

AT YOUR SERVICE:

2026–27 Guide to IASB® Events & Services

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Photo courtesy of Gilbert Community Schools. Board Member Josh Bennett and student during Fire Safety Day.

ABOUT IASB®

IASB® is committed to serving Iowa school boards and public education. We support our members with education, advocacy, and services aligned to the mission and vision. Thank you for your continued membership.

MISSION: Educating and supporting Iowa's public school districts to govern effectively for student success.

VISION: Strong world-class public school districts led by effective, informed, and accountable school boards.

Vision & Voice for Public Education



D.T. Magee
Executive Director
IASB®

*Graduate of Ames
Community Schools*

*D.T. Magee became
Executive Director of IASB
in 2023 after serving as
Superintendent of Norwalk
Community School District.
His experience includes
leadership roles as a teacher,
coach, principal, and district
administrator across Iowa,
along with state and national
education leadership service.*

*At IASB, he leads efforts
to strengthen school board
governance and support
Iowa's 1,800+ elected board
members. He holds degrees
from Drake University and
Buena Vista University.*

Message from the Executive Director

At the Iowa Association of School Boards, our work begins and ends with you—local school board members serving Iowa's students, families, and communities.

Your role is complex and important. Every decision you make shapes the future of public education, and IASB exists to ensure you never have to do that work alone. Whether you're seeking guidance on governance, staying informed on policy and legislation, connecting with peers, or accessing tools and training, we are here to support you every step of the way.

We are proud to serve all 324 public school districts, nine Area Education Agencies, and 15 community colleges across Iowa. This strong statewide membership reflects a shared commitment to public education and effective local governance in every corner of our state.

This guide is designed to help you make the most of your membership. I encourage you to use it often, explore the resources available to you, and reach out to our team whenever you need support.

Thank you for your leadership and your service to Iowa's students.

We are IASB. And we are at your service.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D.T. Magee".

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

Your Board of Directors

IASB® is created for, and governed by, Iowa public school board members.



Jesse Howard
President
Southeastern CC



Frank Wood
President-elect
North Scott



Elizabeth Brennan
Past President
Heartland AEA



Jim Green
Treasurer
Grant Wood AEA



Jerod Work
District #1 Director
Sioux Center



Tom Nugent
District #2 Director
Algona



Sheri Penney
District #3 Director
Osage



Dennis Reinke
District #4 Director
Lawton-Bronson



Chad Crabb
District #5 Director
Southeast Polk



Allen Bierbaum
District #5 Director
Ames



Randy Bauer
District #6 Director
College Community



Ruthina Malone
District #6 Director
Iowa City



Kristen Jensen
District #7 Director
Nodaway Valley



Jared McDonald
District #8 Director
Winterset



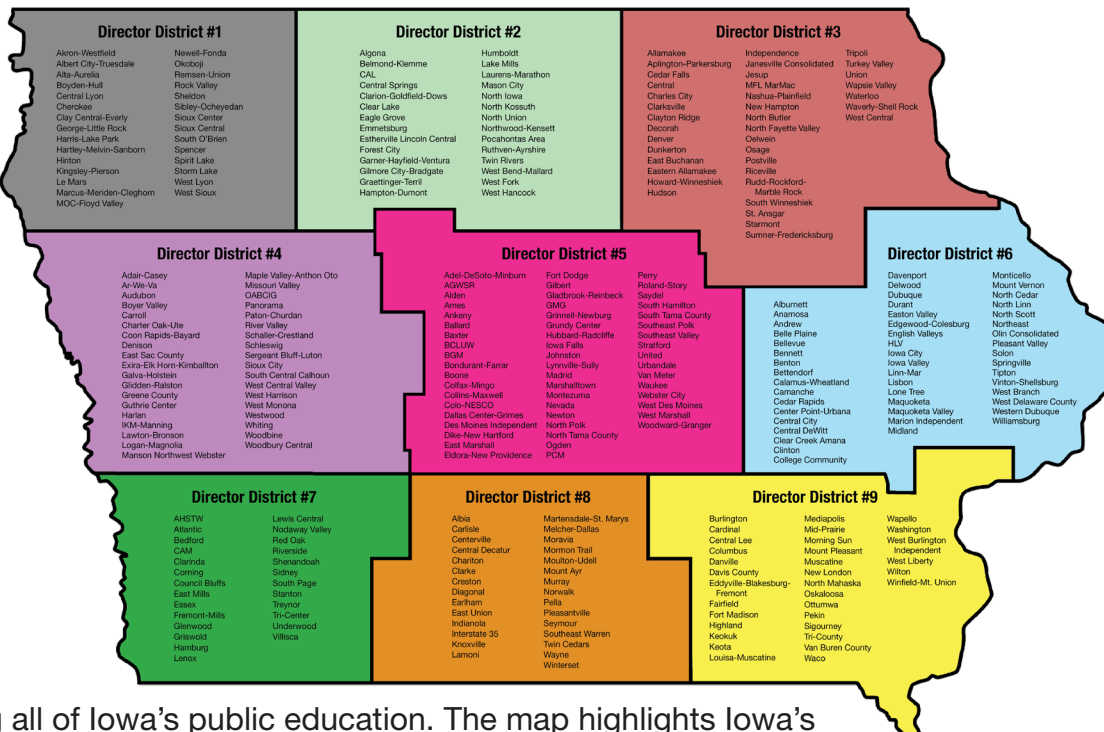
Barb Phillips
District #9 Director
Mediapolis



