Sunday, July 19 (Early Bird)

2.0 maximum training hours

10:30 – 12:30 Exhibitor Set-Up, Plaza Lobby

12:00 – 5:00 Registration, Plaza Lobby

1:00 – 5:00 Exhibits Open, Plaza Lobby

3:00 – 5:00 Early Bird Sessions (Choose one session to attend.)

Room 208 • ***Session A - Signals & Shifts: Leading Through the Trends That Matter***
Presenter: Dr. Denotris Jackson, MSBA Executive Director

Room 209 • ***Session B - Meeting the Moment: Governance in Action***
Presenters: Lucas Harder & Tammie Reitenger

5:00 Adjournment

5:00 – 7:00 Exhibitor Set-Up, Grand Lobby

5:00 – 9:30 Hospitality Event: Dinner at Crystal Ridge Distillery Sponsored by American Fidelity, Centegix, and TIPS

Session A

Signals & Shifts: Leading Through the Trends That Matter
What School Boards Must Understand About Education and Society in Transition

Presenter: Dr. Denotris Jackson, MSBA Executive Director

This interactive session helps school board members identify and respond to major education and societal trends shaping the future of public schools. From student mental health and declining enrollment to technology integration and workforce alignment, participants will explore how these trends affect district operations, student success, staffing, facilities, and community expectations.

Session B

Meeting the Moment: Governance in Action

Presenters: Lucas Harder, ASBA Policy Service Director and Staff Attorney, & Tammie Reitenger, ASBA Deputy Executive Director / Board Development Director

School board leadership is filled with moments that require sound judgment, thoughtful leadership, and a clear understanding of the board's role. In this interactive Early Bird session, participants will work together to navigate realistic governance scenarios involving legal issues, ethics, community expectations, superintendent relationships, social media, and board decision-making. This engaging tabletop experience encourages discussion, collaboration, and practical problem-solving as teams rotate through a series of timely scenarios. Participants will leave with fresh perspectives, actionable strategies, and greater confidence to lead effectively when the next "moment" arrives.

Monday, July 20

6.0 maximum training hours

7:00 – 5:00 Registration, Plaza Lobby

7:00 – 5:00 Exhibits Open, Plaza Lobby & Grand Lobby

7:00 – 8:15 Full Buffet Breakfast, Horner Hall

8:15 – 10:00 Opening Ceremonies & Keynote Speaker, Horner Hall

- ***Keynote: Rex Nelson, "From State of Disaster to State of Excellence"***

10:00 – 10:30 Refreshment Break, Grand Lobby

10:30 – 11:30 Concurrent Session 1 (See pages 5-7 for session descriptions.)

Rooms 203 - 204
- ***Disagreement within the Board: What Data Reveals and How Board Members Can Lead Through It***

Presenters: Dr. Matthew White & Dr. Rick Gales

Rooms 201 - 202
- ***The Multi-Hat Leader: Navigating the Realities of Modern School Administration***

Presenter: Dr. Tyler Broyles

Room 208
- ***Governing with Clarity: Strengthening Transparency, Accountability, and Decision-Making in School Boards***

Presenters: Mark Willis, Dr. Dennis Coe, & Charlie Rigby

Room 207
- ***More than Maintenance: Financial Leadership for School Facilities***

Presenter: Jerrod Williams

Room 209
- ***Managing Chaos: Redefining the Role of Today's School Board Member***

Presenter: George Cotton, Sr.

Rooms 102 - 103
- ***Building and Supporting SRO Units in Today's Environment***

Presenter: Lt. Jordan Kelley

11:30 – 1:00 Lunch, Horner Hall

1:00 – 2:00 Concurrent Session 2 (See pages 5-7 for session descriptions.)

Rooms 203 - 204
- ***Opening the Door to Effective Leadership: Keys to Good Governance***

Presenters: Dr. Janet Pope and LSBA Board of Directors Executive Committee

Rooms 201 - 202
- ***The Power of 10***

Presenter: Eric Foister

Room 208
- ***Youth Violence and Conflict Resolution***

Presenters: Immanuel Israel, Gedaliah Israel, and Facilitator Tramane Walter

Room 207
- ***Strategic Governance in a Reactive World***

Presenters: Dr. Rochelle Redus, Dr. Gregory Pilewski, & Mike Poore

Room 209
- ***The First Amendment in Today's Schools: Navigating Today's Legal Landscape***

Presenter: Jay Bequette

Monday, July 20 continued

6.0 maximum training hours

2:00 – 2:30 Refreshment Break, Grand Lobby

2:30 – 3:30 Concurrent Session 3 (See pages 5-7 for session descriptions.)

