first-class service to all of our members, so you can continue your important mission of helping all Missouri students succeed.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

As always, it is an honor and pleasure to support your great work for Missouri's students.

Sincerely,

Melissa Randol
Executive Director