Tiara Mays-Sims
AEA Representative
Heartland AEA



Kevin Crall
IACCT Representative
Indian Hills CC



Serving all of Iowa's public education. The map highlights Iowa's 324 public school districts. IASB membership also includes Iowa's nine Area Education Agencies and 15 community colleges.

IASB® Staff

IASB® Staff are here to serve the needs of IASB members and to represent those needs as a voice for Iowa public education.

Leadership



D.T. Magee
Executive Director
Graduate of Ames
Community Schools



Calvin VandeKrol
Chief Financial Officer
Graduate of Southeast Polk
Community Schools



Stephanie Rousseau
Executive Assistant
Graduate of GMG
Community Schools

Board Leadership Services



Tammi Drawbaugh
Associate Executive
Director
Graduate of Muscatine
Community Schools



Lou Gvist
Board Development
Director



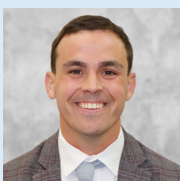
Chris Hoover
Board Development
Director
Graduate of Independence
Community Schools



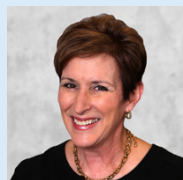
Lisa Whitaker
Board Development
Director
Graduate of North
Mahaska Community
Schools



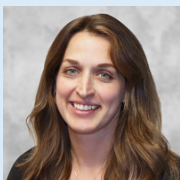
Anna Harmon
Policy & Legal
Services Director
Graduate of Harlan
Community Schools



David Hoth
Policy & Legal Services
Assistant Director
Graduate of Harlan
Community Schools



Marte Brightman
Legal Services
Specialist
Graduate of Urbandale
Community Schools

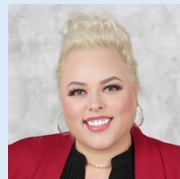


Christy Rouleau
Board Development
Specialist
Graduate of Danville
Community Schools



Tony VanderZyl
Surveys/Research
Independent Consultant
Graduate of Pella
Community Schools

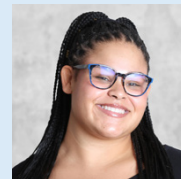
Communications & Events



Jen Woodley
Associate Executive
Director
Graduate of Central Lee
Community Schools



Emily Miller
Convention &
Events Director
Graduate of Urbandale
Community Schools



Devanne Metzger
Graphic Designer &
Web Specialist
Graduate of PCM
Community Schools



Jeff Rohrick
Membership
Specialist
Graduate of Des Moines
Community Schools



Matt Vinsand
Convention Independent
Consultant
Graduate of Waukee
Community Schools

Internal Operations



Stefanie Lovin
Finance Director
Graduate of Boone
Community Schools



Roni Argetsinger
IT Director
Graduate of Clarke
Community Schools



Heather Hulen
Business Growth &
Development Director
Graduate of Indianola
Community Schools



Yvonne Ballantyne
Staff Accountant
Graduate of Duval County
Community Schools, FL



Janet Hammann
Accounting Support
& Receptionist
Graduate of Southeast
Polk Community Schools

Government Relations & School Finance



Michael Guanci
Associate Executive
Director
Graduate of Benicia
Unified School District, CA



Jan Miller-Hook
School Finance
Director
Graduate of Creston
Community Schools



Michelle Johnson
Government
Relations Director
Graduate of Ankeny
Community Schools



