

## ACT FOR EDUCATION

### Our Mission

A Community Together (ACT) for Education is an unprecedented initiative by public schools in the Monroe 1 and Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES districts, the Rochester City School District, area businesses, and community members. With a unified voice, ACT for Education delivers positive messaging about our local school districts and encourages community support of public education.

ACT for Education was developed by the Monroe County Council of School Superintendents (MCCOSS) to provide information to the greater community about the value of public education to the local economy and the successes of Monroe County public schools.

### Additional ACT for Education programs

As a community builder, our districts have forged unprecedented partnerships with local governments, economic development boards, elected officials, businesses, non-profits, media outlets, colleges and universities.

#### Step Up for Schools

A campaign to hire retirees, Commercial Drivers License (CDL) holders and others to counter the shortage of school personnel in many districts— a shortage that affects instruction, programs and critical services like transportation.

#### Workforce Development & Partnerships

Our local public schools serve more than 101,000 students each year, preparing them for college, career, direct entry into the workforce, and/or military service.

#### Webcast Series

Superintendents, BOE members, and topical experts discuss a variety of topics related to public education.



## MCSBA advocates on behalf of

**101,435**

students enrolled in

**21**

public school districts and two BOCES

- Brighton CSD
- Brockport CSD
- Churchville-Chili CSD
- East Irondequoit CSD
- East Rochester Union Free SD
- Fairport CSD
- Gates Chili CSD
- Greece CSD
- Hilton CSD
- Holley CSD
- Honeoye Falls-Lima CSD
- Kendall CSD
- Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES
- Monroe One BOCES
- Penfield CSD
- Pittsford CSD
- Rochester City SD
- Rush-Henrietta CSD
- Spencerport CSD
- Victor CSD
- Webster CSD
- West Irondequoit CSD
- Wheatland-Chili CSD

# The Best for Less 2023

Cost-Saving Strategies and Shared Services in Monroe County School Districts.  
21 districts + 2 BOCES + community partners = high quality, fiscally responsible services



## MCSBA By the Numbers

**30+**

Professional Development opportunities for Board of Education members

**15**

Opportunities for Association members to advocate for public education with local, state and national legislators

## Resource Sharing

- Saves millions of taxpayer dollars each year by reducing expenses for school districts
- Enables districts to offer a wide variety of excellent educational opportunities to students of all ages
- Facilitated in large part by Monroe One BOCES and Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES

## MCSBA is a Member-Driven Organization

The Monroe County School Boards Association (MCSBA) is a member-driven organization providing support to public school leaders as they strive to provide an equitable education for all students.

MCSBA offers over 50 informational programs, seminars, and professional development trainings along with a wide array of advocacy efforts in support of public education. In addition, the Association provides board retreats, facilitates Meet the Candidate Night events and presents information around board of education service to outside organizations.

## Service Objectives

MCSBA functions as a representative body working with its member districts to accomplish many of its objectives through committees that represent all member districts, providing professional development and informational programs on a wide range of education topics.

MCSBA promotes legislative positions developed by representatives of all member districts and encourages individual members to actively participate in legislative advocacy on behalf of their public schools.

MCSBA maintains frequent contact with our local Regents, the Board of Regents, and the State Education Department.

MCSBA provides annual seminars for school board candidates and newly elected board members, including SED-approved fiscal and governance training.

MCSBA provides information, data and a forum for member boards on labor relations and negotiations via its Labor Relations Committee.

MCSBA develops coalitions and working relationships with persons and groups working to achieve a proactive voice for public education, promoting public education through the print and broadcast media and encouraging members to participate in education-related activities.

Monroe County School Boards Association

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Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) provide shared educational programs and services to school districts within New York State, to help meet students' evolving educational needs.



## Cooperative Bidding

- Organize county-wide cooperative bidding for purchase of food and cafeteria supplies, energy, custodial and maintenance supplies, classroom and extracurricular supplies, as well as other areas.

## Insurance

- All of the suburban districts and the two BOCES participate in Cooperative Self-Insured or Minimum Premium funding arrangements to reduce insurance costs without reducing coverage.
- School districts collaborate to plan separate self-insured dental plans.