Rooms 203 - 204 • ***Rethinking How We Use Paraeducators to Support Reading Interventions for K-1***
Presenters: Dr. Lisa Fussell and Tangipahoa Parish School District Board Members

Rooms 201 - 202 • ***Building Culture, Academic Systems, and Accountability Across the District***
Presenter: Doug Smith

Room 208 • ***Strength in Schools, Success in Children - Transitioning to Neighborhood Schools***
Presenters: Shane Patrick, Chris Whorton, Heath Nance, Aric Bergthold, Mary Ann Spears, & Jason Carter

Room 209 • ***The First Amendment in Today's Schools: Navigating Today's Legal Landscape***
Presenter: Jay Bequette

Rooms 102 - 103 • ***Building and Supporting SRO Units in Today's Environment***
Presenters: Lt. Jordan Kelley

Tuesday, July 21

3.0 maximum training hours

7:00 – 11:00 Exhibits Open, Plaza Lobby

7:00 – 8:15 Full Buffet Breakfast, Horner Hall

8:15 – 8:30 Performance by Bryant High School Hornet Band

8:30 – 11:00 Closing General Session: The Voices That Matter, Horner Hall

- ***The Future Starts Here: Student Voices (Panel)***
  Panel Members: Student Leaders from Arkansas High Schools
- ***Leading the Moment: A Superintendent's Perspective***
  Presenter: Denny Rozenberg, Bearden School District Superintendent
- ***Meeting the Moment: Leading Through Hard Decisions with Clarity and Unity***
  Presenter: Dr. Rochelle Redus, North Little Rock Board of Education President

11:00 Closing Comments / Adjournment

Monday, July 20 - Keynote Session

From State of Disaster to State of Excellence
8:30 - 10:00 a.m., Horner Hall

Presenter: Rex Nelson

Rex Nelson will guide attendees through the history of our region, connecting past events to present-day realities and future opportunities. His message will highlight the critical role of education and the influence of school board leadership in shaping strong communities—challenging participants to lead their districts toward excellence.

Tuesday, July 21 - Closing General Session

The Voices That Matter: Students, Schools, and Boards
8:30 - 11:00 a.m., Horner Hall

- **Session 1: The Future Starts Here: Student Voices (Panel)**
  Panel Members: Student Leaders from Arkansas High Schools

Hear directly from outstanding student leaders representing school districts across Central Arkansas as they share their experiences, aspirations, and perspectives on today's public schools. Through engaging moderated conversation, panelists will discuss what schools are doing well, the challenges students face, and how school boards and educational leaders can continue creating opportunities for student success. This session offers a valuable reminder that every decision made in the boardroom ultimately impacts the students we serve.

- **Session 2: Leading the Moment: A Superintendent's Perspective**
  Presenter: Denny Rozenberg, Bearden School District Superintendent

As the leader responsible for turning vision into action, Superintendent Denny Rozenberg shares the realities, opportunities, and responsibilities of leading a public school district in today's educational landscape. Building on the voices of students, this session will challenge attendees to consider how strategic leadership, strong governance, and a shared commitment to students can move schools forward and inspire meaningful change.

- **Session 3: Meeting the Moment: Leading Through Hard Decisions with Clarity and Unity**
  Presenter: Dr. Rochelle Redus, North Little Rock Board of Education President

In this session, Dr. Redus will share lessons learned through educational leadership and governance, offering practical strategies for navigating difficult decisions while fostering transparency, collaboration, and unity among stakeholders.

Monday, July 20 - Concurrent Session 1, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Disagreement within the Board: What Data Reveals and How Board Members Can Lead Through It.
Presenters: Dr. Matthew White, Assistant Professor, & Dr. Rick Gales, K-12 Leadership Preparation Professor
Organization: University of Central Arkansas
Rooms 203 - 204

In today's complex and often polarized educational landscape, school boards are increasingly called to make high-stakes decisions under pressure, making how boards navigate disagreement more important than ever. This session draws on Arkansas data examining school board voting patterns, including split votes, failed motions, and the issues most likely to produce division. Grounded in real-world practice, the session then moves beyond the data to focus on what effective board members can do in the moment. Attendees will leave with practical, actionable strategies to lead through disagreement in ways that strengthen governance, improve decision quality, and keep student success at the center.

