



2026 State Education Conference
November 18-20 - CHI Health Center - Downtown Omaha



Building Strong Futures



Co-Sponsored by the Nebraska Association of School Boards
and the Nebraska Association of School Administrators



Registration & Reservations

REGISTRATION FOR THE
2026 STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE
WILL OPEN
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

To register, go to
www.NASBOnline.org

Log in using your email and password, and
click the 'Events' tab to register.

Registration fees for the conference are as follows:

REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER 16 to NOVEMBER 6
PRE-CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
CANCELLATION FEE (PRIOR TO 11/6)
No refunds after the registration deadline

\$360	LATE-REGISTRATION NOVEMBER 7 to ON-SITE	\$410
\$110	NON-MEMBER	\$900
\$175	<i>Substitutions are done at no charge</i>	



Hotel Reservations

TO RESERVE ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE CONFERENCE
HOTELS YOU MUST FIRST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AS
DESCRIBED ABOVE.

To qualify for a room, you must first register for the Conference!

Once your conference registration is complete, you will receive
an email with your NASB Registration code and a Conference
Hotel reservation link. The code will not be activated until
10:00 AM CT, Wednesday, September 30, 2026

SUBMIT YOUR CONFERENCE HOTEL ROOM REQUEST
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026.

THE OMAHA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU WILL ACT
AS THE HOUSING AGENT FOR ALL PROPERTIES.

Hilton Omaha - 1001 Cass Street
\$162 per night

**ROOM REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED
UNTIL OCTOBER 28, OR UNTIL FULL**

Omaha Marriott Downtown - 222 North 10th Street
\$169 per night

**ROOM REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED
UNTIL OCTOBER 27, OR UNTIL FULL**

A RESERVATION AT ONE OF THE ABOVE IS NOT REQUIRED TO
ATTEND THE STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE



2026 Schedule At A Glance 3

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Pre-Conference Session
1:00 to 4:00 PM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Board Member Boot Camp
7:00 to 8:15 AM

Opening General Session
8:30 to 9:45 AM

A - Breakout Sessions
10:00 to 10:45 AM

B - Breakout Sessions
11:15 AM to 12:00 PM

Thursday Luncheon Session
12:15 to 1:45 PM

C - Breakout Sessions
2:00 to 2:45 PM

D - Breakout Sessions
3:00 to 3:45 PM

Super Session 1
4:00 to 5:00 PM

Exhibitor Reception
5:00 to 6:30 PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Classroom Showcase
8:00 to 11:30 AM

NASB Delegate Assembly
8:00 to 9:30 AM

NASA Membership Meeting
8:00 to 9:30 AM

E - Breakout Sessions
9:15 to 10:00 AM

F - Breakout Sessions
10:15 to 11:00 AM

Super Sessions 2
11:15 AM to 12:00 PM

Friday Luncheon Keynote Speaker
12:15 to 1:30 PM

Wed

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

NASB LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING
NASA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION
NASB BOARD MEETING

Thurs

DAY 2

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

BOARD MEMBER BOOT CAMP
OPENING & LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR PRESENTED
BREAKOUT SESSIONS A, B, C & D
SUPER SESSION (NEW!)
EXHIBITOR RECEPTION (NEW DAY!)



FriYAY

DAY 3

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

NASB DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
NASA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
CLASSROOM SHOWCASE
EXHIBITORS **(NEW DAYS!)**
BREAKOUT SESSIONS E & F
SUPER SESSIONS (NEW!)
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED
CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ADJOURN



Did you hear
we have a whole
NEW schedule
this year?

Yeah, more
sessions, new
Exhibitor hours ...
and have you seen
Friday!?!?



Register Now at www.NASBonline.org



WHAT'S YOUR MVP? LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE COACH WHO INSPIRED TED LASSO

Donnie Campbell

THURSDAY MORNING OPENING SPEAKER - 8:30 TO 9:45 AM

When you create better people, you create winning teams. Meet Coach Donnie Campbell, the real-life inspiration behind the beloved character Ted Lasso, and discover the leadership lessons that helped shape a young Jason Sudeikis and ultimately inspired one of television's most memorable coaches. In this engaging and uplifting keynote, Campbell introduces his MVP - Mission, Values and Principles - and challenges leaders to discover their own. Through humor, stories, and hard-earned wisdom from decades in education and coaching, he'll share how leading with purpose, authenticity, and a genuine belief in people can bring out their best, strengthen teams, and create a lasting impact on the people you serve.



BE RELENTLESS

Hamish Brewer

THURSDAY LUNCHEON SPEAKER - 12:15 TO 1:45 PM

Get ready to be inspired, challenged, and energized by Hamish Brewer! The award-winning, tattooed, skateboarding principal known for his relentless leadership style is bringing his powerful message to our conference. A Nationally Distinguished Principal, Virginia Principal of the Year and bestselling author of *Relentless - Disrupting the Educational Norm*, Hamish has earned global recognition for turning around challenging schools and championing students and communities. With his high-energy style and "Be Relentless" message, he will challenge you to rethink leadership, disrupt the status quo and discover what's possible when you refuse to give up on people. Mr. Brewer is also featured in the skateboarding humanitarian movie documentary "Humanity Stoked."



I AM THE DIFFERENCE

Danny Steele

FRIDAY LUNCHEON SPEAKER - 12:15 TO 1:30 PM

Danny Steele spent 31 years in education serving as a teacher, coach, and administrator. Throughout his career he developed a passion for supporting and inspiring educators, helping them build positive school cultures where both students and teachers thrive. Steele's leadership was recognized statewide when he was named Alabama's Assistant Principal of the Year in 2005 and Alabama's Secondary Principal of the Year in 2016. As a longtime principal, author, and the voice behind the popular blog, "SteeleThoughts", Danny has built a national following by reminding educators of what really matters: relationships, belonging, and the small, human moments that shape school culture. His message is simple but lasting - when students feel like they belong, they learn. When teachers feel supported, they lead. And when schools focus on relationships, everything changes.



Pre

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 - 1:00 TO 4:00 PM

LEGAL SHOWCASE: THE LEGAL ISSUES EVERY SCHOOL BOARD NEEDS TO KNOW!

School law is constantly changing, and knowing what matters can make all the difference. Join legal experts for a fast-paced, practical look at the latest issues facing Nebraska school districts - from special education and student discipline to due process and emerging legal developments. We'll also tackle the critical legal aspects of the superintendent-board relationship, including contracts, evaluations, renewals, grievances, personnel complaints, investigations, and leadership transitions. You'll gain practical strategies to help your board make sound decisions, avoid common legal missteps, and confidently navigate challenging situations before they become bigger problems. Whether you're a new board member or a seasoned school leader, you'll walk away with useful guidance, timely information - and maybe a few laughs along the way. Bring your questions and your sense of humor for a legal session that's anything but ordinary!

