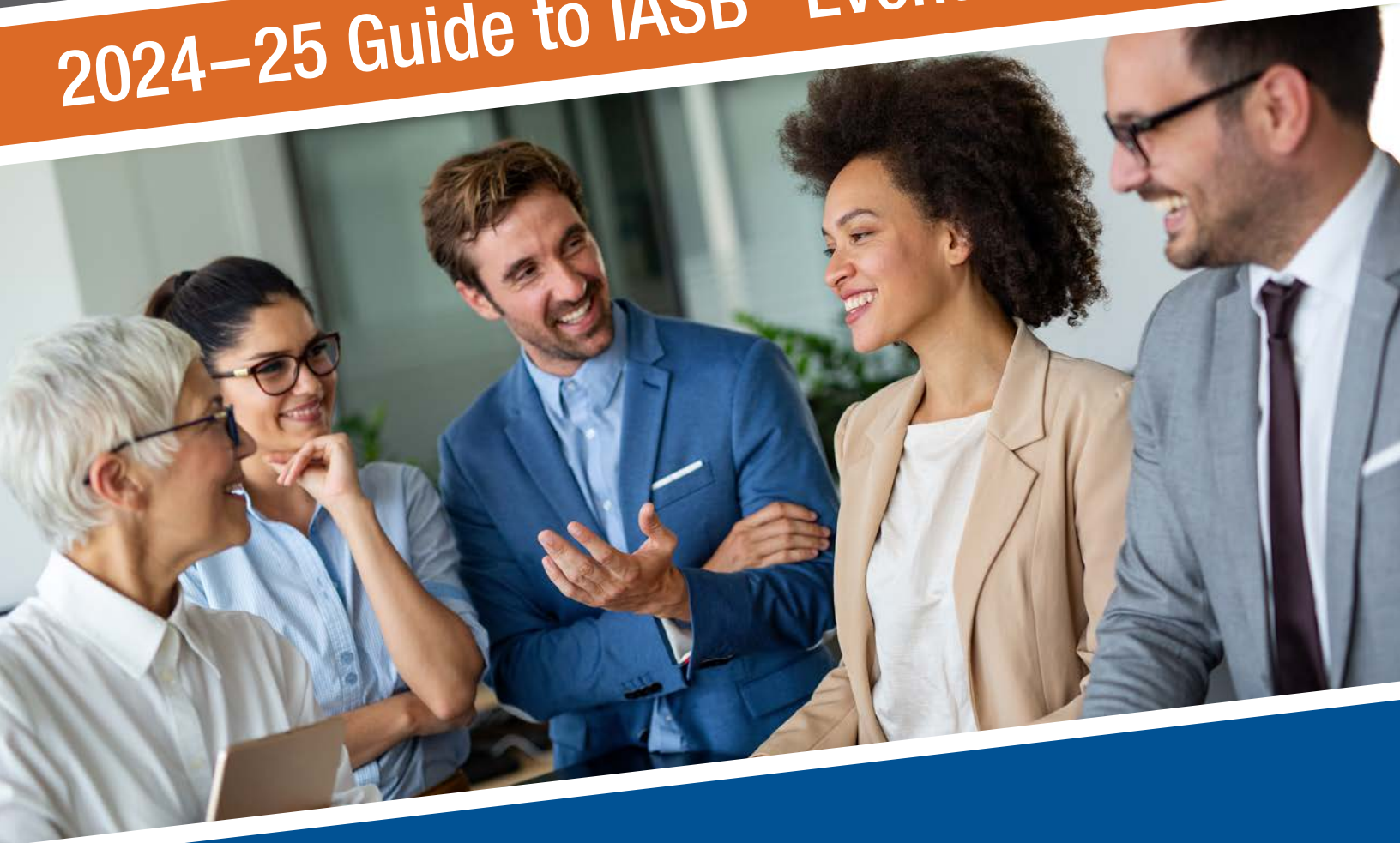




# AT YOUR SERVICE:

## 2024–25 Guide to IASB® Events & Services



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# YOUR IASB<sup>®</sup> MEMBERSHIP

[www.ia-sb.org](http://www.ia-sb.org)

The Iowa Association of School Boards<sup>®</sup> (IASB<sup>®</sup>) is your membership organization. We provide services to help boards stay current and make good decisions through effective governance and leadership. IASB is at your service.

## IASB Membership Has Many Benefits

### Experts on Call

IASB staff field hundreds of member calls each month, offering consulting and advice on school governance and management. [www.ia-sb.org/team](http://www.ia-sb.org/team)

### Legislative Advocacy & Representation

We collaborate with education organizations as needed on certain issues impacting public education. [www.ia-sb.org/advocacy](http://www.ia-sb.org/advocacy)

### News You Need, When You Need It

The IASB Newsroom is the hub where members go to stay up-to-speed on education in Iowa and across the nation: NewsClips, Board Briefs, Advocacy in Action, Action Alerts, Data Dashboard, Special Reports and social media channels. [www.ia-sb.org/newsroom](http://www.ia-sb.org/newsroom)

### Members-Only Toolbox

You'll find 24/7 education resources including information, data, research, articles, tools, videos and tip sheets on a variety of topics important to your role. [www.ia-sb.org/toolbox](http://www.ia-sb.org/toolbox)

### Conferences, Workshops, Webinars, Podcasts & Self-Study Tools

You name it, we've got it. We know our members have different learning needs, so we offer important information through various formats. [www.ia-sb.org/learninghub](http://www.ia-sb.org/learninghub)

## Membership Portal

In addition to the members-only toolbox, you also have access to the Membership Portal. In this section, you can view your individual and organizational information; progress toward the Annual Board Awards; participation on state and IASB boards and committees; and event registrations. Plus, there's a personal profile section where you can add optional demographics to help IASB better tailor services and support and provide an accurate overview of school board members in Iowa. [www.ia-sb.org/mymembership](http://www.ia-sb.org/mymembership)

## Value-Added Services

We offer value-added services for an additional fee beyond your membership dues. These programs are designed to provide one-on-one consultation and detailed assistance for member boards. [www.ia-sb.org/services](http://www.ia-sb.org/services)

### Make the Most of Your Membership: Quick Tips

- Add [IASB@ia-sb.org](mailto:IASB@ia-sb.org) to your Safe Sender List to ensure you receive important communications and email updates.
- Ensure you are subscribed to our weekly Board Briefs e-newsletter, full of resources, tips and news.
- Keep us updated on any changes to your board team, so we can keep our database accurate and continue to provide your whole board the information they need, when they need it.
- Log in to the IASB website to access the members-only toolbox and Membership Portal.



