



IASB Update for AEA Superintendent Meetings—January 2026

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What's Coming Up for You and Your Boards?

REGISTER TODAY! Registration is now open for the following conferences, workshops, and webinars:

- **[Day on the Hill with Iowa's AEAs, IASB, & SAI](#)—Jan. 26, 2026:** 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! [Learn more and register today](#). Prior to Day on the Hill, join us for two complimentary In-Depth Advocacy webinars offered in January to make sure you're in-the-know before the big event:
 - **[In-Depth Advocacy Webinar—Condition of the State](#)—Jan. 20, 2026:** Join education advocacy experts for a recap of the governor's annual Condition of the State address. The webinar provides a preview of what's to come this session, including new education issues on the horizon and issues that might reappear, and will help ensure you are up-to-date as you advocate for your schools in the 2026 Iowa legislative session. [Register now!](#)
 - **[In-Depth Advocacy Webinar—Condition of the Budget](#)—Jan. 22, 2026:** In this brief rundown of the state of the budget and school finance funding issues, IASB will hit on

the key things you need to know —covering Iowa’s economy and state revenues, the governor’s budget recommendations, and important issues to watch beyond school aid funding during the 2026 Iowa legislative session. [Register now!](#)

- **[ISFLC February Conference](#)—Feb. 18–19, 2026: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!** The ISFLC February Conference is the second of two conferences offered in the winter as part of the ISFLC program. Both of these conferences are developed for current and aspiring superintendents, as well as school business officials. All session tracks are led by Iowa experts with skills and expertise in identified criteria areas. [Learn more and register today.](#)
- **[Open Meetings & Public Records Training](#)—Available Online & In-Person:** Iowa law requires all newly elected or appointed school board, AEA, and community college board members to complete training on open meetings and public records. IASB offers a simple 90-minute session that is IPIB-approved, designed specifically for Iowa board members, and includes a certificate of completion. [Learn more and register now.](#)
- **[Ready, Set, Govern! Regional Workshops](#)—Multiple Dates & Locations:** Kick off your board service with confidence. These interactive sessions cover the fundamentals of good governance—clarifying board and superintendent roles, strengthening communication, understanding policy, and responding effectively to community questions. [Find a location near you and register now.](#)

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

Photos Available—2024–25 Annual Board Award Recipients

The [Annual Board Awards \(ABA\)](#) are given each year to board members, board teams and superintendents/AEA chief administrators/community college presidents who are committed to improving their knowledge and skills by attending IASB-led learning events. View the [full release](#) and browse the available [individual and team photos](#)!

If you have questions, please contact the IASB Board Development Team at BoardDev@ia-sb.org.

The IASB Foundation—Scholarship & Grant Application Now Open!

OPEN NOW! Share This Opportunity With the Future Leaders in Your Life!

The IASB Foundation’s Scholarship & Grant Application is now open, and we’re asking school board members to help spread the word. Whether you have children or grandchildren preparing for their next steps—or you know talented Iowa student teachers in your district—this is a chance to support their journey.

- **Scholarships**—Open to Iowa high school seniors who are children or grandchildren of current or past Iowa school board, AEA, or community college board members with at least three

years of service. Eligible students must graduate by **July 2026** and plan to attend an Iowa college, university, or trade/technical school.

- **Student Teacher Grants**—Available to Iowa student teachers to help offset costs related to licensure or professional learning.

Please take a moment to share this opportunity with the students and future educators in your life. Learn more and apply through the [IASB Foundation website](#).

Applications must be completed and received at the IASB office by Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026.

If you have questions, please contact Heather Hulen at hulen@ia-sb.org.

Kick Off the New Year with a Strong Safety Message

JOIN IASB'S STOP THE PROP CAMPAIGN! As you plan for the second half of the school year, now is a great time to reinforce one simple, high-impact safety habit: **Always keep school doors shut and secure.** [Stop the Prop](#) helps districts strengthen everyday safety practices AND is provided for free to member districts! Over **70 districts** are already participating—add yours to the list as we enter the new year. [Click here to sign up today!](#)

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

Timely Tools & Resources

LEGISLATIVE SESSION ADVOCACY RESOURCES

The start of the 2026 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](#) and include visual resources, data, and talking points for a variety of issues including [Literacy](#), [Supplemental State Aid \(SSA\)](#), and more.

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

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

DECEMBER REC SUMMARY

The Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) determines revenue estimates under Iowa Code Section 8.22A, and is responsible for evaluating the fiscal and policy impacts of program and budget proposals and making this information available to decision makers. Read the [December REC Summary](#) to learn more about the estimates made at the Dec. 11 meeting.

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

SEASON 5, EPISODE 5: THE LIGHTHOUSE STUDY—25 YEARS OF IMPACT ON SCHOOL BOARDS

LISTEN NOW! For 25 years, *The Lighthouse Study* has helped define what effective school board leadership looks like—and why it matters for student success. In this special [BoardCast episode](#), host Jen Woodley sits down with Carolyn Jons, who helped publish the study's original findings, along with Lou Gvist and Tammi Drawbaugh, who continue to work with school boards to apply its research today. [Listen now!](#)

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

Upcoming Events

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](#)

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

June 9: [Summit on Student Success](#)

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