PRESENTERS: Perry Law Firm & KSB School Law

Super

SUPER SESSIONS (NEW!)

THURSDAY & FRIDAY



HOT TOPICS WITH KAREN & JIM

PRESENTERS: Karen Haase - KSB School Law; Jim Gessford - Perry Law Firm



A LISTENING SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF ED

PRESENTERS: President Elizabeth Tegtmeier, Commissioner Brian Maher, & Asst Commissioner Grant Norgaard - NDE



SCHOOL FINANCE REVIEW COMMISSION UPDATE

PRESENTERS: Members of Finance Review Commission



JOIN US THURSDAY!!! - EXHIBITOR RECEPTION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 - 5:00 TO 6:30 PM



Register Now at www.NASBonline.org



ANN MACTIER - SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE THURSDAY LUNCHEON

Previous Winners Include:

2025 - JIM VLACH, LYONS DECATUR NORTHEAST
2024 - BRAD WILKINS, AINSWORTH
2023 - ALLISON WELCH, CONESTOGA
2022 - MARCIA MAHON, SOUTH SIOUX CITY
2021 - STEVE KOCH, HERSHEY
2020 - MARIAN HOLSTEIN, WINNEBAGO
2019 - VALERIE FISHER, PAPILLON-LA VISTA
2018 - KATHY DANEK, LINCOLN

2017 - BONNIE HINKLE, GRAND ISLAND
2016 - TERRI HAYNES, CHADRON
2015 - LINDA RICHARDS, RALSTON
2014 - BRAD KRIVOHAVEK, NORFOLK
2013 - PATTY BENTZINGER, NORRIS
2012 - KATHY BARTEK, FALLS CITY
2011 - JULIE AGARD, KEARNEY
2010 - KIM FASSE, ELKHORN

2009 - RON PEARSON, ESU #3
2008 - SANDRA JENSEN, OMAHA
2007 - JOHN HANSEN, BELLEVUE
2006 - FRED TAFOYA, PAPILLON-LA VISTA
2005 - WAYNE ERICKSON, WISNER-PILGER
2004 - ANN MACTIER, OMAHA



SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT THE FRIDAY LUNCHEON

Previous Winners Include:

2025 - JOHN SCHWARTZ, MILLARD
2024 - MELISSA POLONCIC, DC WEST
2023 - ANDY RIKLI, PAPILLION LA VISTA
2022 - MARK LENIHAN, WAYNE
2021 - TERRY HAACK, BENNINGTON
2020 - JIM SUTFIN, MILLARD
2019 - MARK ADLER, RALSTON
2018 - MIKE TEAHON, GOTHENBURG
2017 - JOHN SKRETTA, NORRIS
2016 - CAROLINE WINCHESTER, CHADRON
2015 - JAY BELLAR, BATTLE CREEK
2014 - BRIAN MAHER, KEARNEY
2013 - STEVE BAKER, ELKHORN

2013 - KEVIN RILEY, GREINA
2012 - BILL MOWINKEL, GRAND ISLAND NW
2011 - MIKE CUNNING, HERSHEY
2010 - KEITH LUTZ, MILLARD
2009 - STEVE RECTOR, SOUTH SIOUX CITY
2008 - LARRY RAMAEKERS, AURORA
2007 - ROGER BREED, ELKHORN
2006 - RICHARD EISENHAUER, LEXINGTON
2005 - ROY BAKER, NORRIS
2004 - DAN ERNST, WAVERLY
2003 - RANDY NELSON, NORFOLK
2002 - PHILIP SCHOO, LINCOLN
2001 - KEITH ROHWER, NEBRASKA CITY

2000 - STEVE JOEL, BEATRICE
1999 - KENNETH ANDERSON, HASTINGS
1998 - KEN BIRD, WESTSIDE
1997 - RICK BLACK, CONESTOGA
1996 - GARY HAMMACK, KEARNEY
1995 - MARTIN PETERSEN, ALLIANCE
1994 - VANDLE PHILLIPS, SOUTH SIOUX CITY
1993 - FRED BELLUM, COLUMBUS
1992 - GLENN LARSEN, ADAMS CENTRAL
1991 - NORBERT SCHUERMAN, OMAHA
1990 - DOUG CHRISTENSEN, NORTH PLATTE
1989 - DONALD STROH, MILLARD

BREAKOUT SESSION TRACKS



BOARDSMANSHIP



CAREER & COLLEGE READINESS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



CURRICULUM



ESU



FACILITIES



LEGAL & POLICY



LEGISLATIVE & ADVOCACY



MANAGEMENT/ADMINISTRATION



NEW BOARD MEMBER/NEW SUPERINTENDENT



SAFETY



STUDENTS/EARLY CHILDHOOD



TECHNOLOGY



WELLNESS & RETENTION

Breakout Sessions - Quick Glance 7

THURSDAY 11/19

- A1 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
- A2 ADULT EDUCATION: A CATALYST FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
- A3 PUBLIC COMMENT DONE RIGHT
- A4 LET'S GET FISCAL
- A5 WHY YOU'RE IN THE DARK & WHY WE KEEP YOU THERE
- A6 NAVIGATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL BOND ELECTION
- A7 EQUIPPING NEBRASKA'S WORKFORCE PIPELINE
- A8 SO YOU ARE A NEW BOARD MEMBER
- A9 RETENTION IS THE NEW RECRUITMENT
- A10 BEYOND BUZZWORDS: LAYERED SECURITY ARCHITECTURE
- A11 FROM LOW ACHIEVING TO BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

- B1 WHAT BOARDS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE NSAA
- B2 SUPERINTENDENT PANEL
- B3 MANAGING YOUR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT
- B4 THE ADVOCACY PLAYBOOK
- B5 STRATEGIC VALUE OF STUDENT BOARD REPS
- B6 CAREER EXPLORATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- B7 CAN THEY SUE ME FOR THAT?
- B8 AT THE BOARD TABLE
- B9 CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF TEACHERS
- B10 HOW-TOS FOR HAL PROGRAMS
- B11 THE BRADY LEARNING CENTER

- C1 STUDENT VOICES
- C2 17 THINGS TO KNOW AS AN ESU BOARD MEMBER
- C3 ATHLETICS, BOOSTER CLUBS, AND TITLE IX
- C4 HOW NEBRASKA IS TELLING ITS STORY
- C5 PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE EFFECTIVENESS
- C6 WHEN CRISIS STRIKES
- C7 NEGOTIATIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERS
- C8 GOAL SETTING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- C9 DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT ENSURES YOUTH WELL-BEING
- C10 EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY FROM A SBM PERSPECTIVE
- C11 EDUCATOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- D1 REDUCING ABSENTEEISM & INCREASING ATTENDANCE
- D2 A SNAPSHOT OF CONSOLIDATION
- D3 LEGAL GUIDANCE IN AWKWARD MOMENTS
- D4 CO-TEACHING: CHATGPT & ME
- D5 CONTRACT CONFUSION: THE BOARD'S ROLE
- D6 EHA PLAN UPDATES
- D7 THE DISTRICT BOND EXPERIENCE ROUNDTABLE
- D8 NAVIGATING CONFLICT, CULTURE, & COMMUNICATION
- D9 BEYOND THE TAX LEVY
- D10 TEACHER APPRENTICESHIPS