*Photo courtesy of Des Moines Public Schools.*



# YOUR GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP TOOLBOX

[www.ia-sb.org/toolbox](http://www.ia-sb.org/toolbox)

The members-only website features toolkits organized by the major program areas within IASB.

## Board Development

**Preparing you to be your best on the board for students and the community.**

IASB equips board members for board service and effective governance through leadership for student learning resources, superintendent evaluation tools and timelines, supports to make board meetings more efficient and focused, board self-assessments, goal setting/strategic planning and tools to clarify roles and responsibilities.

## Policy/Legal

**Helping you ensure transparent and legal operations through sound board policy.**

We support members with policy development/maintenance and legal compliance through legal guidance on topics such as open meetings and public records, first amendment issues, breakdown of the board's legal authority, mandatory policies, parliamentary procedure, sample student and employee handbook toolkits, school calendar templates and more. We answer questions from board members on sound policy development, provide our popular *Policy Reference Manual* subscription service, and policy manual reviews.

## School Finance

**Providing you with tools to sustain and enhance district resources through planning and fiscal oversight.**

We develop tools to help you excel in your fiduciary role through school finance basics, budget planning and monitoring resources, financial planning and risk management practices.

## Employee Relations

**Empowering you to create a culture of excellence and innovation.**

We educate boards on laws, rules, regulations and compliance. We have sound data to aid boards in making informed decisions through HR best practices, collective bargaining guidance and resources, salary and staffing data, sample job descriptions, sample employee contracts, student and employee handbook toolkits, teacher compensation and benefits data, superintendent search and evaluation resources and more.

## Advocacy

**Together, we are a strong and effective voice for public education.**

IASB lobbies on behalf of boards both statewide and nationally, guided by the legislative platform developed by members. Advocacy resources include Day on the Hill, advocacy toolkits on legislative issues, Delegate Assembly and tools to make it easy for you to contact your legislators.

Your IASB team is just a phone call, email or direct message away! For a complete staff list, bios and contact information, visit [www.ia-sb.org/team](http://www.ia-sb.org/team).



*Photo courtesy of Des Moines Public Schools.*



# 2024–25 EVENTS LINEUP

[www.ia-sb.org/learninghub](http://www.ia-sb.org/learninghub)

IASB offers a diverse selection of learning experiences throughout the year to support board-superintendent teams in governance and leadership. As education leaders, you face many complex challenges that require you to possess a vast range of knowledge and experience—student learning, school law, finance, labor relations, policy and budgets, not to mention bond campaigns, lobbying, special education and parliamentary procedure—to name a few.

Through convention, conferences, workshops, webinars and podcasts, offered either statewide or regionally, in-district, in-person or digitally, IASB serves member needs for learning and professional development. We are here to help both new and experienced board members expand their knowledge and sharpen their governance and leadership skills.

**All fees listed are for IASB members only. Non-members pay a higher rate for the limited conferences they can attend.** Note that IASB is a member of the Council of State School Boards Association (COSSBA), giving IASB members access to those events, as well. These are included in the following lineup.

## 2024

### ICAT Safety & Security Forum

**Tuesday, Aug. 6, 3:30 p.m.**—Gray’s Landing Office Building, 220 SW 9th Street, Des Moines

Join IASB Affiliated Program, Iowa Construction Advocate Team (ICAT), on August 6 for an informative Safety & Security Forum featuring Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) practitioners Ryan Searles and Jon Cheatham. Key topics include what to do in an active shooter situation in your building and on athletic fields; how to recognize if your buildings and outdoor athletic spaces are safe and secure; impact in other states with staff concealed carry in schools; securing large group school events; and new reporting resources in Iowa.

**Fee:** Free for IASB members.

## **Webinar: The Building Blocks of Effective Relationships with Your Legislators**

**Tuesday, Aug. 20, Noon**—Digital (Zoom)

Are you ready to make an impact during the legislative session? Join IASB's government relations team for this free webinar to learn quick and simple ways to establish a relationship with your local legislators. Our staff experts will share proven strategies to help build and maintain this important relationship—whether you're a new or experienced advocate. We'll also provide you with tips for engaging candidates and newly elected legislators since we're in an election year. Additionally, we've invited board member advocates to co-present so you can hear from your peers what has worked well for them, even when it feels like you're fighting an uphill battle.

**Fee:** Free for IASB members.

## **COSSBA Unified Boards Alliance (UBA) Webinar: Social Economics & Its Impact on Students Academically**

**Tuesday, Aug. 21, 11 a.m.**—Digital (Zoom)

The link between a student's socioeconomic status and their academic achievement is crucial for decision-makers to understand. Socioeconomic status covers a wide range of factors like income, parents' education level, job status, and resource availability. These elements greatly dictate the learning opportunities for students, significantly impacting their educational performance and future opportunities. During this free Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) webinar, the presenter will share extensive research and evidence surrounding the impact of socioeconomic status on student achievement.

**Fee:** Free for IASB members.

## **COSSBA Federal Advocacy Conference**

**Sunday, Sept. 8–Tuesday, Sept. 10**—Washington, D.C.

Are you passionate about influencing policy decisions at the federal level? Do you want to make a difference and have your voice heard? Register today to be a part of this impactful advocacy event in Washington, D.C.!

