

Newsletter for October 2024

In this Issue:

- September 27 meeting recap – Page 1
- November meeting update, regional groups, and other professional development – Pages 2-3
- School Transportation Updates from DeVivo Bus Sales – Page 3-5
- I wonder what other education organizations are doing – Pages 5-7
- In other news – Page 7
- Where to find..... Pages 8

September 27 Meeting Recap



Our first in person meeting of the 2024-2025 year made for a very informative day! Many thanks to our breakfast sponsor, [Northeast Bank](#). A big thank you to our presenters, Representative Jack Ducharme of Madison, Jim Chasse of MDOE's Learning Through Technology Team, and Amy Johnson and Jim Sloan of MEPRI, as well as DeVivo Bus for their informative display.



And special thanks to Chef Heidi Parent and her Culinary Arts students at Capital Area Technical Center; the food was delicious! Meeting handouts are posted on our [website](#) under “Meeting Archives” and the meeting recording will be added as soon as it goes through the editing process.

November 8 Meeting

Our November 8 in-person meeting will feature the MDOE Federal Fiscal Teams and the Data Team. Our meeting will be hosted by Hancock County Technical Center in Ellsworth, with breakfast sponsored by Energy Management Consultants. **The RSVP deadline for this meeting is October 22nd and the registration form for this meeting is located [here](#).** The meeting agenda and other supporting documents will be sent to registered attendees; if you register for the meeting and do not receive your documents by November 4, please reach out to [Joanne](#).

Regional Groups are Organizing!

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.

Regional programs are a work in progress; we are currently establishing regional team leaders. Regions are aligned with MDOE's “Superintendent Regions”, generally reflecting county borders.

Opportunities for regional team leaders are currently available in Aroostook, Washington, Midcoast, Kennebec, Cumberland, and York regions. The role of a regional team leader 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 in coordinating your region, please reach out to [Joanne](#) for a list of region members and other updates.

Upcoming MeASBO Professional Development Opportunities

MeASBO's annual Law Conference with Drummond Woodsum will be held on Friday, October 18 at the Augusta Civic Center. Registration information was sent to members via our list serve on September 25th and is also available on our [website](#) under the “Events” tab.

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. The location of this meeting is tentatively scheduled for the Westbrook Regional Vocational Center.

Lunch and Learns will begin in December; if you have a topic that you feel would be pertinent for a lunchtime session, please reach out to [Joanne](#).

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



School Transportation Updates

Happy October Maine ASBO Members!

As we ramp up the 2024-2025 School Year, I wanted to share some School Transportation related items with you that are important to your school's transportation operations.

In accordance with [Code of Maine Regulations \(05-071\) CMR Chapter 81](#) it is important that your transportation departments meet the training and reporting requirements set forth.

NEO Reporting

To ensure that you don't lose any of your approved School Bus Purchase Program (SBBP) funding for FY24, please be sure that your NEO Transportation Reports are completed and certified by the Superintendent by October 15, 2024.

EFT-21 – Transportation Safety & Training Report

EFT 24 – Transportation Vehicle Inventory Report

EFM-43 – Transportation Data Out-Of-District Special Education Students, Homeless Students and Career and Technical Education Students Report.

School Transportation Safety

Within Chapter 81, it is important to note that you must complete student and employee training annually. Remind your Transportation Department that Emergency Evacuation Drills & Safe Riding Practices Trainings must be completed once per semester, totaling two times per year. The district must keep records of the training and drills.

Employee Training is also a requirement and that is reported on in EFT-21. All School Transportation Employees must complete 16-Hours of training annually. This also must be documented. Part of this training could be done by having your employees attend the MAPT Conferences detailed below.

School Bus Purchase Program Requests - FY26

The New Bus Requests (EFT-17) is open annually from November 1 – 25. This past year, many districts did not complete their requests within the window and ended up in the secondary “Round 2” approvals for funding. As a reminder, if your district applies for SBBP Funding, is approved, and then decides not to move forward with a bus purchase, it is important to withdraw your funding request in NEO as soon as possible to allow the state to reallocate those funds to a district that ended up on the waitlist for funding.

Maine Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT)

The [Maine Association for Pupil Transportation](#) is made up of school districts, school bus contractors and industry vendors. It supports the safe transportation of school-aged students across Maine. One of the many things that the association does for its members is host annual regional and statewide training opportunities. These educational workshops and skills competitions are a great way to keep your transportation staff up to date on the latest safety topics and trends in school transportation and that they are keeping their skills sharp.

Six regional conferences are held annually. Four conferences are held during April Spring Break and two are held in the last week of June for The County & Down East areas. There is also a statewide Safety Conference & Trade Show that will be held at the Augusta Civic Center from July 16-18, 2025, that brings in hundreds of transportation professionals from around the state with great local, regional and national speakers and vendors for all areas of the school transportation industry. More information on these will be sent out from the association by the end of the calendar year. I would strongly encourage your districts to take advantage of these great training opportunities.

2024 EPA Clean School Bus Program - October 2024

On March 29, 2024, the EPA announced the Final Rule of the [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy Duty Vehicles - Phase 3](#) (GHG-3) which will implement lower NOx standards, Clean Idle regulations & Regulatory (extended) Warranties. This will impact the cost of your diesel school buses. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to release the next round of [Clean School Bus Program Funding](#) this month (if they haven't already by the time this newsletter is published). This program continues to provide funding to school districts to purchase Low and Zero Emission School Buses for their fleets.