- SS1 HOT TOPICS WITH KAREN & JIM

FRIDAY 11/20

- E1 RULE 10: HOW SBMS CAN SUPPORT THEIR SUPT
- E2 BEYOND THE BELL: STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS
- E3 A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO BULLYING & HARASSMENT
- E4 PARTNERING WITH YOUR PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION
- E5 'AI'M STRAIGHT: ADDRESSING AI IN SCHOOLS
- E6 STRENGTHENING LITERACY ACROSS NEBRASKA
- E7 CLOSED SESSION WITHOUT LEGAL MISSTEPS
- E8 POLICY WITH PURPOSE
- E9 WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT HIGHER ED PATHWAYS
- E10 POLICY VISIBILITY, AND STAFF NEGOTIATIONS

- F1 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP
- F2 APPRENTICESHIPS PAY OFF
- F3 SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SECTION 504 ISSUES
- F4 BEYOND THE AI BASICS
- F5 PAIN IN THE APP, V. 12.0
- F6 FREEMAN'S STUDENT-LED WELLNESS CREW
- F7 FROM PASTURE TO PLATE
- F8 ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION
- F9 NEBRASKA LEADS LITERACY

- SS2A A LISTENING SESSION WITH THE STATE BOARD OF ED
- SS2B SCHOOL FINANCE REVIEW COMMISSION UPDATE

BOARD MEMBER BOOT CAMP

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 - 7:00 TO 8:15 AM
ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND
CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Start your day with a continental breakfast and an interactive Bootcamp for all board members and superintendents too! Move through the eight engaging stations, each highlighting a key characteristic of an effective board from governance vs. management to fostering accountability and actionable tools to take back to your district. This session serves as a warmup for Breakout Session A8: So You Are A New Board Member, where we move from the "what" of board work to the "how" of focusing on measured student success. Register for the Bootcamp through the QR Code:



Register Now at www.NASBonline.org

8 Thursday Breakouts (A-B-C-D-SS1)

A

A - BREAKOUTS - 10:00 TO 10:45 AM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19



A1 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: A 2026 RECAP AND A LOOK TO 2027

Join Colby and Mike for a look into the 2027 legislative session and how we got here. With a looming budget deficit, new faces at the Capitol, and new leadership, K-12 education faces both significant challenges and promising opportunities. Gain insight into the key issues expected to shape the upcoming session and what they could mean for Nebraska schools.

PRESENTERS: Colby Coash - NASB, Mike Dulaney - NCSA



A2 BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: ADULT EDUCATION AS A CATALYST FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

At Crete Public Schools, our approach to family engagement transcends traditional models through a strategic “pre-birth through adult” framework that strengthens the entire community by serving both students and their parents. By integrating adult education with early childhood and K-12 programming, we empower caregivers to achieve their personal goals while becoming confident, active partners in their children’s educational journeys. Attendees will explore how this multigenerational investment builds deep community trust, removes barriers to access, and fosters a district-wide culture of lifelong learning that directly supports student success.

PRESENTER: Josh McDowell - Crete Public Schools



A3 NAVIGATING PUBLIC COMMENT AND THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT AT BOARD MEETINGS

Public comment can be one of the most unpredictable parts of a meeting. This session explains what the Open Meetings Act requires, what it allows boards to regulate, and where the legal guardrails really are. Using real-world scenarios, we’ll walk through both routine and high-tension situations and how boards can respond calmly, consistently, and lawfully.

PRESENTER: Justin Knight - Perry Law Firm



A4 LET’S GET FISCAL

The learning curve for school finance is never-ending. Take a closer look at long-standing practices and recent changes that can impact your district’s financial position. This session will help board members better understand the numbers, recognize the questions worth asking, and build stronger financial conversations with their superintendent and administrative team. Don’t assume - dig deeper, ask questions, and make informed decisions with confidence.

PRESENTERS: Carl Dietz - Finance Expert & Justin Patterson - Wilcox-Hildreth Public School



A5 WHY YOU’RE IN THE DARK, AND WHY WE KEEP YOU THERE

Without fail, the largest issues in schools involving student discipline and personnel matters become sources of gossip and Facebook posts in every community. Yet, as board members, you get the least amount of information. Huh?! This presentation will explain why, walk through what’s happening behind the scenes, and discuss things like discipline disparity because of special education laws. While we can’t bring you into the light, we can at least explain when the lights may be turned on!

PRESENTERS: Bobby Truhe, Jordan Johnson & Amanda Dabney - KSB School Law



A6 FROM VISION TO VICTORY: NAVIGATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL BOND ELECTION

School bond elections are multifaceted - equal parts vision, strategy, and community trust. In this practical session, we candidly share our journey, including the successes and missteps learned along the way. We will explore how intentional relationship-building and transparency lay the foundation for success, from conducting facility studies to selecting architects and bond counsel. Participants will gain insight into maintaining community trust and navigating the practical realities of timelines while providing factual information to the public. Grounded in real-world experience, this session offers actionable strategies and cautionary tales to help you turn your district’s vision into voter support.

PRESENTERS: Josh Fields, Matt Dominy & members of the Seward Public Schools BOE,
Mitch Bartholomew & members of the York Public Schools BOE

Building Strong Futures

Thursday Breakouts (A-B-C-D-SS1) 9



A7 EQUIPPING NEBRASKA'S WORKFORCE PIPELINE: GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

Nebraska's economic vitality depends on strong, aligned Career and Technical Education (CTE) systems. Designed for school board members and district leaders, this session examines federal and state policy, funding structures, accountability measures, and statewide systems that support CTE programing in each district. Participants will gain insight into the opportunities within CTE, along with the policy considerations and strategic decisions needed to expand access, ensure responsible fiscal stewardship, and maintain high-quality programs across districts.

PRESENTERS: Sydney Kobza & Katie Graham - NDE



A8 SO YOU ARE A NEW BOARD MEMBER

How do I prepare to serve as a new board member? What are the demands of the role and responsibilities of the board? Welcome to board service! This session will cover frequently asked questions, highlight the NASB Board Governance Standards, will engage you in interactive discussion, and present scenarios to challenge your understanding of proper board oversight.