Founded by state school boards associations in late 2021, the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) is a non-partisan, national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote and strengthen state school boards associations as they serve their local school districts and board members. IASB is a member of COSSBA, and as such, our members receive a discounted registration fee for events. Visit [www.cossba.org](http://www.cossba.org) for more information.

**Fee:** \$675 for IASB members.

## **ISFLC New Superintendents' Conference**

**Wednesday, Sept. 18, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.**—Waukee Innovation & Learning Center (WILC), Waukee

Superintendents new to Iowa and new to the superintendency are invited to join us for a complimentary one-day conference focused on Iowa school finance and essential tips for success during your first year. This conference is the kick-off event for the annual Iowa Superintendents' Finance and Leadership Consortium (ISFLC). ISFLC offers two multi-day conferences per year,

with intensive tracks, renewal credit, and networking opportunities. This program is a long-standing partnership between IASB and the UNI Institute for Educational Leadership.

**Fee:** Free for IASB members.

## **Webinar: How to Maintain High-Touch Relationships in High-Tech Times with Sarita Maybin**

**Thursday, Sept. 26, Noon**—Digital (Zoom)

In a world dominated by Facebook, email and texting, it's crucial to remember that conversations remain vital to relationship-building in your board work. This upbeat, interactive presentation will provide positive, real-life strategies for maintaining high-touch relationships, even when communicating virtually. Sarita will share tried and true strategies for maintaining positive communication over the internet and navigating online social interactions both within your board team, and across your community. Highlights include composing reader-friendly emails, identifying three clues that suggest a call is better than an email or text, staying positive on social media despite negativity, and insights from Sarita's survey on staying connected.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from the 79th IASB Annual Convention keynote speaker Sarita Maybin! With over two decades of experience as a communications expert, Sarita has literally written the book to help navigate the question: *"If You Can't Say Something Nice, What DO You Say?"* Sarita's positive, practical communication strategies have helped school boards work together better. In this exclusive webinar, Sarita will share how we can translate these positive communications strategies for board teams working in the digital world. Get ready to elevate your communication skills and foster a more united, productive board!

**Fee:** Free for IASB members.

## **79th Annual Convention & Trade Show—Wednesday Pre-Convention**

**Wednesday, Nov. 20**—Iowa Events Center, Des Moines

We have carefully crafted a lineup of Pre-Convention Workshops that allow you to customize your day of learning. Check out all of Wednesday's program offerings, including two fascinating workshops led by featured speakers!

**Fee:** \$110 per workshop for IASB members (excluding the free Basics for Board Secretaries mini-workshop). \$165 per workshop for non-members.

## **Ready, Set, Govern! New Board Member Onboarding Workshop**

**9–11:30 a.m.**

**CALLING ALL APPOINTED OR NEWLY ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS!** Take advantage of the Ready, Set, Govern! New Board Member Onboarding Workshop at the 79th IASB Annual Convention, which will set you on the road to success. We will cover foundational elements of good governance, such as understanding the roles of the board, management roles of the superintendent and tips for fostering good communication to support an effective board-superintendent partnership.



## Breaking Barriers—Using a Poverty Informed Lens to Transform Education

9–11:30 a.m. OR 1–3:30 p.m. (repeat offerings)

Today, students born into poverty face incredible hurdles throughout their educational journey. But together, we can change that! School board members and education leaders play a crucial role in creating environments that deeply impact children and families living in poverty. Adopting a poverty-informed lens can transform school communities, creating an environment which uplifts and supports **ALL** students.

Join us for an eye-opening session where you'll participate in an interactive poverty simulation, which will challenge your beliefs, dispel pervasive myths, and uncover the real obstacles to educational success. You'll walk away with actionable, proven tools to remove poverty barriers and improve educational outcomes for all students. Don't miss this chance to revolutionize your approach and make a lasting impact on your students' lives!

Keynote speaker **Donna Beegle** (top) grew up in generational poverty and dropped out of high school in ninth grade. Donna went from high school dropout to earning her doctorate and brings 34 years of research and practical experience to the table. Co-facilitator **Elia Hernandez-Moreno** (bottom) contributes extensive expertise in breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting college readiness. Elia will weave her insights on adding value to others' lives, and how to transform compassion fatigue into compassion satisfaction in this interactive workshop. See p. 10 for details about the Donna's presentation at the Second General Session & Luncheon.



## Generative AI & Education

9–11:30 a.m. OR 1–3:30 p.m. (repeat offerings)

What is generative AI? How does it function? How quickly is it evolving? A strong understanding of AI is crucial to aligning its potential with your district's educational goals and priorities. Dive into the future of education with AI!

In this interactive, two-and-a-half-hour workshop, you'll work with leading expert **Amanda Bickerstaff** (right) to build a foundation of generative AI basics, explore AI ethics, and examine the limitations and opportunities an AI policy can create in your district. You'll leave the workshop with practical tools and deep insights to ensure your AI policy truly reflects and serves your community's needs. Seize this opportunity to transform your approach and lead your district into an AI-driven future!

Amanda is the co-founder and CEO of AI for Education. As a former high school biology teacher and EdTech executive, she possesses an understanding of the challenges and opportunities that AI can offer, and is committed to helping schools and teachers maximize their potential through the ethical and equitable adoption of AI.



## Basics for Board Secretaries Workshop

11 a.m.–Noon

This **free** mini-workshop is designed to support newer board secretaries with practical tips on foundational basics such as meeting minutes, agendas and more. Connect with peers, get your questions answered and then deepen your learning by attending the afternoon Board Secretary Workshop. **This session offers SBO credit.**

## Board Secretary Workshop

1–3:30 p.m.

