



California Association of Student Councils

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Change the future >

Getting to Sacramento

A Comprehensive Process for Financing Your Participation in the 2008 Student Advisory Board on Education (SABE) and the 2009 Student Advisory Board on Legislation in Education (SABLE)

Sponsorship Guide

“*As someone who financed their own participation in SABE, I am living proof that anyone can take advantage of this life-changing opportunity, no matter where you come from. It all depends on how badly you want to be there...*”

- **Gabby Hernandez, Senior, Silverado High School, Victorville, CA**
2007-08 SABE Delegate, Sponsored by the Victorville Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

The Student Advisory Board on Education is a summit of student representatives from every area of California who are interested in speaking up about their education. The vitality of the program is dependent on an even representation of every area and demographic of the state. **If you're interested in attending SABE, but do not have the means to finance your own participation, CASC is committed to finding ways for you to become a delegate. CASC staff can help you in every step of the sponsorship process.** We believe that each school and community is responsible for financing the participation of its own delegates. This follows the idea that everyone should “own” our public education system.

CASC also provides partial and full need-based scholarships. Please refer to the end of this guide for more information.

The process for securing sponsorships can be a very simple one with the proper planning. The following process can be applied to covering your costs to attend both SABE and the follow-up conference, SABLE:

Step One: Make a Decision

Action Step: Talk to your parents/ guardians about attending

SABLE represents a great commitment, but an even greater opportunity. If you decide you would like to be involved, let the people in your household know where you'll be during this election week.

Action Step: Contact the conference director to let him know you are looking for sponsorships

CASC can provide all the tools you need to help you in your endeavor. Nicolas Jofre, SABE Director, is your main link to the organization and can connect you to a CASC staff member in your area who can

walk you through every step. **CASC scholarships are available as well.** Please refer to the end of this guide for more information.

Step Two: Define an Objective

Action Step: Research how much money you will need in order to attend

The first step is to narrow down how much money you will need. When determining this sum, make sure to include:

- Registration Costs
- Travel Costs (including transportation from the airport to the site)
- Personal contributions

Action Step: Develop an objective

An objective statement is specific, measurable, attainable, and time-oriented. An example is, *“I will raise a total of \$500 to cover my SABE registration fees and mileage to Sacramento by October 15th, 2008”.*

Step Three: Approach Your Potential Funders

Action Step: Make a list of individuals and community organizations who may be interested in funding their representation in a state-wide forum.

Who in your community has the resources to contribute? Brainstorm a list of potential funders. Here are some ideas:

- **School Associated Student Body (ASB)/ Student Council:** As a member of your student body, your ASB is determined to serve you. Many ASB's have the funds to participate in leadership activities. Talk to your leadership advisory and your student council officers.
- **Principal/ School Site Council/ School District Staff (Superintendents):** Educators are more than willing to support student engagement in civic activities. They are also aware of possible sources of funding. If they cannot afford to sponsor you as a SABE delegate, your principal, members of your school site council, school board, and district staff can point you to the people who can.
- **Community Organizations:** Every community has organizations solely dedicated to identifying their areas' needs and fulfilling them. Some examples include:
 - Rotary
 - Lion's/Lioness' Club
 - Kiwanis Club
 - Optimist/ Soroptimist Club
 - Chamber of Commerce (and ethnic Chambers)
 - City Youth Councils
 - Community Foundations
 - Young Republican/ Democrats Clubs

For a full listing of community organizations, contact your city's Chamber of Commerce or visit their website.

Action Step: Make a case for yourself

Each person you approach will have a different motivation for contributing. For example, your school and district will want to be represented alongside other schools and districts at the state level. Rotaries and other professional community organizations will be interested in how the skills you acquire at SABE will help your community. Other community organizations will be interested in your contributions to

improving education at a state and local level. Be sure to research the mission of every organization you contact.

Action Step: Contact funders and find out what their sponsorship policies are.

Different organizations and individuals will have different policies for giving. While some may require you to write a letter to their members, others will want to hear more information in person. Determine what follow-up is needed.

Action Step: Follow up on their decision

Whether they chose to sponsor you or not, make sure to send a thank-you note to the people you contact. If an organization or individual has sponsored you, ask if they would be interested in having you present to them or their members about what you did in Sacramento. Provide them with registration form and payment information if necessary.

Making Your Case: Why should they invest in you?

SABE and SABLE, more so than any other youth programs, presents a great case for funding. Here are some ideas that you will want to include in your sales pitch:

- SABE and SABLE are not leadership conferences, they are a real-life, active interest groups
- The programs give you an opportunity to speak up with your area at the state level
- Delegates learn organizing skills that can help them activate their communities
- Delegates are taking on the responsibility of representing millions of students to the most influential figures in California
- SABE and SABLE have affected the way our schools look and work
- Delegates have the power to affect the lives of the millions of students they represent
- Both programs are sponsored and organized by CASC, the state's premier youth leadership organization
- SABE and SABLE can provide unparalleled real-world experiences
- Delegates from across the state will form an action network

Scholarships

Some scholarships are available directly through CASC. To apply for these scholarships, please contact the CASC office for a scholarship application.

Contacting CASC

Planning to look for funding on your own? Drop us a line.

For questions about finding sponsorships and to obtain marketing materials, press releases, sample donation letters and for conference-related information, please contact CASC's Education Policy/ SABE & SABLE Director, Nicolas Jofre at nicolas.jofre@casc.net. Conference staff can work directly with you to find funding.

Sample Donation Letter

Your Name
Your Address
City, CA ZIP
(XXX)XXX-XXXX
e-mail address

Members of the [organization's name],

My name is Nicolas Jofre and I am currently a [your grade] at [school name] High School in [City], California. [Optional] I am currently involved in [area of involvement], in which I [elaborate on area of involvement].

I am requesting your support to take part in the 2008 Student Advisory Board on Legislation in Education (SABLE), taking place February 23-25, 2008. Sponsored by the California Association of Student Councils in collaboration with the State Senate Education Committee, SABLE will unite over one hundred students from every region of California to discuss the most pressing issues in our own educations. Key education officials- the adults who make the decisions that affect all of us students- rely on the delegation to identify what change students want to see happen. I have often felt a necessity to speak up about the issues that affect my education, and this is my opportunity to do so on behalf of over six million other students.

At SABLE, we will be discussing the student perspective on cuts to education budgets directly with influential adults. I'll learn valuable organizing skills and develop plans to make our proposals be known around the state. I'll even get a chance to be part of the election of the Student Board Member of the State Board of Education.

I hope that you find this opportunity as valuable as I do. As students, we need to represent every area and demographic in our state, and I hope you can help me in representing ours.

In order to pay for a registration and travel, I will need to raise \$[insert dollar amount]. I hope your organization can contribute to my goal. Any contribution helps my fundraising efforts.

If you have any questions, please be sure contact me. I appreciate your time and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Your Name