



IASB Update for AEA Superintendent Meetings— January 2025

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Wishing You a Successful New Year!

Dear Iowa Superintendents,

Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank you for your extraordinary leadership and dedication to Iowa’s students, schools, and communities. IASB is proud to support you as we work together to shape a brighter future for every student. Thank you for your unwavering leadership and commitment to public education.

Wishing you a year filled with success, growth, and continued progress.

Yours in service,

D.T. Magee
Executive Director
Iowa Association of School Boards

New Board President Webinars

NEW BOARD PRESIDENT WEBINAR—FOSTERING BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT TEAM UNITY

Jan. 9 & 10 at Noon

TWO NEW OPPORTUNITIES! To maximize governance effectiveness, your board-superintendent team must operate together with unity. In this interactive conversation, IASB staff and experienced board leaders will discuss foundational communication practices and concrete steps to help you establish a tone of cooperative leadership and strategies to strengthen trust.

Note: This free webinar is offered twice, for member convenience—the content covered in the webinar on Jan. 9 will be repeated in the Jan. 10 webinar. [Register now!](#)

NEW BOARD PRESIDENT WEBINAR— CONDUCTING MEANINGFUL SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Feb. 25 at Noon & Feb. 26 at 6 p.m.

TWO NEW OPPORTUNITIES! The yearly evaluation of the superintendent is required by law, and yet often board teams find it difficult and challenging to do so. Join us for this interactive dialogue where together, we'll help demystify the process and unpack specific actions and review helpful resources to help turn your superintendent evaluation process from a painful to a productive one.

Note: This free webinar is offered twice, for member convenience—the content covered in the webinar on Feb. 25 will be repeated in the Feb. 26 webinar. [Register now!](#)

While both webinars are designed specifically for newly elected board presidents, anyone is welcome to participate. [Learn more.](#)

If you have questions, please contact Lou Gvist at lgvist@ia-sb.org.

Upcoming In-Person Opportunities

ONE VOICE FOR IOWA STUDENTS—DAY ON THE HILL 2025

Jan. 27–28, 2025

REGISTRATION OPEN! Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs), Iowa Association of School Boards® (IASB®) and School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) invite you to the [2025 Day on the Hill!](#) Start your advocacy journey with an optional morning session at the State Historical Building, offering key talking points and logistical details for Capitol visits. Afterward, head to the Capitol to meet with legislators, network, and explore displays of innovative programs happening in Iowa public schools. [See event details and register today!](#)

In addition, make sure you're in-the-know before Day on the Hill and join us for our two In-Depth Advocacy webinars in January along with the Advocacy & Alignment Workshop hosted by Iowa AEAs:

- **[Webinar: In-Depth Advocacy—State of the Budget:](#)** Join IASB Associate Executive Director, Government Relations & School Finance Mike Guanci for a brief rundown of the state of the budget and school finance funding issues on **Tuesday, Jan. 14 at noon.** [Learn more and register.](#)

- **[Webinar: In-Depth Advocacy—Condition of the State](#)**: Join education advocacy experts from the AEAs, IASB and SAI for a recap of the governor’s annual Condition of the State address on **Tuesday, Jan. 21 at noon**. [Learn more and register](#).
- **[Advocacy & Alignment Workshop](#)**: Join the Iowa AEAs from 4:45–6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express & Conference Center, 2502 SE Hulsizer Road, Ankeny, IA. This pre-event will provide an overview of the State of the Budget by IASB Associate Executive Director, Government Relations & School Finance Mike Guanci and a discussion of what the election results mean for public education with AEA Lobbyist Kate Walton.

If you have questions about Day on the Hill, please contact Emily Miller at emiller@ia-sb.org.

ENRICH & EXPAND YOUR SUPERINTENDENCY SKILLS THROUGH INVALUABLE ISFLC EVENTS

Feb. 18–19, 2025

REGISTER TODAY! ISFLC conferences are excellent opportunities for new or aspiring superintendents and school business officials to expand their knowledge base and skills. The **[ISFLC February Conference](#)** on Feb. 18–19, 2025 is the second of two conferences offered in the winter as part of the **[Iowa Superintendents Finance and Leadership Consortium \(ISFLC\) program](#)**. Visit **[IASB’s website](#)** to browse the exciting tracks offered this February and stay tuned for General Session details. [Register now!](#)

For more information regarding ISFLC or UNI Graduate Credit, email Amanda Schmidt at amanda.schmidt@uni.edu. For all other ISFLC-related questions, please contact Emily Miller at emiller@ia-sb.org.