Our popular Board Secretary Workshop is a staple in our Wednesday workshop lineup! With new content, we'll once again shape an afternoon of interactive networking and learning focused on issues and questions most pressing to Iowa's school and AEA board secretaries. **This session offers SBO credit.**

## School Finance 101, 201 & 301 Workshops

9–11:30 a.m. OR 1–3:30 p.m. (repeat offerings)

Newer board members will value School Finance 101's introduction and overview of basic school finance concepts and terminology. Board members with intermediate level knowledge will learn about authorized budgets, unspent balance and real-world data trends in School Finance 201. Attend School Finance 301 for an in-depth analysis of important concepts like cash/fund balance, spending authority, use of the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) and more. **All sessions offer SBO credit.**

## Delegate Assembly & Annual Meeting

9 a.m.–Noon or until completion

Make your district, AEA and community college's voice heard at the Delegate Assembly! Representatives from member boards across the state will vote to set the 2025 legislative platform that guides IASB's legislative work. Delegate Assembly is offered annually in conjunction with the Annual Convention. The association's Annual Meeting is held prior to the start of Delegate Assembly.

**Fee:** Free for delegates, \$25 for guests staying for lunch, unless registered for Wednesday Pre-Convention workshops.

## Member-Vendor Social

3:30–5 p.m.

Take advantage of this opportunity to visit one-on-one with more than 150 vendors at this annual favorite. Enjoy free giveaways and complimentary refreshments while you learn about their products and services.

**Fee:** Free for delegates and/or Pre-Convention/Convention registrants.

## 79th Annual Convention & Trade Show—Thursday

Thursday, Nov. 21, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.—Iowa Events Center, Des Moines

Our premiere fall event is a perfect opportunity for you to re-energize and reconnect as a board. We highly encourage your entire board-superintendent team to attend together to maximize learning, forge connections, and network with your peers. This year we have three keynote speakers who can't be missed!

During the Opening General Session, communication expert and author **Sarita Maybin** (top) will offer practical strategies and positive techniques to navigate tough conversations at the board table with tact and respect.

In the Second General Session & Luncheon, poverty-informed leadership expert **Donna Beegle** (middle) will dive into the impact of poverty on students' education and why poverty-informed Iowa school board members are more important than ever to break barriers for the one in five students struggling with basic needs.

In the Closing General Session, school culture consultant **Anthony Muhammad** (bottom) will introduce us to the importance of transformational leadership and the key competencies that **ALL** board teams can practice as you lead transformation in your own district.

**PLUS!** Eight Pre-Convention Workshops (not including repeat offerings); 30+ education sessions; and endless warm chocolate chip cookies with milk.

Be sure to check [www.ia-sb.org/convention](http://www.ia-sb.org/convention) periodically for more information on keynote speakers, education sessions, key dates and deadlines.

**Fee:** \$225 for IASB members. \$340 for non-members. No late registration fee. Online registration will remain open through 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, Nov. 13**. Walk-ins are welcome onsite.



## 79th Annual Convention & Trade Show—Friday Post-Convention

### Board Presidents' Workshop

Friday, Nov. 22, 8 a.m.–Noon—Iowa Events Center, Des Moines

**BOARD PRESIDENTS, VICE PRESIDENTS & ASPIRING LEADERS!** Once again, we'll be offering our staple, interactive workshop designed to serve the learning needs of board leaders. Feedback from past participants indicates this four-hour learning experience provides some of the most powerful and relevant learning at Convention. Join your peers and IASB staff experts as we delve into hot button issues and meaningful content to share insights and surface practical approaches to various issues related to effective school board governance. While designed for board leaders, anyone is welcome to attend.

**Fee:** \$110 for IASB members. \$165 for non-members.

## December ISFLC Conference

**Wednesday, Dec. 18–Thursday, Dec. 19**—FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny

ISFLC conferences are excellent opportunities for both experienced and new superintendents to brush up on critical skills, dig into hot topics, and network with each other. Superintendents are invited to attend two multi-day conferences per year, both featuring specially designed, intensive tracks taught by experts in the field. All track curriculum meets the quality standards set by UNI for license renewal and graduate credit. While ISFLC is primarily intended for superintendents, we understand the importance of learning together as a team. Superintendents are encouraged to invite school business officials (SBOs) and aspiring superintendents to attend the December and/or February conference.

**Fee:** \$350 for IASB members.

## 2025

### Webinar: In-Depth Advocacy—Condition of the State

**Tuesday, Jan. 14, Noon**—Digital (Zoom)

Join education advocacy experts from IASB and across the state for a recap of the governor's annual Condition of the State address. The webinar will provide you with a preview of what's to come this session, including new education issues on the horizon and issues which might reappear, and will help ensure you are up-to-date as you advocate for your schools this session!

**Fee:** Free for IASB members.

### Webinar: In-Depth Advocacy—State of the Budget

**Tuesday, Jan. 21, Noon**—Digital (Zoom)

In this brief rundown of the state of the budget and school finance funding issues, IASB Associate Executive Director of Government Relations & School Finance Mike Guanci will hit on the biggest things you need to know about Iowa's economy and state revenues; the governor's budget recommendations; and what to keep an eye on beyond school aid funding. This webinar will help prepare you to advocate at the Capitol during Day on the Hill!

**Fee:** Free for IASB members.

### Day on the Hill

**Tuesday, Jan. 28, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**—State Historical Building & Iowa State Capitol Rotunda, Des Moines

The Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB), School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) and Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs) invite you to the 2025 Day on the Hill! This advocacy event will begin at the State Historical Building in the morning for an optional brief session on talking points and logistical information for advocating at the Capitol. Following the training, attendees will head to the Capitol to meet and network with legislators in the rotunda and to support the displays showing innovative programs and initiatives happening in Iowa public schools. **Note:** Make sure you're in-the-know before Day on the Hill and join us at our two In-Depth Advocacy webinars in January!

**Fee:** \$45 for IASB members.

## Frontline Analytics Certified Budget Workshops

**Thursday, Feb. 6, Tuesday, Feb. 11, Wednesday, Feb. 12 & Thursday, Feb. 13**—Multiple Locations & Digital (Zoom)

IASB, in collaboration with Affiliated Program Frontline Analytics, is once again offering these free workshops for IASB members. Using forecasting tools, attendees will leave the workshop with a completed FY 2026 certified budget, including the aid and levy worksheets, as well as all supporting documents. Visit the IASB website for workshop times and locations.