The Multi-Hat Leader: Navigating the Realities of Modern School Administration
Presenter: Dr. Tyler Broyles, Superintendent, Gentry School District (AR)
Rooms 201 - 202

Today's school leaders face a rapidly changing landscape shaped by evolving legal requirements, increased school choice options, heightened public expectations, and ongoing workforce challenges. This session explores practical strategies for leading schools in the modern era, including navigating legal and compliance issues, strengthening communication, managing people effectively, and using marketing and storytelling to showcase what makes your district unique. Participants will learn how to proactively tell their school's story, build trust with stakeholders, attract and retain students and staff, and position their district for success in an increasingly competitive educational environment.

Governing with Clarity: Strengthening Transparency, Accountability, and Decision-Making in School Boards
Presenters: Mark Willis, Assistant Executive Director of GSBA and COO of eBOARDsolutions, Dr. Dennis Coe, Account Executive, & Charlie Rigby, Business Development Manager
Organization: Simbli by eBOARDsolutions
Room 208

Effective school board governance requires more than well-run meetings—it demands clear processes, transparent communication, and strong alignment to district priorities. In this session, board members will explore practical approaches to improving governance through structured workflows, better access to information, and intentional use of technology. Rather than focusing on tools, this session highlights how boards can reduce risk, improve public trust, and make more informed decisions in today's complex environment.

More than Maintenance: Financial Leadership for School Facilities
Presenter: Jerrod Williams, ASBA Finance Consultant
Room 207

School facilities represent one of a district's largest investments, and school boards play a critical role in ensuring those assets are maintained for current and future generations of students. This session will explore the financial side of facilities management, including long-term maintenance planning, capital improvement strategies, budgeting for repairs and replacements, and making informed decisions that maximize taxpayer investments. Participants will gain practical insights into balancing immediate needs with long-term financial sustainability while fulfilling their governance responsibilities.

Managing Chaos: Redefining The Role of Today's School Board Member
Presenter: George Cotton, Sr., School Board Chairman, Delta Preparatory Schools (AR)
Room 209

In today's rapidly changing educational environment, school board members are often challenged to manage personal and political preferences as they ponder the greater good of the educational community. As politics and outside interests collide, the role of the school board member is often at odds with the reality and responsibility of the role: School board members are curators of educational advancement and student opportunity. However, in a climate of rapid communication and immediate gratification, the role of the modern school member has become complex, challenging, and at times, chaotic. This interactive learning session is designed to provide school board members with strategies that just might help them manage their roles as educational policy makers.

Building and Supporting SRO Units in Today's Environment.
Presenter: Lt. Jordan Kelley
Organization: National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO)
Rooms 102 - 103

As schools continue to face evolving safety challenges, strong School Resource Officer (SRO) programs are more important than ever. Join Lt. Jordan Kelley, NASRO Region 6 Director and instructor, as he shares best practices for developing and sustaining high-quality SRO units that protect, educate, and build positive relationships with students, staff, and the community.

Monday, July 20 - Concurrent Session 2, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Opening the Door to Effective Leadership: Keys to Good Governance
Presenters: Dr. Janet Pope, LSBA Executive Director, Taft Kleinpeter, LSBA President, Debra Schum, LSBA President-Elect, Brandon Harrell, LSBA Vice President, Dr. Katherine Lemoine, LSBA Immediate Past President
Organization: Louisiana School Boards Association
Rooms 203 - 204

The LSBA Board of Directors knew that it was time for our association to rebrand itself and really focus on what "Good Governance" is all about. In leading today's and tomorrow's school board members and superintendents, understanding their roles and responsibilities are key in increasing better student outcomes. The LSBA Team and the LSBA Board of Directors did a deep dive into what today's standards and best practices are for school board members and superintendents. We aligned that work to LSBA's Mission: Leadership, Service and Support for School Boards. The LSBA developed its' rebranding standards/best practices into the "Keys to Good Governance." Attendees will learn what governance is/is not and how it takes the governance leadership team, that is comprised of school board members and the superintendent, to understand the importance of an established framework to keep everyone focused on "THE KEYS." Participants will also gain an understanding that when there is a clear road map that provides an understanding of how to achieve set goals, it is a WIN-WIN for ALL educational stakeholders!