PRESENTERS: Marcia Herring, Stephanie Summers & Stacie Higgins - NASB Board Leadership Team



A9 RETENTION IS THE NEW RECRUITMENT: STRENGTHENING BOARD / SUPERINTENDENT PARTNERSHIPS FOR LEADERSHIP SUSTAINABILITY

Superintendent turnover remains a significant challenge in Nebraska, where average tenure is approximately 3.7 years. Burnout, crisis demands, and strained board/superintendent relations contribute to frequent transitions. In an era of educator shortages, retention has become the central leadership issue. This session highlights findings from the University of Nebraska Kearney's research titled: An Interdisciplinary Study on School Administrator Stress and Mental Health. Emphasis will be placed on establishing a team approach in strengthening board/superintendent relationships as a central strategy for improving leadership retention, promoting administrator well-being, and ensuring long-term district stability.

PRESENTERS: Doug Tilman & Michael Teahon - UNK, Troy Loeffelholz - NCSA



A10 BEYOND THE BUZZWORDS: ELKHORN'S LAYERED SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

As the field of school safety burgeons, districts are using security jargon and novel buzzwords to describe school safety. Beyond the buzzword, what is layered security? How is a comprehensive security architecture designed and implemented? This presentation will offer a fresh perspective on these challenging questions and showcase how Elkhorn's school safety program is crafted to enhance the protection of our school community. The approach is grounded in proven security principles supported by data from real-world events. Elkhorn's school safety program focuses on implementation guided by deliberate strategy to avoid common pitfalls of many security programs.

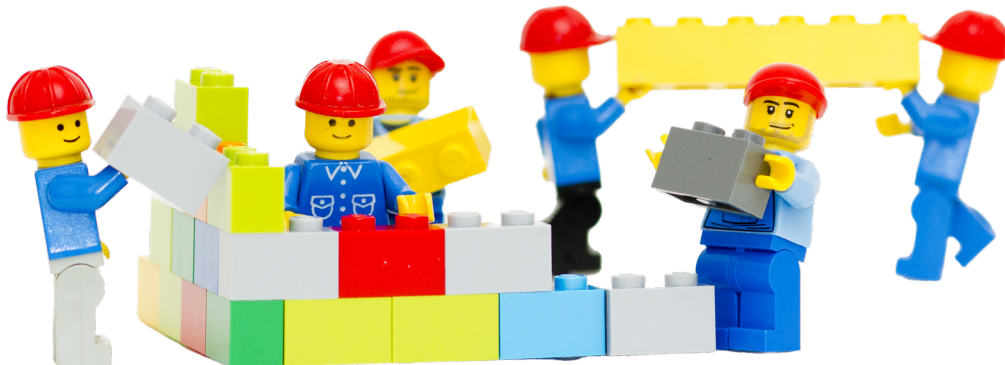
PRESENTERS: Bary Habrock & Brian Kempf - Elkhorn Public Schools



A11 FROM LOW ACHIEVING TO BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

How the West Point Public School changed its culture, attitudes, and teaching effectiveness from the PLAS list (Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools) to a Blue Ribbon School.

PRESENTERS: Douglas Gross & DJ Weddle - West Point Public Schools



Register Now at www.NASBonline.org

10 Thursday Breakouts (A-B-C-D-SS1)

B

B - BREAKOUTS - 11:15 AM TO NOON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19



B1 BEHIND THE RULES: WHAT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE NSAA

This session will provide an overview of the NSAA, its purpose, and its governance structure.

PRESENTERS: Jennifer Schwartz, Darren Tobey & Bob Drews - NSAA



B2 SUPERINTENDENT PANEL - DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE BOARD, WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

For Board Members and Superintendents. Come hear from veteran Superintendents as they discuss and answer questions regarding their efforts in developing positive and personal work relationships with their board of education.

PRESENTERS: Dawn Lewis - Arlington Public Schools, Chip Kay - Columbus Public Schools, Heather Nebesniak - Ord Public Schools, Mike Sieh - Wayne State University, Troy Loeffelholz & Kevin Wingard - NCSA



B3 STEEL, STONE, & STEWARDSHIP: MANAGING YOUR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

In this session, Perry Law Firm attorneys will discuss the ins and outs of school capital construction projects.

PRESENTER: Derek Aldridge - Perry Law Firm



B4 THE ADVOCACY PLAYBOOK: HOW LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES EMPOWER BOARD MEMBER & DISTRICT ADVOCACY

The Lincoln Public Schools Board of Education annually adopts legislative guidelines through a Board Committee process in order to elevate key priorities for educational policymaking and inform the district's advocacy efforts. This session will share how the LPS Board navigates governmental relations at the state and federal level. Learn how the LPS BOE legislative guidelines provide direction to the Board, Superintendent and LPS team, affirming the fundamentals of local control and the school district's commitment to quality educational opportunities for all students.

PRESENTERS: Brad Jacobsen, Piyush Srivastav & John Skretta - Lincoln Public Schools



B5 BRIDGING THE GAP: THE STRATEGIC VALUE OF STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

This session explores how a Student Board Representative can transform district governance by providing insights into the student experience. We will move beyond the theory of "student voice" to provide a practical framework for implementation. Attendees will learn how to develop a transparent selection process, effective onboarding, and mentorship strategies. You will leave with the tools to turn students from passive observers into strategic partners in leadership.

PRESENTERS: Matt Fisher & Lisa Albers - Grand Island Public Schools



B6 WRITING THEIR STORY: EXPANDING LEARNING THROUGH CAREER EXPLORATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

In 2021, we asked a question that every Nebraska district, large or small, must wrestle with: How do we expand learning in ways that truly prepare students for the future? That question sparked the creation of an 8th grade careers course and a hands-on exploratory program built through a partnership with SCC-Milford. What started as a simple idea has now become part of our system. We'll share what worked and what didn't, and how this work has connected students to a Nebraska workforce that needs them.

PRESENTERS: Brandon Mowinkel, Shelly Mowinkel & Mitch Kubicek - Milford Public Schools



B7 CAN THEY SUE ME FOR THAT?

Yes, they can sue you for that. Anyone can sue anyone else for just about any reason. In this session, we will address some of the more common reasons school districts are sued and provide practical guidance to address and mitigate these potential risks. This will include real world examples of recent lawsuits filed against Nebraska political subdivisions.

PRESENTER: Josh Schauer - Perry Law Firm

Building Strong Futures

Thursday Breakouts (A-B-C-D-SS1) 11



B8 AT THE BOARD TABLE

This breakout takes you beyond the “what” of board roles and responsibilities into the “how” of using those roles to drive student success. Through scenarios, discussion, and practical resources, learn how to connect governance leadership to student outcomes, align board work with district improvement goals, and foster a culture of continuous growth. Leave equipped to move from understanding your role to leveraging it for maximum impact on student success.

