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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Contact: Scott M. Richard
Phone: 225.769.3191
Fax: 225.769.6108
srichard@lsba.com

LOUISIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION: Leading in Professional Development Programs

Baton Rouge, LA - Professional development is important to the Louisiana School Boards Association (LSBA).

During the past three months over 300 of our public school board members, from across Louisiana, attended and completed programs focused on current education initiatives.

LSBA partnered with local school system superintendents to deliver updates from the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature that focused on collaborative efforts among all of the public education stakeholders. The training sessions were provided by LSBA and held in both New Orleans and Shreveport.

Our unified effort helped result in legislative approval of approximately \$69 million in funds flowing to local school districts. This was a first in over five years. Other legislative initiatives included school safety measures, laws relating to school accountability and other issues affecting our school systems, educators and students on a daily basis.

LSBA also partnered with administrative staff from the Louisiana Department of

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Education to provide professional development training on other current education initiatives including Common Core State Standards, its accompanying national tests known as Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career Readiness (PARCC), School and District Accountability policies, Childhood Education, Career and Technical Education for High Wage/High Growth Jobs, and Charter School policy requirements. These sessions also included information regarding ethics laws that apply to elected officials.

Scott Richard, LSBA Executive Director, emphasized the importance of highly effective school board leadership and local governance, both of which are especially important during this era of numerous "reform measures."

"School board members are those who are closest to the people they represent," said Richard. "They understand the importance of their leadership responsibilities and work hard to be well-informed of this seemingly ever-changing landscape in public education in Louisiana. They do this in order to make the most effective decisions possible to help increase student achievement."

"We are pleased with the high level of professionalism, desire and commitment shown by our membership to learn more about the current initiatives," said Richard. "LSBA will continue to provide accurate and pertinent information in a timely manner to local school boards. And, we look forward to our 76th LSBA Annual Convention that will be held in mid-January in Baton Rouge."

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