**Fee:** Free for IASB members who subscribe to IASB Affiliated Program Frontline Analytics.

## February ISFLC Conference

**Tuesday, Feb. 18–Wednesday, Feb. 19**—FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny

ISFLC conferences are excellent opportunities for both experienced and new superintendents to brush up on critical skills, dig into hot topics, and network with each other. Superintendents are invited to attend two multi-day conferences per year, both featuring specially designed, intensive tracks taught by experts in the field. All track curriculum meets the quality standards set by UNI for license renewal and graduate credit. While ISFLC is primarily intended for superintendents, we understand the importance of learning together as a team. Superintendents are encouraged to invite school business officials (SBOs) and aspiring superintendents to attend the December and/or February conference.

**Fee:** \$350 for IASB members.

## COSSBA Annual Conference

**Friday, March 21–Sunday, March 23**—Atlanta, GA

At the 2025 Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) Annual Conference in Atlanta, you will have the opportunity to explore the latest trends and best practices in finance, governance, school safety, mental health, stakeholder engagement, student achievement, and the transformative potential of artificial intelligence. The conference is designed to help you prepare for a future of limitless possibilities. You will also have the chance to make meaningful connections with other education professionals, visit with industry vendors at the exhibitor showcase and network with them. Visit [www.cossba.org](http://www.cossba.org) for the most up-to-date information on conference programming, speakers and registration fees.



## Webinar: Guide to IASB Tools—Teacher Compensation & Benefits, Salary & Staffing Data

**March 2025**—Digital (Zoom)

Did you know that IASB provides a comprehensive toolkit to help members identify areas of concern, and balance the need to recruit and retain quality educators, all while remaining efficient and cost-effective? Join IASB staff as they walk you through the Teacher Compensation & Benefits Toolkit, as well as salary and staffing data that is available on the IASB website.

**Fee:** Free for IASB members.

## Safety Group Risk Management Workshop

**Wednesday, April 9**—FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny

Risk management is important and, if done well, can help districts reduce their liability over the long term. Each spring, Jester Insurance, EMC and IASB offer a workshop to allow participants (both local insurance agents and school leaders) the opportunity to learn more about managing risk through discussion of a variety of risk topics, such as board member liability, workers compensation and property liability and loss.

**Fee:** Free for IASB members who are also participants of IASB Affiliated Program, Safety Group Insurance Program.

## School Board Recognition Month

**May 2025**

Every year, IASB leads School Board Recognition Month (SBRM) to honor the volunteer board members who serve on Iowa's 325 local school boards, nine area education agency boards and 15 community college boards. These dedicated leaders serve their community and students without compensation; donate their personal time and energy to overseeing the direction of Iowa's public education system; and they positively impact our state by ensuring our future citizens have a quality education.

The campaign features customizable templates, along with ready-to-use graphics, press releases, public service announcements for districts to use on social media, websites, in community publications, for the media, tips/activities to honor school board members, and more. Watch for the 2025 SBRM theme announcement in April 2025!

## Summit on Student Success

**Wednesday, June 11**—FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny

The IASB Summit on Student Success is—you guessed it—all about student achievement. This fascinating annual event will feature interactive sessions with plenty of talk time with your board member peers to troubleshoot issues related to barriers to learning and innovative approaches to increase student achievement. Visit [www.ia-sb.org/summit](http://www.ia-sb.org/summit) for the latest information!

**Fee:** \$140 for IASB members.

## Webinar: Post-Session Sample Policy & Title IX Updates

June 2025—Digital (Zoom)

Following the close of the 2025 legislative session, IASB will release our largest *Policy Primer* of the year. Updates to sample policies will promote legal compliance for districts. Tune in to this free webinar to discuss the changing school law landscape in Iowa.

**Fee:** Free for IASB members.

## Webinar: Teacher Compensation & Benefits (TCB) Survey

July 2025—Digital (Zoom)

Join IASB staff experts as they guide you through the survey submission process. After the webinar, you will be ready to submit your completed Teacher Compensation & Benefits (TCB) Survey.

**Fee:** Free for IASB members.



*Photo courtesy of Des Moines Public Schools.*

Register for any open event online at [www.ia-sb.org/learninghub](http://www.ia-sb.org/learninghub) or call (515) 288-1991.



# VALUE-ADDED SERVICES

## Specialized Subscription Services for School Boards

IASB offers value-added services for an additional fee beyond membership dues. These programs are designed to provide one-on-one consultation and detailed assistance for member boards.

### Legal & Policy

#### Online Policy Subscription Service

This resource makes it easy to ensure your district is practicing good governance through policy, as well as a time-saver for staff. This is an incredible value and a must-have service for our member districts.

IASB's *Policy Reference Manual* provides subscribing districts with comprehensive online access to more than 450 sample policies, administrative regulations and exhibits needed to comply with state and federal laws—and most importantly, effectively operate a school district. IASB staff experts develop sample policies and ensure they are well-vetted with input from state agencies and members in the field. In addition, this subscription includes quarterly and special release updates through our *Policy Primer* newsletter. This newsletter issues new policies and/or updates to existing sample policies including explanations of why the policies are needed or laws that have changed impacting policy.

**Member Fee:** \$800 per year.

#### Legal Service Fund

The IASB Legal Service Fund was developed to assist school districts, AEAs and community colleges in legal cases that have statewide significance. Monies in the fund are protected in a separate account and invested to maximize school district dollars.

The Legal Service Fund Committee consists of nine voting school board members from participating schools. This committee decides whether financial support will be provided to a member that applies for such assistance. Learn more about the Fund and the Committee at [www.ia-sb.org/legalservicefund](http://www.ia-sb.org/legalservicefund).