PRESENTERS: Marcia Herring, Stephanie Summers, Stacie Higgins & Ben Anderjaska - NASB



B9 CULTIVATING NEBRASKA'S NEXT GENERATION OF TEACHERS

Districts across Nebraska are seeking sustainable solutions to strengthen the educator workforce. The “Grow Your Own Education Pathway” provides a proactive strategy by introducing high school students to careers in education. This session will highlight a four-course Education & Training program of study that includes free, ready-to-use curriculum, dual-credit opportunities allowing students to earn up to 12 college credits, and alignment to Nebraska CTE standards. Participants will learn how districts can implement this pathway, support aspiring educators, and build a long-term pipeline of future teachers.

PRESENTER: Katie Soto - ESU 9



B10 HOW-TOS FOR HAL PROGRAMS: PRACTICAL, COST-EFFECTIVE & DOABLE

Providing High Ability Learner (HAL) services doesn't have to be overwhelming - even in a small district with a limited staff and a tight budget. Learn how Perkins County Schools in Grant, Nebraska, has successfully served 3rd-12th grade HAL students for nearly a decade. Leave with concrete, ready-to-use ideas for identification criteria, staffing, funding and programming at all levels - and a clearer path to meeting HAL requirements.

PRESENTER: Deanne Bishop - Perkins County Schools



B11 THE BRADY LEARNING CENTER: A PLACE IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Rural communities often struggle to sustain libraries, technology access, and shared learning spaces. Brady Public Schools partnered with the Village of Brady and the Brady School Foundation to create the Brady Learning Center - an innovative space that combines the school and community libraries. This session will highlight how local leadership and collaboration brought this vision to life by providing books, technology, multimedia tools, and internet access for both students and residents. Participants will learn how the project was planned, funded, and implemented, and will leave with practical strategies and actionable steps to develop similar community-centered learning spaces in their own districts.

PRESENTERS: Ann Foster & Ryan Stearns - Brady Public Schools



Register Now at www.NASBonline.org

12 Thursday Breakouts (A-B-C-D-SS1)



C - BREAKOUTS - 2:00 TO 2:45 PM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19



C1 STUDENT VOICES

Students from Nebraska high schools share their perspectives on issues that are important to the leaders of tomorrow.



C2 17 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW AS AN ESU BOARD MEMBER

This session will equip ESU board members with essential updates, insights, and strategies that will impact statewide and regional educational services. Topics Include: the work of ESUCC and ESUs; new and expanding services; updates from NDE and NASB; legislative priorities; system and network alignment; funding and accountability.

PRESENTERS: Colby Coash - NASB, Larianne Polk - ESUCC, Brad Dirksen - NDE



C3 SCOREBOARD UPDATE: ATHLETICS, BOOSTER CLUBS, AND TITLE IX

In this session, the attorneys from Perry Law Firm will discuss various aspects of athletics, the pitfalls that booster clubs can create, and how to navigate the equity concerns under Title IX.

PRESENTERS: Josh Schauer & Derek Aldridge - Perry Law Firm



C4 HOW NEBRASKA IS TELLING ITS STORY: A DECADE OF THE NCSA AMBASSADOR PROGRAM AND NEBRASKA PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVANTAGE

Since 2016, NCSA has made it a priority to advocate for Nebraska's public schools, one story at a time. Nebraska Public School Advantage is an online magazine where more than 500 feature stories are housed. In this session we take you across the state, from the panhandle to the metro, sharing stories of student success and educator innovation that serve as testaments to the power of public education. You'll dive into the importance of school advocacy and explore the power of a story.

PRESENTERS: Kevin Wingard & Tyler Dahlgren - NCSA



C5 PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION, AND EFFECTIVENESS

Great governance doesn't happen by accident. Effective board/superintendent relationships require intentional communication, clear expectations, and shared accountability. This session offers practical, real-world strategies boards and superintendents can use to strengthen collaboration, improve productivity, and function as a unified leadership team driving district success.

PRESENTERS: Karen Haase - KSB School Law, Mike Lucas - Westside Community Schools



C6 WHEN CRISIS STRIKES

Kearney Public Schools was struck by a cybersecurity attack in October 2025. Five months earlier, Cozad Community Schools dealt with a triple-murder/suicide on high school graduation day. In each case, the immediate, short-term, and long-term district responses to these incidents were critical to the students, staff, and entire communities. During this session, leaders from each district will share their story and provide advice and first-hand experience for fellow administrators that may deal with future emergencies of their own.

PRESENTERS: Jason Mundorf & Troy DeHaven - Kearney Public Schools,
Corey Fisher, Kiley Goff & Dan Endorf - Cozad Community Schools



C7 NEGOTIATIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERS: LAW, STRATEGY, AND CURRENT TRENDS

Personnel costs are the largest line item in most district budgets, which makes negotiations one of a board's most important responsibilities. This session covers the legal framework governing negotiations, the board's role at the table, and emerging trends affecting bargaining. We'll also highlight timely "hot topics" and practical strategies for the upcoming negotiations cycle.

PRESENTER: Justin Knight - Perry Law Firm

Building Strong Futures

Thursday Breakouts (A-B-C-D-SS1) 13



C8 ALIGNING VISION TO ACTION: GOAL SETTING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Effective governance depends on meaningful engagement and strategic alignment. This session covers the facilitation of productive community meetings, gathering authentic stakeholder input, and reaching busy or disengaged audiences. Participants will explore how setting realistic, measurable goals that align board priorities, district initiatives, and community expectations transform community voice into focused, purposeful action.

PRESENTERS: Marcia Herring, Avary Pansing-Brooks & Ben Anderjaska - NASB



C9 ACQUIRE DIGITAL WISDOM & RESILIENCY... BY FINDING DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT THAT ENSURES YOUTH WELL-BEING

Chatbots, A.I., and social media continue to create tension between maximizing digital engagement and ensuring youth safety. Digital platforms use surveillance and personal privacy tools with focused optimizing algorithms to capture personal data, time, and attention with insignificant regard to young users' health & well-being. The digital platforms activate emotionally charged responses from youth exposing them to toxic and often harmful content with inadequate safeguards to protect them. Building digital wisdom and resilience is needed for youth tech engagement but they must learn to SMILE first to improve their digital health and well-being. Security, Management, Identity, Literacy, and Empathy.

PRESENTER: Jay Martin - NDE



C10 THE MANY PATHS TO EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY FROM A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER PERSPECTIVE

Hear from a panel of current school board members - from urban to rural and east to west - who have advocated at multiple levels, both in Lincoln and from home. They will share practical ways to engage locally, including building relationships, navigating difficult conversations, understanding the legislative process, and finding an advocacy approach that fits your comfort level. From testifying and hosting a community lunch or school visit to becoming your Senator's trusted resource on education and local control, you'll gain actionable ideas to strengthen your advocacy efforts.

