



IASB Update for AEA Superintendent Meetings— September 2025

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Take Advantage of a Free Learning Opportunity Tailored to Fit Your Needs—ISFLC New Superintendents’ Conference

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER! Superintendents new to Iowa and new to the role are invited to join us on **Wednesday, September 17** for a [complimentary one-day conference](#) focused entirely on key concepts in Iowa’s funding of school districts. Attendees will hear information on Dillon’s Rule vs. Home Rule, review basic school finance formula principles, and learn about Iowa’s school finance formula.

Don’t worry! IASB school finance experts are on hand all day to answer both general and district specific questions, review key financial information like unspent authorized budget, solvency ratio, enrollment trends, and current/trending legislative issues. Registration is complimentary for superintendents new to Iowa and/or new to the superintendency whose district(s) are members of IASB. [Register now or before September 15.](#)

Learn the Latest—IASB BoardCon Opportunities for New Board Members, PreCon Workshops, General Sessions, & More

Nov. 19–21, 2025

CAN'T MISS OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

[BoardCon](#) is a prime opportunity to bring your new team together after elections. IASB's BoardCon supports your newly elected board members with a New Board Member track, including [Ready, Set, Govern!](#) and [School Finance 101 PreCon workshops](#), Thursday education sessions handpicked for new board members, and a [closing general session Open Meetings training](#), designed for your teams to meet their training requirements together during BoardCon.

INFORMATIVE PRECON WORKSHOPS

This year's [PreCon](#) features a variety of in-depth half-day workshops. Be sure to check out our featured guest workshop, [The Art and Science of Constructive Disagreement](#) with **Heather Sulejman**. This workshop is grounded in practical tools designed to help strengthen team dynamics while fostering trust and collaboration, making this a great opportunity to bring your team together to attend a workshop. [Learn more and register today!](#)

OPEN MEETINGS LAW CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITY AT BOARDCON

Your whole team will have the chance to complete their Open Meetings Law and Public Records Law certification in person at BoardCon this year. **No special registration required**, this workshop will be offered as this year's [closing general session](#), led by IASB staff experts.

TWO OUTSTANDING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025

This year, [IASB BoardCon](#) features two outstanding keynote speakers—[Thomas C. Murray](#) and [Anne Marie Anderson](#)!

What sets high-performing school boards apart? In award-winning education leader Thomas C. Murray's inspiring opening keynote, explore how boards can lead with a mindset for bold, student-centered leadership. Through stories, humor, and actionable takeaways, attendees will reflect on their leadership and leave empowered to drive positive change in their districts. Read Thomas' [full biography](#) and learn more about the [Opening General Session](#).

Over lunch, award-winning speaker, author, and broadcaster Anne Marie Anderson will help board members reconnect with the heart of their service—understanding how their everyday leadership leaves a lasting mark. Through humor, authentic stories, and meaningful insight, attendees explore how to lead with clarity, compassion, and confidence—even when the impact isn't immediately visible. Read Anne Marie's [full biography](#) and learn more about the [Second General Session & Luncheon](#).

WHEN SHOULD WE REGISTER?

SECURE SPOTS IN YOUR FAVORITE WORKSHOPS! You can register staff, board members not up for election, and unopposed incumbents now. Register candidates and board members elect from **November 7-13**. For questions regarding BoardCon registration during election years, see our [Election Registration FAQ](#).

STAY UP TO DATE ON IASB BOARDCON HAPPENINGS. Be sure to bookmark the [IASB BoardCon homepage](#) so you have the latest BoardCon news and updates at your fingertips!

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

Ensure Your District's Voice is Heard at IASB's Delegate Assembly & Annual Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2025

REGISTER DELEGATES BY NOV. 12! The [Delegate Assembly & Annual Meeting](#) is an important annual event where member delegates gather to hold the annual meeting, set and approve the legislative platform, and convene nominating caucuses for open IASB District Director seats. Read more about [Delegate Assembly](#), and please take time to select one board member to serve as your delegate at your next meeting.

If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Rousseau at srousseau@ia-sb.org.

2025 School Board Elections—*Candidate Series* Webinar Dates & Resources

IASB's [Candidate Webinar Series](#) is your go-to resource for anyone considering a run for the school board—or for current board members who want to sharpen their understanding of key issues. These fast-paced, one-hour sessions offer practical guidance, legal insights, and essential governance knowledge, all from IASB staff and trusted experts.