# Survey Services

Our suite of surveys range from school improvement needs assessments, to superintendent search, to custom surveys built for the specific needs of your district. We manage everything—from designing and posting the survey, to tracking, downloading and analyzing the data, to preparing and delivering the reports. Learn more at [www.ia-sb.org/surveyservices](http://www.ia-sb.org/surveyservices).

# Affiliated Programs

IASB provides members with access to programs that can assist the governance team in critical areas of support, including governance and leadership, risk management, financial responsibility, human resources compliance and facilities management. IASB strives to lessen the burdens of government for Iowa public school boards, area education agencies and community colleges by providing these services. Affiliated Programs also help advance the work of IASB. Royalties from these programs help offset member costs such as education, legislative advocacy, programs and more. The following programs have been thoroughly vetted by IASB and are offered at discounted rates for members. Learn more about these programs at [www.ia-sb.org/affiliatedprograms](http://www.ia-sb.org/affiliatedprograms).

## Governance & Leadership

**Simbli by eBOARDsolutions**—Meet the needs of transparency, efficient workflow and effective leadership with this set of integrated modules (meetings, planning, policies, communication, document management, and evaluations) that help boards maximize productivity in one easy-to-use board management software solution.

## Risk Management

**Safety Group Insurance Program**—IASB collaborates with Jester Insurance Services, Inc. and EMC Insurance Companies to bring Iowa public schools a comprehensive and competitive program with property, casualty and workers' compensation insurance.

**Iowa Medicaid Education Disbursement (IMED)**—IASB collaborates with healthcare consulting provider ClaimAid to assist school districts with Medicaid eligibility and enrollment services, school-based billing and claims resolutions.

## Financial Management

**Iowa Schools Joint Investment Trust (ISJIT)**—IASB collaborates with PMA Financial Network, Inc., to provide ISJIT. ISJIT assists more than 325 school corporations in safely increasing their investment income and provides additional funds to increase the quality of educational services. ISJIT offers several investment opportunities to meet participants cash management needs.

**Frontline Analytics**—Capitalize on the rich insights contained within your student data—regardless of where that data resides—to improve student outcomes. Student Analytics Lab, powered by Forecast5, makes it easy to combine all of your data and present it visually so you can easily measure student performance, assess next grade/college- and career-readiness, close learning gaps, advance equity and improve student outcomes. Frontline focuses on human resource management, student management, business operations and analytics.

**OPEB Valuation Compliance Service (GASB 74, 75)**—IASB collaborates with Gallagher Benefit Services, an actuarial service, to offer Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement Number 74 and 75 actuarial and consulting services for other post-employment benefits (OPEB).

## Human Resources

**Iowa Schools Employee Benefits Association (ISEBA)**—ISEBA, IASB and the Iowa State Education Association collaborate with USI Insurance Services to deliver a comprehensive, accessible, user-friendly and affordable employee benefits program for Iowa school employees.

**Iowa Drug and Alcohol Testing Program (IDATP)**—IASB collaborates with Medical Enterprises, Inc. to provide the Iowa Drug and Alcohol Testing Program (IDATP). IDATP assists school corporations and contractors transporting students to economically and efficiently comply with state and federal drug and alcohol testing requirements.

**Employee Background Screening Service**—To meet background screening needs for Iowa's school employees, IASB collaborates with One Source The Background Check Company to offer the Employee Background Screening Service. The service provides school districts with the ability to check multiple background-information sources and make confident employment decisions.

## Facilities

**Iowa Construction Advocate Team (ICAT)**—IASB collaborates with Estes Construction to provide members with access to the ICAT program. ICAT offers services including facility assessments, architect selection process, RFP/RFQ templates, organizing master planning services, community engagement, radon testing and mitigation support and a full complement of construction services statewide.

# Service Recognition Program

Celebrate dedication to public education with IASB's recognition awards! Honor school board members, student board members, and staff for their service with these meaningful tributes.

## Award of Merit Plaque—\$42

A personalized plaque to commemorate the commitment of school board members or staff—perfect for retirees or service recognition.



## Lifetime Pass Card—\$10

Grant lifetime access to district events for retiring members, strengthening ties between your school and community.



## **NEW!** Student Board Member Certificate—\$10

A personalized certificate celebrating the leadership and contributions of your student board members.

Order today at [www.ia-sb.org/servicerecognition!](http://www.ia-sb.org/servicerecognition!)



# AT THE BOARD TABLE

[www.ia-sb.org/attheboardtable](http://www.ia-sb.org/attheboardtable)

*At the Board Table* is an opportunity to add a board development item to your agenda. Boards that take time to discuss how they will work together generally find their common work at the board table to be easier and more effective. Estimated time commitment varies between 15 and 45 minutes per discussion.

It's possible to consider this section as an individual board member, but it is much more effective if the entire board engages in the discussion. Working as a team improves when boards come to a common understanding of ground rules and responsibilities.



## STANDARD 1: VISIONARY TEAM

### **Board & Superintendent Relations, Part One**

This scenario-based discussion will help your team reflect on essential elements for building a productive board-superintendent relationship.

### **Board & Superintendent Relations, Part Two**

A continued discussion tool including true/false questions and quotes to consider for building a productive board-superintendent relationship.

### **Considering Board Priorities at the Board Table**

This discussion helps the board team clarify where they want to focus their time and energies as they consider the most important goals for the district's future.

### **Promises & Pitfalls of Superintendent Evaluation**

The board can assess its readiness for effective superintendent evaluation and support for the superintendent's performance goals.

### **Whose Job Is It? Part One**

Using a scenario of a typical board member situation, determine "Whose Job Is It?" and what role the whole board would play in the situation.

## **Whose Job Is It? Part Two**

Another discussion on “Whose Job Is It?” focusing on the board’s role in school improvement by looking at specific tasks and considering areas of work to be done.

## **STANDARD 2: STUDENT LEARNING**

### **Thoughts Posed by Sir Ken Robinson**

Three discussion exercises spotlight the board’s role in nurturing innovative and creative cultures focused on personalized learning for all students. Listen to Sir Ken Robinson’s thoughts on school transformation and discuss essential questions related to your board’s vital work.

