

# Ohio School Boards Association

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **OSBA, other statewide groups hosting mental health/social emotional learning summit**

COLUMBUS — The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) is joining nearly 20 other statewide organizations to present the Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning Summit. The free daylong event — set for Feb. 25 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center — is designed to help school districts better serve their students' mental health and social-emotional learning needs. It is expected to draw 1,200 school board members, administrators, educators, counselors, psychologists, support staff, mental health professionals, parent leaders and others.

The news media are invited to cover the summit, which runs from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Journalists seeking to attend are asked to contact Angela Penquite (see contact information, above) or check in at the registration desk when they arrive.

The summit features two general session speakers and a 24 workshops on student mental health issues and social-emotional learning. There also will be a Resource Fair filled more than 40 booths staffed by agencies that provide mental health and social-emotional learning services and programs.

The keynote speakers are Dr. Thomas G. Maridada II and Dr. Kathy McFarland. Maridada is the Jim and Susan Swartz Fellow in Christian Studies at the Harvard Divinity School at Harvard University. The former educator and superintendent previously served as president of BRIGHT New Leaders for Ohio and national director of education policy, practice and strategic initiatives for the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, D.C. McFarland is OSBA deputy chief executive and a former public school educator and principal.

## **OSBA, other statewide groups hosting 2/2/2/2/2**

“OSBA and the other statewide groups organized this summit because social-emotional learning is becoming a significant indicator of student success,” said OSBA Chief Executive Officer Rick Lewis. “It encompasses the skills and knowledge students need to understand self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills and social awareness. Research shows that effective social-emotional learning leads to positive academic outcomes, future career success and well-rounded individuals.”

The following groups have collaborated to develop and host the summit:

- Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Ohio
- National School Boards Association
- Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators
- Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators
- Ohio County Commissioners Association
- Ohio Department of Education
- Ohio Education Association
- Ohio Educational Service Center Association
- Ohio Federation of Teachers
- Ohio High School Athletic Association
- Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Ohio School Boards Association
- Ohio School Counselors Association
- Ohio School Psychologists Association
- Ohio State University
- State of Ohio

Founded in 1955, OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio’s public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.