Many schools in Maine have already taken advantage of previous funding opportunities in this program and some were recently awarded funding as part of the 2023 Rebate round. I would encourage school leaders, like yourselves, to look at opportunities within your districts where Zero-Emission School Buses would work and apply for funding to support pilot projects. I have always said that every school district has at least one route that an electric school bus could run on. DeVivo Bus Sales is willing to work with your districts on their applications so please reach out to us! We have an EV Project Manager, [Andy](#)

[Rotondo](#), on staff to work with you! We have many school districts across New England to date that we have successfully helped receive funding.

Sourcewell

Many of you are members of [Sourcewell](#) yet, most don't utilize it for your school bus purchasing needs and instead go out to RFP. Sourcewell is a self-sustaining (MN) government organization that handles contract purchasing solutions that are competitively solicited nationally offering hundreds of awarded contracts which include IC Bus (102623-ICB) and Collins Bus (102623-COLNS). Cooperative Purchasing streamlines the RFP process for its members by developing the RFPs that meet or exceed local requirements. Please reach out to Matt or Tim for more information!

Now Open in Falmouth, ME!

[DeVivo Bus Sales](#) has now been open for a full year in Falmouth! Located at 110 Gray Road, this location continues to grow our sales, parts & service support for school bus operations across Maine & New Hampshire. We sell parts for and work on all makes of school buses, however, can only provide warranty support on IC Bus & Collins Bus & Sunset Van products that we are a dealer for. We have a variety of stock inventory on-hand from 9 to 83 Passengers as well as some Wheelchair Accessible School Buses & Vans and Multi-Function School Activity Buses (MFSABs) to meet any of your needs.

We look forward to continuing to be a part of Maine ASBO and look forward to working with you!

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News and Upcoming Events from Our Partners



ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS
INTERNATIONAL

The most recent School Business Insider podcast explores how AI-driven technology is enhancing school security while keeping environments welcoming, as well as key trends in proactive measures and community partnerships.

Listen here: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/innovations-in-school-security-ai-driven-solutions/id1725186917?i=1000670482504>

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

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. If you have questions or need additional information, please reach out to the [School Finance Team](#).

Federal Fiscal Programs

Mark your calendars for this event on October 22 and 23; register here:

<https://events.bizzabo.com/626990>



School Finance

Upcoming School Finance office hours are scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, Tuesday, November 19, and Tuesday, December 17 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 School Management

MSMA's 51st Annual Fall Conference will take place October 24 and 25 at the Augusta Civic Center. There are over 50 clinics, to include topics of school finance, budgeting, FOA requests, special education, and much more. Registration for this event must be completed by your Superintendent's Office. You can find the agenda and clinic topics on our website's calendar.



['Largest labor shortage the country has ever seen' looms, report warns](#) – HR Dive

[EEOC claims employer treated workers' failure to return from FMLA leave as 'voluntary resignation'](#) – HR Dive

[How can districts control the growing costs of special education?](#) – K-12 Dive

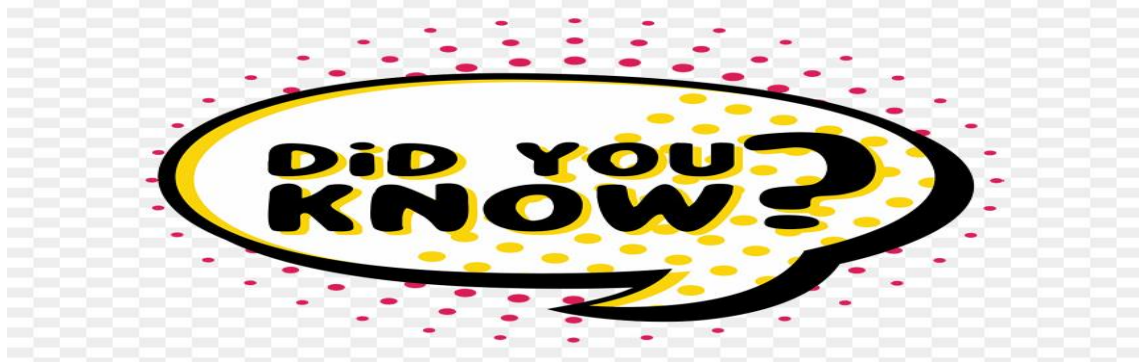
[Crowdfunding Sites Serve as Critical Lifeline for Teachers](#) – The 74

[How AI Could Benefit School Business Officials](#) – K-12 Dive

[How should schools approach concerning behavior?](#) – K-12 Dive

[These 6 steps are key for responding to anonymous school threats](#) – K-12 Dive

[Schools Encouraged to Adopt Operational Excellence Framework](#) – Tes Magazine
A copy of this report is available on the MeASBO website under the "Resource Links" tab – ISBL OpEx Report



The MeASBO website has lots of resources for you – here's a sample:

Budget Tools:

[Year End Balance worksheet FY 2023 through FY 2026](#)

MDOE Accounting Handbook Updates and Coding:

[Salary -Benefits Matrix 30Jan2024.pdf](#)

[New Codes FY2024.docx](#)

[Child Nutrition Fund and Revenue Coding](#)

ED 279 Subsidy Reporting Information:

[EPSPDataDeadlines.doc](#)

[ReportsThatImpactSubsidy_DueDates.docx](#)

Education Committee Presentations:

[eps-history-and-overview_05Sept2023.pdf](#)

[school-finance-basics-minimum-receiver-status-presentation_12Sept2023.pdf](#)

[what-is-included-in-total-cost-of-education_12Sept2023.pdf](#)

[LD1160 Meeting-materials_03Oct2023.pdf](#)

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.



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