PRESENTERS: Matt Belka - NASB, Members of the NASB Board, Legislation Committee, and Legislative Bench



C11 EDUCATOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: PRACTICAL TOOLS AND DATA FOR DISTRICT LEADERS



Introducing the Coalition of Education Workforce Development. Convened by NRCSA, the coalition supports districts with actionable solutions and timely data to address ongoing workforce challenges. Learn about its formation, key partnerships, and progress, with a focus on how the work directly benefits local schools. We will highlight practical tools, including educator workforce data reports, regional and statewide analysis, and a growing collection of recruitment, preparation, and retention strategies adaptable to local needs. Administrators will leave with a clear understanding of how to access and use these resources to inform decisions, strengthen their educator pipeline, and support long-term staffing stability.

PRESENTERS: Stephanie Kaczor - Riverside Public Schools, Sara Skretta - UNL



Register Now at www.NASBonline.org

14 Thursday Breakouts (A-B-C-D-SS1)

D

D - BREAKOUTS - 3:00 TO 3:45 PM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19



D1 REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND INCREASING AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

Ralston Public Schools is working to improve average daily attendance and reduce our number of chronically absent students. This presentation will include a panel from our school district highlighting our data, steps we are taking to identify root causes of chronic absenteeism, and how we were able to create an actionable plan to improve attendance across our district.

PRESENTER: Jason Buckingham - Ralston Public Schools



D2 A SNAPSHOT OF CONSOLIDATION

The dreaded "C" word can lead to anxiety and possible fear. But, all of this work was done to provide more curricular and extracurricular opportunities for students. Learn how the newly formed EMF Public School District went through this process. They will tell their story and be open to questions for those who may be looking to go through this process as well. Consolidation doesn't have to be a dirty word, it can be an agent for positive change.

PRESENTERS: Members of the Board & Administration - Exeter-Milligan-Friend Public Schools



D3 CAN WE DO THAT? LEGAL GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENTS IN AWKWARD MOMENTS

Board Presidents are usually the first to receive the toughest calls, including surprise public outbursts, emergency meetings, social media controversies, and internal disagreements. This session will cover a legal roadmap for navigating confusing and unique situations that may arise throughout the year, as well as a quick overview on board authority, the Open Meetings Act, public comment rules, superintendent relations and contracts, and more.

PRESENTER: Justin Knight - Perry Law Firm



D4 CO-TEACHING: CHATGPT & ME (CONSIDERATIONS, TOOLS, & USE-CASES FOR EDUCATORS AND DISTRICTS)

In this forward-leaning exploration, we will consider questions about Artificial Intelligence, focusing primarily on educational applications (NotebookLM, SchoolAI, and many others) and use cases (differentiation, productivity, vibe coding, etc.), as well as more fundamental issues such as ethical considerations and implications for classrooms and students. This session will be both upbeat and honest, and you will leave with valuable insights, tools, and protocols for navigating the future that has skipped our doorstep and is already in our classroom.

PRESENTER: Christopher Knoell - UNK



D5 CONTRACT CONFUSION: THE BOARD'S ROLE

Whether it's the contract renewal process, Superintendent Pay Transparency posting, evaluation, or other requirements tied to the superintendent's employment, everyone has to understand these obligations. Relatedly, while the board doesn't evaluate other administrators or teachers, they are required by law to contract with all certificated employees. This presentation will cover the fundamentals all board members need to know with a focus on administrator contracts and a short bonus section on teacher contract renewals in the staffing arms race.

PRESENTERS: Karen Haase & Steve Williams - KSB School Law



D6 EHA PLAN UPDATES

Come learn more about upcoming changes and enhancements to the EHA Health and Dental plan! In addition, hear about enhanced technology functions and programs the plan has to offer.

PRESENTERS: Cortney Ray - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, Greg Long - EHA

Building Strong Futures

Thursday Breakouts (A-B-C-D-SS1) 15



D7 THE DISTRICT BOND EXPERIENCE ROUNDTABLE

School bond initiatives can shape the future of a district, but gaining community support is rarely straightforward. This roundtable brings together Nebraska districts to share candid insights from their bond journeys - from multiple attempts to successful first passes. Through an interactive discussion, they will highlight challenges, strategies, and lessons learned in community engagement, communication, and trust-building. Attendees will gain practical advice on preparing for a bond campaign, responding to setbacks, and building the support needed to move major facility initiatives forward.

PRESENTERS: Mark Reckmeyer - Boyd Jones, Nichole Baugh - Springfield Platteview Community Schools, Kolin Haecker - Louisville Public Schools



D8 CRISIS TO CLARITY: NAVIGATING CONFLICT, CULTURE, AND COMMUNICATION

Strong board culture is the foundation of effective leadership. This session will provide practical tools for building positive board culture, improving communication, resolving conflict, managing difficult conversations, and responding constructively to public feedback. Participants will gain strategies for navigating high-pressure situations, fostering trust, and leading with clarity, confidence, and purpose.

PRESENTERS: Marcia Herring, Stacie Higgins & Stephanie Summers - NASB



D9 BEYOND THE LEVY: BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR GREATER STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

School Boards are under pressure to balance budgets, manage tax levies, and meet growing student needs. Learn how a strong school foundation can expand opportunities through private philanthropy and community partnerships without raising taxes. Explore practical strategies for aligning district and foundation priorities, strengthening governance, engaging community leaders, and building momentum. Discover how the Nebraska Association of Public School Foundations can help your district learn, connect, and grow.

PRESENTER: Terri Burchell - North Platte Public Schools



D10 SEEING TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP THROUGH MULTIPLE LENSES

What does a Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program look like from the perspectives of those living it every day? This engaging session brings together a panel of voices from across the partnership to share authentic experiences, successes, and lessons learned. Hear from an apprentice, mentor teacher, school principal and NDE as they discuss how this innovative pathway to teaching is strengthening educator pipelines. Participants will gain practical insights, partnership strategies, and examples of how the apprenticeship model is working in Nebraska to support future educators.

PRESENTERS: Brad Dirksen, Kelly Baehr, Jessica Javorsky - NDE; Lisa Epp - UNO

Super

SUPER SESSION - 4:00 TO 5:00 PM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19



SS1 HOT TOPICS WITH KAREN & JIM

Join veteran school attorneys Jim from Perry Law and Karen from KSB for an insightful and entertaining session on the latest "Hot Topics" in school law. This dynamic duo will break down key legal issues that Nebraska school board members need to understand, whether they're already on your radar or just around the corner. Expect valuable takeaways... and a bit of lively banter between Jim and Karen along the way!

