MASB-NEOLA POLICY PARTNERSHIP
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why did MASB and NEOLA develop a partnership for school policy services?

Working collaboratively is nothing new to MASB or our members. MASB has always been an advocate for partnerships that better serve members and elevate public education. NEOLA has joined MASB in an exciting partnership to better serve school boards and to deliver uniform policy and guideline services to boards of education. This collaboration will result in better service, personalized legal assistance, consistent policies and combined expertise. The added resources that NEOLA provides with their regional representatives expand the services that both MASB and NEOLA can provide together.

2. What are the benefits of the partnership?

a. The added resources that NEOLA provides with their regional representatives expand the services that both MASB and NEOLA can provide together. NEOLA's representatives, almost all of whom have served as superintendents, provide most of the direct work with school districts. They establish a close working relationship with their clients during the drafting of the policies, guidelines and procedures manuals, and then enhance that relationship by visiting at least twice per year to review updates and answer questions.
b. MASB will provide input and guidance on policies and administrative rules developed by NEOLA.
c. Uniform policies and rules adopted by school boards will allow MASB to provide more comprehensive legal assistance on applying policies and rules to its members.
d. Current ERIN (Employment Relations Information Network) members will continue to have access through the ERIN website to updates to current MASB policies and new policies that are mandated by Michigan law. Recent MASB policy clients will have the opportunity to convert to the NEOLA policy codification system, which will allow the members to subscribe to NEOLA's acclaimed update service.

3. Who is NEOLA and what's their experience with policy development for schools?

NEOLA provides school districts with a complete service for developing and updating board bylaws and policies, administrative guidelines and procedures, forms, staff handbooks and student/parent handbooks. NEOLA is currently working with more than 750 superintendents and school boards in Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and West Virginia. In Michigan, NEOLA currently provides about 325 Michigan public schools with policy and guideline services. MASB is happy to partner with a professional group, and together, we can provide schools with the highest quality school policies. Again, the added resources that NEOLA provides with their regional representatives expand the services that both MASB and NEOLA can provide together.

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4. **What if my district recently hired MASB to manage my district policies?**

   Districts that recently contracted with MASB and haven't yet completed the policy service will have the service completed by MASB. Districts that have completed a policy service after Jan. 1, 2007 have two options for keeping their manuals up-to-date.

   - **Option 1:** Subscribe to NEOLA's update service and then receive the updates in the MASB policy format after the updated policies are converted to the MASB format by MASB staff.
   - **Option 2:** Have NEOLA replace outdated policies with NEOLA licensed templates while converting the MASB policies to the NEOLA codification system.

5. **We recently completed our policy manual with MASB. How much is it to convert our just completed policy to NEOLA?**

   First, there is no need to convert to NEOLA since you have a current comprehensive policy renewal through MASB. You won't need to convert to NEOLA policies until you are ready to completely redo your policies. In the meantime, we will continue to service your district in the same way as we've always done. The only thing you may want to consider getting through NEOLA is their update service, which is in a different codification system.

6. **Can I still call MASB if I have a policy question? Who do I talk to?**

   Most definitely. MASB staff members Bob Ebersole (517-327-5914, bebersole@masb.org) and Randi Airola (517-327-5931, rairola@masb.org) will continue to serve MASB members. Both Bob and Randi will be available for questions relating to, for example, your current MASB policy manual or sample policies. Further, MASB Legal Counsel Brad Banasik (517-327-5929, bbanasik@masb.org) can be contacted for assistance with legal questions that relate to policies and administrative rules at any time as part of your MASB membership.

7. **How will the merger impact policies on ERIN (Employment Relations Information Network)?**

   Under the partnership, the Online Policy Update Service (OPUS), which was included on the ERIN website, will be replaced with a service that offers revisions to current MASB policies as well as new policies that are required as a result of changes to Michigan law. This service will be made available to all ERIN subscribers and current OPUS subscribers.

8. **I'm an MASB POWER client, what's the change?**

   There will be no changes for MASB POWER clients. Current POWER clients may continue to use POWER in accordance with the terms of the POWER service agreement.