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For Immediate Release

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Trained School Boards Save Money

Public expects school boards to receive training

Lansing – A survey of 600 Michigan voters tested the public's perception of school board training and professional development. The Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) commissioned the survey, which was conducted by Anchor Associates, Inc.

"Trained school boards can actually save districts money by making informed decisions regarding personnel issues, legal matters, negotiations and contractual obligations," said Kathy Hayes, co-director of leadership development at MASB. (See enclosed DVD that fosters community understanding and support, and illustrates the importance of board training.)

Of the 4,161 active MASB school board members in Michigan in 2005-06, 1,058 or 25 percent received MASB training, including boardsmanship classes, conferences and workshops. Approximately 1,001 or 24 percent of active school board members have received at least 30 hours of MASB training. Overall, these figures reveal about a 5 percent increase in board training from last year.

However, each year there are approximately 400-500 new board members in school districts throughout the state that begin their service without formal training.

The survey's key findings include:

- 66 percent of respondents believe school board member training should be mandatory.
- 80 percent think training is necessary once board members are elected in order to fulfill their responsibilities under the law.
- 76 percent of respondents are more confident in the decision-making ability of the board if they receive training/professional development.
- 74 percent support the local district paying for training/professional development for their board members.
- 62 percent are more likely to vote for a candidate if they have training/professional development.

Research shows a connection between student achievement and board governance, making the issue of board training especially relevant. "It's crucial that boards of education make the connection that their governing performance impacts the performance of students," said Hayes.

"Without effective training it is difficult for boards to focus on student achievement issues, let alone adopting a balanced budget, hiring a superintendent, approving policies and keeping up with the ever changing legislation and school law," added Hayes.

MASB provides quality educational leadership services for all Michigan boards of education, and advocates for student achievement and public education.

Page 1 of 2: See page two for a breakdown of trained board members per county.

Active School Board Members Who Received MASB Training/Professional Development by County

County	Board Members per County	Certified Members *	Board Members trained in 2005-06**
Alcona	8		1
Alger	26	4	16
Allegan	65	20	20
Alpena	16		2
Antrim	43	1	2
Arenac	21	5	3
Baraga	18		1
Barry	25	4	6
Bay	35	10	10
Benzie	14	2	4
Berrien	109	26	18
Branch	32	10	3
Calhoun	72	20	26
Cass	35	7	4
Charlevoix	42	19	9
Cheboygan	34	6	3
Chippewa	46	2	4
Clare	27	8	6
Clinton	46	10	8
Crawford	7	2	2
Delta	34	5	4
Dickinson	34	5	4
Eaton	62	19	30
Emmet	34	2	4
Genesee	164	78	84
Gladwin	14	2	1
Gogebic	27	2	1
Grand Trav	21	2	5
Gratiot	48	6	4
Hillsdale	62	10	8
Houghton	67	16	20
Huron	87	10	11
Ingham	87	14	22
Ionia	44	7	6
Iosco	32	11	9
Iron	14		1
Isabella	23	2	1
Jackson	88	22	31
Kalamazoo	71	25	23
Kalkaska	14	4	5
Kent	154	49	52
Lake	7	1	4
Lapeer	41	8	13
Leelanau	32	1	2
Lenawee	89	7	17
Livingston	40	20	15
Luce	7	2	2
Mackinac	38	2	
Macomb	156	62	58
Manistee	31	4	8
Marquette	62	15	26
Mason	40	5	16
Mecosta	34	6	10
Menominee	44	9	7
Midland	39	8	9
Missaukee	16	2	
Monroe	79	8	15
Montcalm	47	9	8
Montmoren	15		1
Muskegon	91	12	14
Newaygo	31	2	5
Oakland	199	82	79
Oceana	40	2	2
Ogemaw	7		1
Ontonagon	26	4	2
Osceola	30	3	4
Oscoda	13	2	2
Otsego	21	5	3
Ottawa	65	14	15
Presque Isle	21	6	7
Roscommo	20	6	3
Saginaw	99	40	45
Sanilac	53	5	17
Schoolcraft	14	2	1
Shiawassee	61	12	7
St. Clair	57	15	6
St. Joseph	67	6	4
Tuscola	61	15	8
Van Buren	86	27	22
Washtenaw	75	28	32
Wayne	269	93	91
Wexford	36	4	3
Totals	4161	1001	1058

* School board members who attended at least 30 hours of training by 6/30/2006.

** School board members who participated in an MASB boardsmanship class and/or attended a MASB professional development conference.