PRESENTERS: Karen Haase - KSB School Law; Jim Gessford - Perry Law Firm



EXHIBITOR RECEPTION - 5:00 TO 6:30 PM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19



Register Now at www.NASBonline.org

E

E - BREAKOUTS - 9:15 TO 10:00 AM
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20**E1 RULE 10: REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, REPORTS, AND COMPLIANCE. HOW BOARD MEMBERS CAN SUPPORT THEIR SUPERINTENDENT**

Rule 10 has several sections, numerous statutes, and over 200 regulations. This session is for board members who want to support their superintendent through having a better understanding of what it means to be accredited through Rule 10.

PRESENTERS: Decua Jean-Baptiste, Sandra Suiter, Todd Wolverton - NDE

**E2 BEYOND THE BELL: BOARD STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE AFTERSCHOOL & SUMMER SUCCESS**

Afterschool and summer programs are essential drivers of student achievement and family economic stability in Nebraska, yet local demand continues to outpace supply. Drawing on new research from the Michelle Arehart Fellows alongside superintendent, parent, and community perspectives, this session unpacks Nebraska's post-pandemic funding landscape and current funding challenges. Board members will walk away with a unified advocacy message and concrete strategies related to policy alignment and sustainable partnerships in order to effectively scale and fund high-quality programs across any district size.

PRESENTERS: Carrie Lienemann - North Platte Public Schools, Tamma Zulkoski - Kearney Public Schools, Chelsea Sidel - Crete Public Schools, Nicole Everingham - Collective For Youth, Nola Bennett - Lincoln Public Schools, Karmen Morse - Cozad Community Schools, Maggie Pilar - Norfolk Public Schools

**E3 ZERO TOLERANCE, REAL SOLUTIONS: A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO BULLYING AND HARASSMENT**

This session goes beyond discipline policies to explore effective prevention strategies, legal obligations, and best practices for handling bullying and harassment cases. We will give participants insight into federal and state laws, recent case rulings, and proactive measures that promote a positive school climate while reducing legal risks. Designed for school leaders, this presentation provides actionable solutions that move beyond zero-tolerance policies to create lasting change.

PRESENTER: Haleigh Carlson - Perry Law Firm

**E4 FOUNDATION FANATICS: HOW PARTNERING WITH YOUR PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION FOSTERS BETTER STUDENT OUTCOMES**

We can't do it alone! This session offers high-utility, actionable takeaways for school districts to elevate partnerships with their public school foundations to enhance student outcomes. Learn how initiatives like Fund-A-Need and Student Emergency Funds empower donors by allowing them to choose how their contributions make a difference. Attendees will discover strategies for defining needs, aligning messaging, and celebrating success to attract donors and ensure sustained giving. In a time of scarce resources, leveraging philanthropic support is more critical and impactful than ever for public education.

PRESENTERS: John Skretta, Natalia Wiita & Marilyn Johnson-Farr - Lincoln Public Schools

**E5 'AI'M STRAIGHT: ADDRESSING AI IN SCHOOLS**

As board members and administrators, it's got to feel overwhelming. So many AI sessions guilt you into feeling bad for how "little" you're doing to leverage AI. In reality, most board members and administrators we talk to know AI is a powerful tool; they just want to know the right way to frame its uses for their school or ESU. What should our AI policies say for students? For staff? What legal issues might bore us, but need to be addressed in our buildings regarding AI? This presentation is designed to give attendees the practical guidance they need to address AI in their buildings, regardless of whether they feel love, hate, or terror about AI.

PRESENTERS: KSB School Law



E6 STRENGTHENING LITERACY ACROSS NEBRASKA: THE IMPACT OF REGIONAL LITERACY COACHES

Nebraska's statewide literacy initiative represents a significant investment in improving reading outcomes for all students. Central to this effort is the work of regional literacy coaches who partner with educators to implement evidence-based literacy practices, support instructional improvement, and strengthen systems that ensure every student becomes a proficient reader. This presentation will provide participants with an overview of the Nebraska Literacy Project, including its goals, structure, and implementation across the state. Presenters will highlight how literacy coaches work within districts to support principals and teachers, build instructional capacity, and translate research-based practices into classroom instruction.

PRESENTERS: Caryn Zietlow - ESU 2, Claudine Kennicutt - ESU 10, Angie Dickey - ESU 15, Erin Trusty - ESU 4, Jayme Schroeder - ESU 11, Kelli Gibson - ESU 17



E7 CLOSED SESSION WITHOUT LEGAL MISSTEPS

Closed session is one of the most legally sensitive parts of board governance. This session breaks down when a board may enter closed session, what can (and cannot) be discussed, and how to properly return to open session. We'll also explore real-world case studies involving improper discussions, accidental disclosures, and corrective steps when things go wrong.

PRESENTER: Justin Knight - Perry Law Firm



E8 POLICY WITH PURPOSE: CREATING CLARITY, CONSISTENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Effective policy governance provides clarity, consistency, and direction for school districts. This session explores best practices for purposeful policy governance including district handbook alignment, structured administrative guidelines, and a policy review cycle. Participants will learn how to improve operational effectiveness, strengthen governance systems, and ensure policy supports district goals.

PRESENTERS: Marcia Herring & Josh Wall - NASB



E9 EARLY COLLEGE, EARLY DEGREE: WHAT K-12 LEADERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HIGHER ED PATHWAYS

As more students graduate high school with college credentials, the definition of "college and career ready" is evolving. Yet, this acceleration raises important questions about transferability, credential meaning, and student readiness. This session unpacks the realities of earning college credits while still in high school, from understanding how credits transfer to recognizing the developmental differences between adolescent and adult learners. Participants will explore data-informed insights, hear practical examples from dual-credit programs, and discuss how K-12 and higher education leaders can collaborate to ensure accelerated students achieve long-term success, not just early milestones.

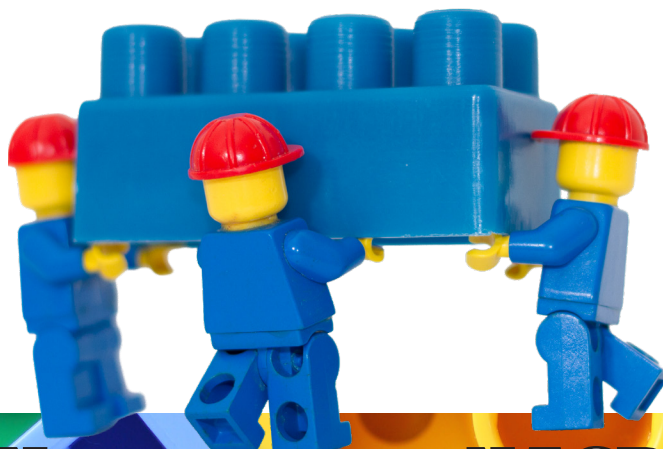
PRESENTERS: Abigail Ott, Amy Mancini & Marni Danhauer - Central Community College



E10 BOARD GOVERNANCE, POLICY VISIBILITY, AND STAFF NEGOTIATIONS: HOW TECHNOLOGICAL CAN YOUR BOARD BE?