The Power of 10
Presenter: Eric Foister, Superintendent
Organization: West Memphis School District (AR)
Rooms 201 - 202

How an underperforming Arkansas school district of 4,300 K-12 students used strategic branding, reduced variability, and robust instructional accountability structures to build teacher collective efficacy—ultimately boosting district-wide proficiency rates by 10% in both Math and ELA on state assessments in just one year. This will give a blueprint as well as feedback on what we would have done differently and provide examples for both board members and education Leaders on best and worst practices.

Youth Violence and Conflict Resolution
Presenters: Immanuel Israel, Gedaliah Israel, and Facilitator Tramane Walter
Organization: Youth Violence Conflict Resolution Seminar (YVCRS)
Room 208

The Youth Violence Conflict Resolution Seminar is a community focused initiative dedicated to helping young people overcome challenges associated with violence and conflict. As schools across the nation continue to face challenges related to student conflict, bullying, gang involvement, and community violence, YVCRS offers a proactive approach focused on prevention, education, and empowerment.

Strategic Governance in a Reactive World
Presenters: Dr. Rochelle Redus, Board President, & Dr. Gregory Pilewski, Superintendent, North Little Rock School District; Mike Poore, Former Superintendent of Little Rock School District and current Executive VP of Education Partners
Room 207

The current culture and political landscape often creates challenges to school district culture, impacting trust and belief in a school system with challenges that occur daily in school systems. This session will share strategies on how to navigate these challenges and elevate strategic thinking and planning to keep the focus on a school board's priorities.

The First Amendment in Today's Schools: Navigating Today's Legal Landscape
Presenter: Jay Bequette, Attorney, Bequette, Billingley & Kees P.A.
Room 209

The First Amendment continues to shape some of the most challenging issues facing public schools today. From religious expression and the Ten Commandments litigation in Arkansas and Louisiana to employee speech and other emerging legal disputes, school boards are increasingly called upon to make decisions with significant constitutional implications. This session will examine recent court cases and national trends, explain what they mean for local school districts, and provide practical guidance to help board members and school leaders navigate these complex issues while fulfilling their governance responsibilities.

Monday, July 20 - Concurrent Session 3, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Rethinking How We Use Paraeducators to Support Reading Interventions for K-1
Presenters: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lisa Fussell and Board Members
Organization: Tangipahoa Parish School District (LA)
Rooms 203 - 204

Between August 2025 and December 2025 (4 months), our kindergarten students demonstrated a 28% increase in reading proficiency! School systems will hear how we implemented the ONCE program from the ground up for all kindergarten students in our district, including how we recruited and celebrated our Once instructors to build buy-in.

Building Culture, Academic Systems, and Accountability Across the District
Presenter: Doug Smith, Superintendent
Organization: Smackover-Norphlet School District (AR)
Rooms 201 - 202

In this session, the audience will receive a systematic approach to leadership and building culture district-wide. They will also see actual systems used in our district that are practical and easily used in any district. Those systems will include developing 30-60-90 day plans for each level of your district. We will have an exact blueprint of the expectations, areas for growth, additional goals, documents that demonstrate mastery, and completion of tasks. Every 30 days, we will meet review, revise, and continue to grow as an academic team. Clear roles and responsibilities are defined, expectations are set, and clarity is ensured before we move forward. This plan allows our schools to have a clear road map of how their school year will go and takes stress off building level admin, because it provides clarity to all teams and staff on what the expectations and targets are.

Strength in Schools, Success in Children - Transitioning to Neighborhood Schools
Presenters: Shane Patrick, Superintendent, & Board Members Chris Whorton, Heath Nance, Aric Bergthold, Mary Ann Spears, and Jason Carter
Organization: Siloam Springs School District (AR)
Room 208

This session is focused on collaborative change to meet the needs of a school district. Districts must constantly assess the needs of the district based on the current situation. When change is necessary, it is imperative to do it in a collaborative environment that includes all of your stakeholders. The Siloam Springs School District is undergoing a transition from grade specific schools to a neighborhood school model. Leaders will share the importance of being collaborative with parents, community and staff for a successful change process.

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