Emily Piper
Lobbyist
Graduate of Columbus
North Community
Schools, IN

Contact

Email: firstname.lastname@ia-sb.org

Phone: 515-288-1991

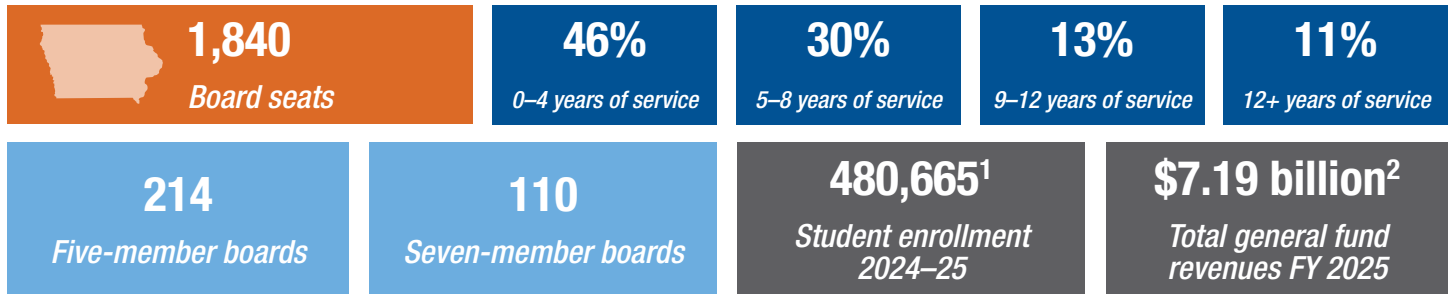
Website: www.ia-sb.org

Facts About Iowa School Boards

Board members are locally elected public officials entrusted with the task of providing direction for the education of students—our future leaders. Iowa school board members represent a continuing commitment to local citizen decision making in public education. School board members do not receive compensation for their service.

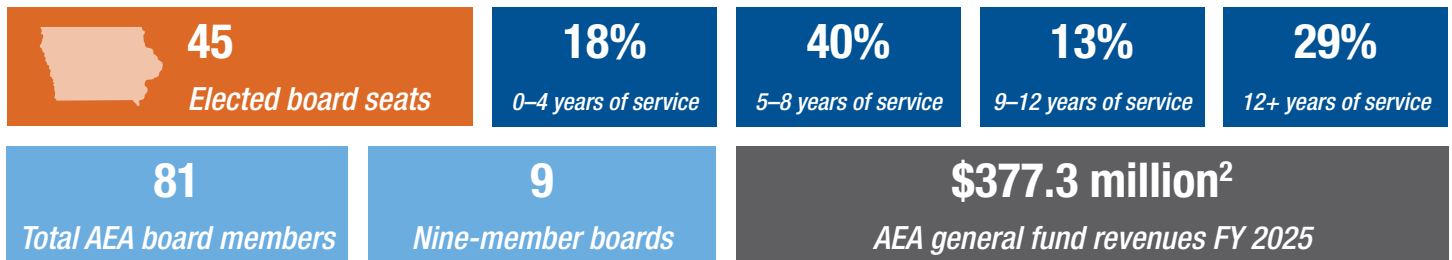
K–12 School Boards

Iowa has 324 school districts with five or seven member school boards. School board members are elected by their local communities in an election held the first Tuesday of November in odd-numbered years. They may be elected at large or from director districts and serve four-year terms.



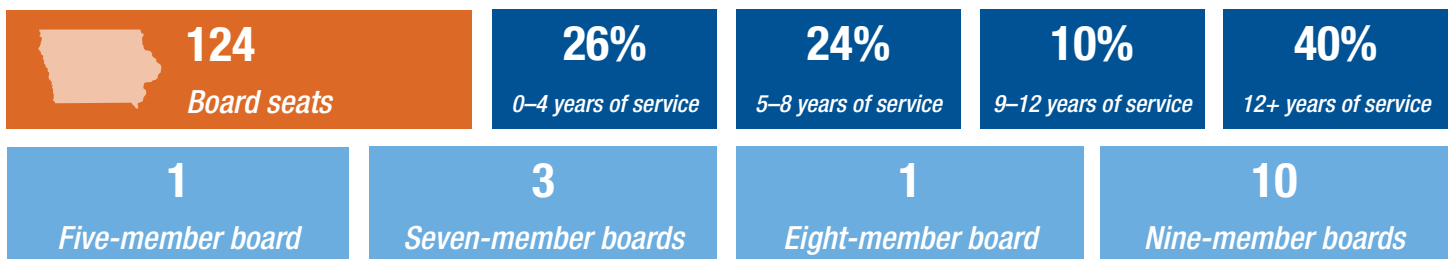
Area Education Agency Boards

The state's nine area education agencies (AEAs) are governed by nine member boards serving a four-year term. Five of the nine AEA board members are elected. The remaining four are appointed superintendents.



Community College Boards

Iowa's 15 community colleges are governed by five-to-nine board members elected by local residents in an election held the first Tuesday of November in odd-numbered years. They are elected to four-year terms.