FRONTLINE ANALYTICS CERTIFIED BUDGET WORKSHOPS

IASB, in collaboration with Affiliated Program **[Frontline Analytics](#)**, is once again offering these free in-person and digital **[Certified Budget Workshops](#)** for IASB members actively subscribed to Frontline Analytics. 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. Find a date and time that works for you:

In-Person Workshops:

- **Thursday, Feb. 6 at 9 a.m.**—IASB Office, 6000 Grand Ave., Ste. A, Des Moines, IA 50312
- **Thursday, Feb. 6 at 1 p.m.**—IASB Office, 6000 Grand Ave., Ste. A, Des Moines, IA 50312
- **Thursday, Feb. 13 at 10 a.m.**—College Community Schools, Cedar Rapids

Digital Workshops:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 9 a.m.**—Via Zoom

- **Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 1 p.m.**—Via Zoom

If you have questions, please contact Emily Miller at emiller@ia-sb.org.

Annual Board Award Photos Available Now!

This was a record-breaking year for the [Annual Board Awards program](#). More than 300 school board members earned the Individual Achievement Award; 46 teams qualified for the Team Achievement Award; and 40 superintendents and 1 AEA chief earned the Award of Honor. If you or your board team stopped by the ABA Photo Booth during IASB's 79th Annual Convention to snap photos, those are now available on the [IASB website](#) along with the full recipient list and press release templates for you to customize and send out to local media. If you were unable to attend or stop by the ABA Photo Booth, be sure to watch for your award in your mailbox.

If you have questions, please contact Katherine Solan at ksolan@ia-sb.org.

Timely Tools and Resources

DECEMBER REC SUMMARY

[The Revenue Estimating Conference \(REC\)](#) met and revised its estimate for FY 2025 net General Fund Receipts (including transfers) on Dec.12. They agreed to decrease the estimate by \$85.3 million compared to the estimates they made in October. [Read the full written recap](#) for more information regarding FY 2026 estimates, what this means for the state budget and more ahead of the 2025 legislative session.

If you have questions, please contact Mike Guanci at mguanci@ia-sb.org.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION ADVOCACY RESOURCES

The start of the 2025 legislative session is just around the corner and IASB has you covered with a variety of advocacy tools and resources along with timely updates throughout session to keep you in-the-know. Our [Issue Toolkits](#) align with our [Success for All students: Public Policy Agenda of Iowa School Boards](#) and include visual resources, data and talking points for a range of issues including [Literacy](#), [Teacher Workforce](#), [Supplemental State Aid \(SSA\)](#) and more. Be sure to use these toolkits throughout session to expand your knowledge and aid your advocacy efforts.

For weekly session updates, bookmark IASB's [Advocacy in Action page!](#) Here you will find relevant bill summaries, timely advocacy actions you can take and IASB Lobbyist Emily Piper's Under the Golden Dome video.

If you have questions, please contact Michelle Johnson at mjohnson@ia-sb.org.

PERUSE THE MOST RECENT *POLICY PRIMER*

NOW AVAILABLE! The second quarter *Policy Primer* released on December 17 clarifies and cleans up policy language to enhance legal compliance for districts. In the Fall, the Iowa Department of Education clarified that the exemptions listed within the definition of truancy also apply to chronic absenteeism. The Department clarified that the exemptions listed within the definition of truancy also apply to chronic absenteeism. This clarification is now reflected in policy. Additional language updates better align with legislation on limitations to employment references, and districts' participation in the school food program. If you are interested in IASB's policy subscription service, visit the [Policy Reference Manual](#) webpage for further details.

If you have questions, please contact Siobhan Schneider at sschneider@ia-sb.org.

SCHOOL SAFETY TOOLKIT

NEW RESOURCES ADDED! We believe that every student deserves to learn, and every staff member deserves to work, in a safe and secure environment. For resources on all facets of school safety, including physical safety measures in and around schools, violence prevention programs, addressing student behavior and more, check out [IASB's School Safety Toolkit](#). The toolkit is now equipped with new links and resources relating to student mental health. [Learn more](#).

If you have questions, please contact D.T. Magee at dmagee@ia-sb.org.

Upcoming Events

January 9 & 10: [New Board President Webinar—Fostering Board-Superintendent Team Unity](#)

January 14: [Webinar: Day on the Hill Preview—State of the Budget](#)

January 21: [Webinar: Day on the Hill Preview—Condition of the State](#)

January 27–28: [Day on the Hill 2025](#)

February 6, 11–12: [Frontline Analytics Certified Budget Workshops](#)

February 18–19: [February ISFLC Conference](#)

February 25 & 26: [New Board President Webinar—Conducting Meaningful Superintendent Evaluation](#)

March 21–23: [COSSBA Annual Conference](#)

For a complete listing, visit www.ia-sb.org/learninghub.