### **Graduating All Students Innovation Ready**

An article and discussion guide help the board contemplate the need to go beyond the “status quo” to ensure students are ready for a changing future.

## **STANDARD 3: DISTRICT CULTURE**

### **Discussing School Staff Performance with the Public**

This module uses a scenario and discussion questions to help the board consider citizen complaints objectively, away from the pressures of the actual situation.

### **What Can the Board Know?**

Dealing with personnel issues can be difficult. This discussion tool will help you think through possible actions and consequences related to the board’s role in human resources.

## **STANDARD 4: POLICY & LEGAL**

### **Considerations on the *Open Meetings Law***

A three-part discussion on how the *Iowa Open Meetings Law* affects board procedures.

### **Four Ethical Dilemmas**

What is ethical behavior? This module includes scenarios for the board to discuss with accompanying considerations from IASB and an opportunity for boards to consider how their own Code of Ethics policies help them govern well.

## **STANDARD 5: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Simplifying School Finance**

Take a quick true/false quiz as a whole board to assess your knowledge of some basic school finance concepts; consider a scenario that will seem familiar to all; and finally arrive at common-ground definitions of basic finance terms.

## **STANDARD 6: ADVOCACY**

### **Advocacy for Our Students’ Future**

Using a scenario and discussion questions, this module helps boards focus on the importance of advocacy and determine specific action steps that make sense for each local board.



## CUSTOM ON-SITE WORKSHOPS

[www.ia-sb.org/customworkshops](http://www.ia-sb.org/customworkshops)

Bring a customized, facilitated board learning workshop directly to your district. IASB will work with your governance team to design a workshop just for you, based on your board development goals and district needs. Popular topics are listed below, but each workshop emphasizes application to your specific situation. Most workshops are between two and four hours and can be scheduled on weekdays, evenings or Saturdays at your board's convenience.

### **Identifying & Defining Roles/Responsibilities of the Governance Team**

In this custom session, an IASB facilitator helps the board-superintendent team identify and discuss the different roles and responsibilities of school board members and the superintendent. The IASB facilitator will provide information and research on effective practices to enhance the discussions. The board-superintendent team uses these insights to build a strong, shared understanding of how each governance team member contributes to the district through their appropriate role.

### **Long Term District Goals & Priorities**

This experience will support the board-superintendent team as they come together to set the strategic direction for the district. This workshop may include district administrative staff and will focus on developing or reaffirming long-term goals and priority areas of work for the district to pursue over the next three to five years. Emphasis will also include the board's governance roles in supporting, monitoring, and fostering collective will to mobilize support for the newly established district goals.

### **Boards & Student Learning**

Board-superintendent teams looking to strengthen their focus on student learning at the board table would benefit from this workshop. Teams can select entry points such as data study, student learning goals, or understanding and supporting key initiatives. An IASB facilitator will consult with your district's board leadership and superintendent to determine an effective starting place. These workshops are developed based on effective practices for board teams influenced by IASB's groundbreaking Lighthouse Research and other studies on school board leadership.

## **Leadership for Student Learning: Five-Part Workshop Series**

This workshop series is an intensive five-session commitment for the whole board-superintendent team to strengthen their governance role for improved teaching and student learning. Research shows that school boards who are well informed with a strong belief system can positively influence student learning in their districts. Studies by IASB and other organizations have identified important leadership and policy-level roles for the school board in improving student learning. IASB is partnering with local board-superintendent teams to support their efforts in this work through this in-depth workshop series.

## **Board Self-Assessment**

Governance teams are most effective when they foster a positive culture focused on improving instruction and student learning. An IASB facilitator will provide three or four self-assessment options and help the board identify the tool that best matches current needs.

## **Superintendent Evaluation**

Is your team interested in enhancing the superintendent evaluation process?

In this customized board workshop, an IASB facilitator will lead your team's learning and discussion on key areas of superintendent evaluation including legal requirements, the state's standards for school leaders, tools/practical tips and effective practices.

## **Coming Together: District Sharing**

This workshop is designed to assist boards whether they want to explore possibilities for sharing with nearby districts, or their district is already engaged in sharing with other districts. The focus is to identify common interests, goals, concerns and to develop specific techniques to help boards communicate and work together. These sessions can also be designed for boards engaging in reorganization discussions.

## **Creating a Culture of Excellence & Innovation: The School Board's Role**

What is the board's role in working with and guiding district staff? How does the board's role compare to that of the superintendent? How can your board-superintendent team work from your respective roles to create a culture of excellence and innovation that focuses the school community on student learning?

## **Sound Policy Development Practices for School Boards**

Sound board policy clarifies the goals and intent of the board. In this custom session, an IASB consultant works with the board-administrative team to understand the board's policy-making role, strengthen your policy development and maintenance practices, identify policies most relevant to your district's current goals and needs, and ensure your policies align with state and federal laws.

## **District Finance Consultation**

An IASB staff member will facilitate a customized review of your district's financial condition, based on your own data and trends, and help the board-superintendent team consider appropriate oversight and decision points to address the district's financial condition. IASB staff will work

with the board, either at a board meeting or a board work session, to help you understand your district’s finances; free for the first consultation. IASB can also provide a free, half-day session one-on-one with a district’s new superintendent or school business official to support these key administrators in gaining knowledge of Iowa school funding laws, processes and the district’s current financial condition.

## **Developing Your Board’s Advocacy Action Plan**

To have a say in the legislative process, your board needs a voice. In this session, an IASB government relations staff member will work with your board to develop an advocacy action plan customized to your school district. You’ll focus on specific issues facing your district and construct an advocacy plan based on maximizing efforts that will have the greatest impact in persuading your elected officials. The workshop can take a broad view on advocacy, or “dig deep” on a specific advocacy practice, such as legislator relations, community engagement, social media communications and more.