Join us for an informative session on Board and Policy Management, as well as Staff Negotiations. We will cover the importance of utilizing technology to enhance your board processes and provide greater visibility to your district.

PRESENTERS: Darion Miller & Nicole Kobus - Sparq Data Solutions



Register Now at www.NASBonline.org

F

F - BREAKOUTS - 10:15 TO 11:00 AM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

**F1 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP**

This session highlights how one Nebraska high school is shifting instruction to better prepare students for success in today's world. As society places greater value on critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and adaptability, the school is moving beyond compliance and recall toward student thinking, discussion, and visible learning. Using the Instructional Practice Guide as a shared framework, the school has clarified expectations for learning and raised the expectation of instructional leadership. Board members will leave with a clearer understanding that strong instructional systems make student expectations visible and require alignment from the board table to the classroom.

PRESENTERS: Brittney Kuhr - Fremont Public Schools, Ryan Ricenbaw - NDE

**F2 APPRENTICESHIPS PAY OFF: A HIGH-RETURN MODEL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION & INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD STAFFING**

UNL's teacher apprentice model strategically aligns district investment with workforce stability focused on student outcomes. This session focuses on how paid, on-the-job training with expert faculty, competency-based instruction and guided classroom practice reduces recruitment costs, minimizes reliance on temporary or alternative permits, and accelerates teacher effectiveness. Data consistently shows high teacher retention rates with candidates and student academic benefits. Learn how UNL's model yields a robust pipeline of fully certified, district-ready teachers through a scalable, adaptable and cost-effective solution that strengthens and stabilizes staffing for measurable student results.

PRESENTERS: Sara Skretta, Kelley Goecke & Sue Kemp - UNL, Barbara Miller - Lincoln Public Schools

**F3 WAKE UP CALL: SPECIAL EDUCATION & SECTION 504 ISSUES FOR BOARDS & ADMINISTRATORS**

The fastest developing areas for school litigation surround students with disabilities. The rights of parents with students that have disabilities are actively enforced by government agencies such as the Department of Education, the Office of Civil Rights, and the Department of Justice. In this session we will go through best practices and common pitfalls under the IDEA and Section 504 to help your district develop specialized plans, respond to parent complaints, create plans for difficult behaviors, and more!

PRESENTER: Haleigh Carlson - Perry Law Firm

**F4 BEYOND THE AI BASICS: WHAT SCHOOL LEADERS NEED TO KNOW NOW**

Many have attended an AI session - but have you paused to examine what has changed and which leadership decisions now matter most? We will highlight an evolving approach to AI literacy, including statewide resources, pilot efforts, and guidance housed within Nebraska's SupportED site. Explore how AI intersects with digital citizenship, media literacy, academic integrity, and student wellbeing. Leaders will leave with a roadmap that clearly illustrates next steps along with the trusted repository of resources needed to support responsible implementation.

PRESENTERS: Andrew Easton & Dorann Avey - ESUCC

**F5 PAIN IN THE APP, V. 12.0**

Like a fine wine, this presentation gets better (and crazier) with each passing year, yet somehow the presenters haven't aged at all. Unsurprisingly, we have a whole host of new and evolving legal issues related to social media, AI, technology, and other key topics for administrators and board members. Come join us for year 12!

PRESENTERS: Bobby Truhe, Sara Rogers & Amanda Dabney - KSB School Law

**F6 FREEMAN'S STUDENT-LED WELLNESS CREW**

This is Freeman's 5th year of promoting mental health awareness throughout our K-12 building, focusing on mental wellness. This is a student-led group and includes weekly and monthly messages as well as school-wide activities. Examples of these messages and school-wide activities will be provided through a slideshow and artifacts.

PRESENTERS: Trish Alexander & Freeman Wellness Crew student members - Freeman Public Schools; Jamie Mapp & Tate Mazour - ESU 5



F7 FROM PASTURE TO PLATE: BUILDING A LOCAL BEEF PROGRAM THAT CONNECTS STUDENTS, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITY

Norris School District 160 transformed a simple idea, serving locally sourced beef in school meals, into a powerful educational and community partnership initiative. This session will walk participants through how our district developed and implemented a sustainable local beef program that supports local producers, enhances student nutrition, and creates authentic learning opportunities. Attendees will learn how Norris partnered with a local cattle producer, aligned the program with federal school nutrition guidelines, developed improved recipes, and more. Practical steps will be shared related to budgeting, processing logistics, delivery options, and collaboration with food service staff.

PRESENTERS: Derrick Joel, Gary Kubicek & Sean Molloy - Norris School District 160



F8 ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION: EVALUATIONS, SELF-ASSESSMENT, AND HIGH-IMPACT GOVERNANCE

This session explores how intentional superintendent evaluation and board self-assessment processes create clarity, trust, and accountability across the district. Participants will learn how to establish measurable and meaningful goals, provide constructive feedback, set clear standards of conduct, and foster a culture of continuous improvement. Attendees will walk away with practical strategies to strengthen governance effectiveness, improve leadership performance, and positively influence district culture.

PRESENTERS: Marcia Herring, Stacie Higgins & Stephanie Summers - NASB



F9 NEBRASKA LEADS LITERACY: THE BOARD'S ROLE IN SYSTEMWIDE SUCCESS

Nebraska Leads Literacy: The Board's Role in Systemwide Success highlights the current progress of raising state literacy proficiency across Nebraska and the critical role school boards play in improving outcomes. Participants will review statewide literacy efforts, including the Nebraska Literacy Project, the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant, and Nebraska Leads Literacy. The session will introduce the Nebraska Leads Literacy leadership cohort and outline actionable ways boards can support district literacy efforts and strengthen leadership accountability. Attendees will leave with clear system-level levers that strengthen district efforts and advance literacy achievement for all students.

PRESENTERS: Jamie Cook & Jane Stavem - NDE

Super SUPER SESSIONS - 11:15 AM TO NOON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20



SS2A A LISTENING SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Share your thoughts on statewide education policy with members of the State Board of Education. State Board members are particularly interested in what is currently affecting local school boards and districts, and the solutions you have to offer for these issues. Topics may include school accountability, accreditation, and approval; educator certification; and statewide assessment, among others. Attending this session is a great opportunity for you to have your voice heard among members of the State Board of Education.

PRESENTERS: President Elizabeth Tegtmeier, Commissioner Brian Maher, & Asst Commissioner Grant Norgaard - NDE



SS2B SCHOOL FINANCE REVIEW COMMISSION UPDATE

Representatives of the School Finance Review Commission will provide an update on the progress of the Commission, including an overview of any recommendations made in its most recent report to the Nebraska legislature. Panelists will then answer questions from the audience regarding the work of the Commission.

PRESENTERS: Members of Finance Review Commission



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