

MSLBD, The Organization

The Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders (MSLBD) is a tight knit organization of volunteer educators who contribute their talents and skills to provide professional support to educators who serve students with emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs.

Mission. The Mission of the MSLBD is to foster leadership that advances equitable opportunities educational opportunities and outcomes for students with behavioral needs, and to support the professionals and families with whom they are connected.



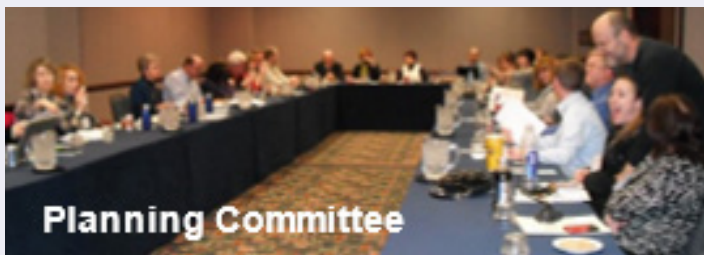
Our vision is that the MSLBD organization will serve as:

- A catalyst and facilitator for creative/cutting edge ideas in the field.
- A support network for professionals who work with children and youth with behavioral challenges.
- A repository of expertise in the field related to the education and treatment of children and youth with behavioral challenges.
- Provide leadership and advocacy for these children while maintaining integrity, respect, and caring.

Structure. The organizational structure of the MSLBD consists of the Planning Committee, the Board of Directors, several sub-committees, and the Manager. Except for a part-time manager, all activities are conducted by volunteers.

Planning Committee. The primary body of the organization is the Planning Committee, consisting currently of about 40 members who are educators, practitioners, teacher trainers, and researchers. The Planning Committee is responsible for:

- Planning and delivery of the February Symposium and the Simpson Autism conference.
- Providing the workforce for committees and activities.
- Electing the Board of Directors.



The Planning Committee meets about five times per year. It strives to live up to the term “Leadership” in its name. Members participate in Planning Committee meetings and are actively involved with at least one sub-committee. Decisions made by this committee are by consensus. In the past 40 years, about 200 different individuals have participated in the Planning Committee, joining when their circumstances permit and dropping off when necessary. Approximately one fourth to one third of those members worked in schools directly serving students with behavioral needs. Others were teacher educators, researchers, administrators, and state department of education specialists.

Board of Directors. The board consists of nine members elected by the Planning Committee. It manages finances, personnel, and policies and is responsible for:

- Developing and implementing a budget.
- Maintaining the security of organization assets.
- Evaluating and supervising contracted staff.
- Establishing policies and procedures.
- Electing officers.



Sub-Committees of the Planning Committee conduct operations related to the two conferences, and the other projects sponsored by the MSLBD. Current activities and related subcommittees include planning and operating the following:

- The annual February Symposium – keynotes, workshops, breakouts, poster sessions, and party.
- The annual awards and stipends – Leadership, Advocacy; Educator of Students with Behavioral Needs; Educator; Educator of Students with Autism; Building Leadership; Building Bridges Program Grants, & Doctoral and Master’s degree stipends.

- The Annual Simpson Conference on Autism – keynotes and breakout sessions.
- The magazine publication, *ReThinking Behavior*.
- The JANUS Oral History Project.
- The Master Teacher Project.



Manager. The part-time MSLBD Manager is responsible for the day-to-day business of the organization. This includes logistics and registration for conferences, managing the MSLBD website, setting up meetings, coordinating activities, calendars, and communication, etc.

Incorporation. The MSLBD organization is incorporated as a 501c3 non-profit organization registered in Kansas.

Website. Information regarding all of the activities of the MSLBD can be found on the organization’s website at: <https://mslbd.org/>

Joining the Planning Committee. Individuals who focus on the educational needs of students with behavioral and mental health challenges are invited to join the MSLBD Planning Committee. There is no membership fee, just a willingness to volunteer time and expertise to contribute to the organization’s activities. For more information about joining the planning committee contact the manager at: manager@mslbd.org.

Donations. As a non-profit 501c3 organization, MSLBD does accept donations to support its activities. See the MSLBD website at: <https://mslbd.org/get-involved/donate.html>