## **New Superintendent & Board Leadership—Establishing a Strong Foundation**

If your superintendent is new to your district, IASB can help your team establish the foundation for a strong working relationship. An IASB facilitator will work with your board and superintendent to develop a customized workshop to help your team set the stage for a successful school year. Popular topics for this workshop include areas such as: board-superintendent communications, operating practices, roles and responsibilities, expectations or goals.





# PODCASTS, RECORDINGS & RESOURCES

[www.ia-sb.org/learninghub](http://www.ia-sb.org/learninghub)

## Event Resources & Webinar Recordings

Throughout the year, IASB offers conferences, events and webinars. Conference materials are posted for member convenience following the event, and webinar recordings are made available to all regardless of attendance. Visit [www.ia-sb.org/recordings](http://www.ia-sb.org/recordings) to access these resources.

## BoardCast Podcast Series

*BoardCast* is IASB's signature podcast series featuring our staff, members and other education experts. Episodes focus on hot topics and best practices in school finance, board governance, legal and policy issues, HR, legislative updates, and more. BoardCast is available for listening anywhere podcasts are offered: Apple, Spotify, Android, etc. Be sure to subscribe so you are notified when a new episode drops! Visit [www.ia-sb.org/boardcast](http://www.ia-sb.org/boardcast) to listen to all available episodes.



*Photo courtesy of Des Moines Public Schools.*



# BOARD BOOKS

[www.ia-sb.org/boardbooks](http://www.ia-sb.org/boardbooks)

## *Board Member Handbook*

IASB's invaluable *Board Member Handbook* is a must-read for every board member and a handy reference for administrators. The handbook covers roles and responsibilities, leadership, student achievement, board policy, board meetings, superintendent relations, employee relations, school finance, community relations and much more!

*Board Member Handbooks* are updated during school board election years.

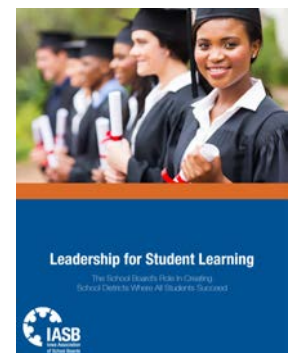
**Fee:** The PDF is free for IASB members. Printed copies are available for a fee of \$20 for IASB members. Download the PDF or purchase a print copy at [www.ia-sb.org/boardbooks](http://www.ia-sb.org/boardbooks).



## *Leadership for Student Learning Book & Study Guide*

### **The School Board's Role in Creating School Districts Where All Students Succeed**

Based on widely accepted practices of school improvement and original, objective research, this book identifies the key roles of school boards that can have a positive impact on student achievement. This book is a quick read that provides board members with expert guidance and fundamental information in easy-to-understand language. It is also a great reference for staff leadership teams and school improvement committees.



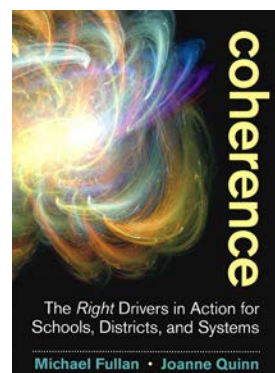
The *Leadership for Student Learning Study Guide* is available to help your entire board-superintendent team consider and discuss issues raised in the book. This practical tool includes complete instructions and reflection questions that can be used to facilitate 20 to 45-minute study sessions. Use it as part of board work sessions or board meeting learning segments.

**Fee:** The *Leadership for Learning and Study Guide* PDFs are free for IASB members. Printed copies are available for a fee of \$20 for IASB members. Download the PDFs or purchase a print copy at [www.ia-sb.org/boardbooks](http://www.ia-sb.org/boardbooks).

## *Discussion Guide for Coherence*

IASB developed a discussion guide based on Michael Fullan's and Joanne Quinn's book, "Coherence: The Right Drivers in Action for Schools, Districts and Systems" (originally published in July 2015), with implications for the board team and bottom-line guidance for boards. We encourage boards to use this guide if they are planning a board book study, a series of board learning discussions, or to develop action for the whole board.

**Fee:** The PDF is free for IASB members. Download the PDF at [www.ia-sb.org/boardbooks](http://www.ia-sb.org/boardbooks).



*Photo courtesy of Des Moines Public Schools.*



# ANNUAL BOARD AWARDS PROGRAM

[www.ia-sb.org/aba](http://www.ia-sb.org/aba)

Annual Board Awards highlight commitment to professional growth. Individual board members, board teams, and superintendents/AEA administrators/community college presidents can earn hours for the awards listed below through participation in IASB-led learning opportunities. Hours are earned from participation in educational activities and events that have taken place Nov. 1, 2024 through Oct. 31, 2025. There are three types of awards in this program:

## Individual Achievement Award

Board members receive an Individual Achievement Award certificate for earning a minimum of 15 hours in one year.

## Team Achievement Award

A plaque is presented to a whole board when a majority of its board members receive Individual Achievement Award certificates for the year and the board has a policy that supports board development.

## Award of Honor

An Award of Honor certificate is given to each superintendent, AEA administrator or community college president who earns a minimum of 15 hours as an individual and has at least two board members in the district, AEA or community college who have earned Individual Achievement Award certificates.

## Did You Know?

In 2022–23, 218 board members from 93 PK–12 school boards, three area education agency boards and one community college earned Individual Achievement Awards. Team Achievement Award plaques were presented to 30 school boards—Ankeny, Atlantic, Bettendorf, Boone, Cedar Rapids, Centerville, Davenport, Fairfield, Fort Madison, Glenwood, Independence, Iowa City, Lake Mills, Lawton-Bronson, Le Mars, Linn-Mar, Maquoketa, Marion, Marshalltown, New London, Nodaway Valley, North Polk, North Scott, Sioux Center, Solon, South Tama County, Springville, Tri-Center, Waukee and West Delaware County. The Award of Honor was presented to 29 superintendents and one AEA chief administrator. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!



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## 2024–25 IASB® AT YOUR SERVICE GUIDE

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