## Utilities and Facilities

- Utility rate agreements are negotiated with providers either individually or through BOCES 2.
- Provides a cooperative telephone interconnect service with a voice and data communications network.
- E-Rate provides discounts to school districts for using communications transmission lines.
- Coordinate the purchase of electricity for 18 member districts and the purchase of natural gas at the wellhead for 14 member districts.
- Districts contract with energy service companies to make capital repairs and improvements on district facilities that will reduce energy expenses.
- Districts collaborate with their municipal governments to provide facilities for recreational programs and community events. Adult education, youth, and day care programs sponsored by towns and the city are often housed in schools.

## Transportation

- When possible, districts informally agree to shared routes for the busing of special education and private school students outside their own district boundaries.
- Several districts have cost-effective contracts for student transportation with private vendors.
- Local school districts and governments share fuel facilities; efficiency studies; equipment, vehicle repair and/or storage; fuel and salt purchases; facilities construction; snow removal and mowing; and truck materials and asphalt.

## Civic Needs

- Most school taxes are collected by municipal tax collectors; tax bills are processed by the county using information collected from districts by MCSBA.
- Many school district buildings are used by the county for November voting.
- Monroe County Board of Elections aids school districts with their annual budget votes in May; providing and maintaining electronic voting machines, training for school district clerks and election inspectors on voting procedures and equipment use, and printing ballots for some districts.

## BOCES Instructional Program Services

- **Reading Recovery**
- **Alternative Schools**— Programs for middle to high school students at risk of failure in traditional programs. A variety of learning methods are used in non-classroom settings with extensive counseling.
- **Gifted and Talented Education**
- **Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program**
  - o Coordinated by Monroe One, the program allows students who reside in the RCSD to apply to transfer to a participating suburban school district and vice versa. It is the first and oldest voluntary desegregation program in the United States, designed to voluntarily decrease racial isolation, deconcentrate poverty and enhance opportunities for students. In its 51<sup>st</sup> year, 15 Monroe County school districts participate in this program.
- **BOCES 4 Science**
  - o Provides an exciting, student-centered, STEM curriculum that invites active participation, problem solving and inquiry. Hands-on science kit, preparation and distribution is coordinated through both BOCES.
- **Preschool Program**— Offers a variety of services to address the needs of children ages three to five at BOCES 2.
- **Students with Disabilities**— Programs available with small class sizes for students with severe disabilities either in separate classrooms provided by districts or in community-based sites.
- **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services**— Includes teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing, note-takers, signing skills coaches, interpreters and deaf students' translators.
- **Career Counseling**— Students with special educational needs explore career options, assess their potential, and participate in work study, job coaching, and case management services.
- **Transition Services**
  - o Life Skills are provided for older students with developmental disabilities through transition programs to give students community-based learning experiences in a college setting.

## BOCES Management Services

- **Legal**
- **Health, Safety and Risk Management**
  - o Assist with local districts' interpretations and applications of state and federal laws related to health, safety and risk management.
- **Labor Relations**
  - o Guidance in matters such as disability, tenure, seniority, overtime, family medical leave, and grievance.
  - o Negotiations, administration, contract interpretations and superintendent searches.
- **State Aid and Grants**
- **Financial Planning Services**
- **Investigations** (attendance, residency, disciplinary)
- **Mandate Support**
  - o The Monroe/Orleans Accountability, Assessment and Reporting Services (MAARS) is a joint effort by Monroe One and BOCES 2 to help districts meet their extensive accountability, assessment, and reporting mandates.
- **Library management system**— Offers districts an automated system and access to web-based resources, streaming video, staff development and other instructional resources.
- **Textbook management**— Coordinates the textbook and educational materials responsibilities (including software) that member districts have to provide to non-public schools within their boundaries.
- **Communication**— Graphic design, printing and copying services including equipment and expertise to lower district overhead. School communication services include strategic photography and videography.
- **Shared facilities**— Children from several districts participate in BOCES programs housed in facilities shared by member districts or municipalities.
- **Human Resources**— Employee recruiting services. Districts benefit from a larger candidate pool and a streamlined process.
- **Administrative Support**— Provide cost effective services for legal records management, payroll, attendance, student scheduling, computer services, and Medicare & Medicaid processing and testing services.



**Collaboration = Cost Savings**