Register now for these upcoming Webinars—All Held Noon–1 p.m. via Zoom

- **Aug. 13 (Recording)**—[Running for the School Board 101: Essential Tips for Candidates](#)
- **Sept. 3**—[Legal & Ethical Campaigns for the School Board](#)
- **Sept. 24**—[The Building Blocks of Financial Advocacy](#)
- **Oct. 15**—[Student Learning: Do Boards Really Make a Difference?](#)

All above webinars are free and will be recorded!

For essential election resources, testimonials from current board members, and more, visit [IASB's Get on Board webpage](#).

If you have questions, please contact Jen Woodley at jwoodley@ia-sb.org.

Mark Your Calendar—Day on the Hill 2026 Scheduled for Monday, Jan. 26

Monday, Jan. 26, 2026

Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs), Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB), and School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) invite you to the 2026 [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:** There are two pre-training webinars prior to Day on the Hill. Be sure to register so you're in-the-know before [Day on the Hill](#)!

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

Stop the Prop—A Statewide School Safety Campaign

A SIMPLE MESSAGE. BIG IMPACT. [Stop the Prop](#) is a school safety awareness campaign developed by the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) to encourage one clear action: **Always keep school doors shut and secure.** The fact is, open or propped exterior doors can compromise the safety of students, staff, and visitors. The [Stop the Prop](#) campaign reinforces the importance of everyday actions that support secure school environments—without requiring major investments or changes to infrastructure. Interested in bringing Stop the Prop to your district? Click [here](#) to fill out the form and receive:

- Stop the Prop door stickers for high-visibility reminders at key entry points.
- Digital campaign materials for newsletters, announcements, and social media.
- Customizable templates for press releases, internal communications, and community outreach.

We're proud to recognize [Colfax-Mingo Community Schools](#) and [Southeast Warren Community Schools](#) as early adopters of the campaign. These districts are leading the way in reinforcing a strong culture of safety and awareness!

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

Timely Tools & Resources

EPISODE 1: *SAFE & SOUND*—SCHOOL SAFETY IN IOWA—A LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

In this first episode of the [Safe & Sound Series](#), IASB Executive Director D.T. Magee is joined by Tammi Drawbaugh, IASB Associate Executive Director of Board Leadership & Policy Services. Together, they explore why school safety is more than an operational concern—it's a strategic

responsibility for school boards. Learn how governance and management work together to create safer schools. Access a free board reflection resource [here](#).

JULY DATA DASHBOARD AVAILABLE NOW!

IASB offers various data tools that provide you, your board, and your district with specific data and the ability to compare your district's data with that of other districts.

This summer, the Department of Management released its FY 2026 Aid and Levy Budget file. IASB, using this information, has updated tools that allow for comparisons of budget data, including property tax rates, income surtax rates, and other funding amounts for each school district. Peruse the [July Data Dashboard](#) where you can find all the updated tools and resources in one convenient place.

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

2026 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TIMELINE

The [Collective Bargaining Timeline](#) is designed as a best practice guide to help navigate the collective bargaining season effectively. It serves as a resource for situations where there is no independent agreement on impasse procedures or when the public employer or public employee organization has not utilized those procedures. [Access the timeline and other resources](#) to ensure a smoother and more organized bargaining process.

If you have questions, please contact Marte Brightman at mbrightman@ia-sb.org.

FY 2027 SCHOOL PLANNING CALENDAR TEMPLATES NOW AVAILABLE!

SUPERINTENDENTS! It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop the school calendar for recommendation, approval, and adoption by the board annually. Visit [IASB's Legal Authority & School Calendars webpage](#) to access available calendar templates (and more!) to aid in developing your district's school calendar.

If you have questions, please contact Marte Brightman at mbrightman@ia-sb.org.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 3: [Candidate Webinar: Legal & Ethical Campaigns for the School Board](#)

Sept. 17: [ISFLC New Superintendents' Conference](#)

Sept. 24: [Candidate Webinar: The Building Blocks of Financial Advocacy](#)

Oct. 15: [Candidate Webinar: Student Learning: Do Boards Really Make a Difference?](#)

Nov. 20: [Delegate Assembly & Annual Meeting](#)

Nov. 19–21: [IASB BoardCon & Trade Show](#)

Jan. 20: In-Depth Advocacy Webinar—Condition of the State

Jan. 22: In-Depth Advocacy Webinar—Condition of the Budget

Jan. 26: [Day on the Hill with Iowa's AEAs, IASB, & SAI](#)

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