

Maryland State Board of Education Meeting Media Engagement Protocols

Consistent with the State Board's past practice, we welcome civil, respectful, transparent engagement with the public and media. The State Board greatly appreciates the interest of the media and the public in the work being conducted at the State Board's meetings as we focus on transforming educational opportunities and outcomes for all of Maryland's children.

We welcome members of the media to our public meetings at the Nancy S. Grasmick Building which take place on the 7th floor at 200 W. Baltimore Street in downtown Baltimore.

Designated Media Areas

Beginning with the State Board's August 22, 2023 meeting, we have reserved two prime locations for the media, which will be clearly outlined in the Boardroom. Additionally, for official statements from the State Board and for conversations during meeting breaks and adjournments of the Board, we have also designated a media gathering area in the 7th floor vestibule outside of the Board room.

Camera Positioning

We ask media representatives who are seeking to obtain video of portions of the Board meeting place cameras at two designated locations in the Board meeting room. These areas will be clearly marked. The State Board requests that media outlets collecting video footage keep their cameras down when they are not actively filming.

Interviews

To the extent possible, the State Board leadership will attempt to make themselves available for brief interviews during breaks. But, for formal in-depth interviews, we ask the media to request a separate, scheduled session. Media present in the Boardroom will be informed of Board interview availability and opportunities to ask questions. This is not meant to discourage informal conversations with Board members. However, the State Board leadership asks the media not to crowd Board members around the U-shaped table.

To schedule interviews with Board leadership, other Board members, or MSDE staff, media representatives should reach out to State Board Executive Director Zachary Hands at zachary.hands1@maryland.gov, or MSDE Deputy State Superintendent for Organizational Effectiveness Dr. Sylvia Lawson at sylvia.lawson@maryland.gov. Specific interviews topic requests are preferred. This policy only applies to day-of interviews, not necessarily to interviews planned prior to the Board meeting date.

If any media representatives have questions about the protocols laid out, please contact the State Board at stateboard.msde@maryland.gov or at zachary.hands1@maryland.gov.