



Association of School Business  
Officials International



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**Member Spotlight: Joel Lovering**

While it's the nation's smallest state, Rhode Island has a considerable force in charge of their school business officials' association. Joel Lovering, RSBA, became RIASBO's premier executive director this past July. Explaining that the association sought a more visible state presence on legislative and other issues affecting education, Joel notes that RIASBO is moving steadily forward and that the state's school business official membership is strong.

A 40-year education veteran, Joel split the first part of his career between classroom teaching and flying helicopters in the United States Army Reserve. He also earned a master's degree in school administration and associate degrees in business administration and management. When the assistant superintendent for business of Attleboro (MA) Public Schools took on a new position, Joel—with his extensive classroom experience and business background—was the natural replacement. He later served as the district's superintendent, retiring in 2006.

An ASBO member since 1990, Joel currently serves on the Facilities Management Committee. Having spent 14 years overseeing extensive building construction projects, including three elementary schools, two middle schools, and the renovation of a 1912 building into an alternative high school, Joel holds facilities management particularly close to his heart. The committee examines different types of concepts and techniques in new school facilities, including "green" buildings, in order to make them more cost-efficient.

Joel believes that understanding politics and players at the local level, being aware of local and state finance contributions, and gaining public support for education are crucial to maintaining stability in school business issues. "My association with RIASBO and ASBO keep me up-to-date on the state and national levels," he adds.