¹ Iowa Department of Education, October 2024 Certified Enrollment

² Iowa Department of Education, Certified Annual Report—FY 2025
K–12 Districts, Board seats & Five-member boards updated 7-2-2026



YOUR IASB® MEMBERSHIP

www.ia-sb.org

The Iowa Association of School Boards® (IASB®) is your membership organization and the statewide voice for school board governance. We support locally elected boards in making informed decisions that drive student success through effective leadership and strong governance.

What Your Membership Provides

Expert Support When You Need It

IASB staff respond to hundreds of member inquiries each month, offering timely guidance and consultation on governance, policy, and board responsibilities. www.ia-sb.org/team

Legislative Advocacy & Representation

We represent Iowa's public schools, working alongside education organizations and policymakers on issues that impact public education. www.ia-sb.org/advocacy

Timely, Relevant News & Updates

Stay informed through the IASB Newsroom—your go-to source for Board Briefs, Advocacy in Action, data insights, action alerts, and more. www.ia-sb.org/newsroom

Members-Only Toolbox

Access a robust library of resources anytime—research, data, templates, tools, videos, and practical guidance tailored to your role. www.ia-sb.org/toolbox

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

We know our members have different learning needs, so we offer important information through various formats—while also creating opportunities to connect, learn, and share with fellow board members across Iowa. www.ia-sb.org/learninghub

Membership Portal

Manage your information, track progress toward Annual Board Awards, register for events, and stay connected to your IASB involvement—all in one place. www.ia-sb.org/mymembership

Customized Board Support

Additional fee-based services provide in-depth, hands-on support, including board development, policy manual reviews, and budget planning. www.ia-sb.org/services

As a board member, you're not doing this work alone. IASB provides the expertise, tools, and connections you need to lead with confidence and make a meaningful impact.

Make the Most of Your Membership: Quick Tips

- **Stay Connected**—Add IASB@ia-sb.org to your Safe Sender List to ensure you receive important updates.
- **Get Weekly Insights**—Subscribe to Board Briefs for timely news, resources, and practical tips.
- **Keep Your Board Info Current**—Notify IASB of any changes to your board team so everyone receives the information they need, when they need it.
- **Log In and Explore**—Access the Members-Only Toolbox and Membership Portal for resources, tools, and personalized information.



2025 IASB Board of Directors—In loving memory of Amy Jurrens.



YOUR GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP TOOLBOX

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 search, 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 Human Resources (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 events & 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.



Photo courtesy of Des Moines Public Schools.



2026–27 EVENTS & LEARNING LINEUP

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 BoardCon, 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 Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA), giving IASB members access to those events, as well. These are included in the following lineup.

2026

Iowa Open Meetings & Public Records Training

Self-Paced Online Module—AEA Learning Online

This essential, self-paced training helps school and AEA board members understand *Iowa's Open Meetings* and *Public Records Laws*. While only newly elected members are required by law to complete it, IASB encourages all board members to participate annually. The interactive course takes less than two hours and awards a certificate of completion that meets legal requirements. It provides important legal information, but is not legal advice—questions should be directed to your district's authorized legal contact.

Fee: \$99 for IASB members.

Building Blocks of Effective Relationships with Your Legislators

Wednesday, Aug. 19, Noon–1 p.m.—Digital (Zoom)

Are your advocacy efforts making an impact? Learn directly from legislators about what captures their attention, what information they find most valuable, and how to communicate your message effectively. Gain practical insights to strengthen your advocacy and make your voice stand out.

Fee: Free for IASB members.

Iowa's Everyday Heroes—A Storytelling Campaign for Districts

Wednesday, Sept. 2, Noon–1 p.m.—Digital (Zoom)

Join IASB for the launch of Iowa's Everyday Heroes, a statewide campaign celebrating the people who make Iowa's public schools strong every day. This session will introduce the campaign and provide districts with simple tools to share local stories highlighting teachers, staff, students, families, and community members. Participants will receive a ready-to-use toolkit with social media templates, video prompts, nomination materials, and communication resources to help districts easily participate.

Fee: Free for IASB members.

ISFLC New Superintendents' Conference

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.—School Administrators of Iowa (SAI), Clive

Superintendents new to Iowa and 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. ISFLC offers two multi-day conferences per year, with intensive tracks, renewal credit, and networking opportunities. This program is a partnership between IASB, SAI, and the UNI Institute for Educational Leadership.

Fee: Free for IASB members.



COSSBA Federal Advocacy Conference

Monday, Sept. 21–Wednesday, Sept. 23—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 for more information.

Fee: Discounted for IASB members.

Lead, Govern, Communicate: School Safety Essentials for School Boards

Wednesday, Sept. 30, Noon–1 p.m.—Digital (Zoom)

School safety requires strong leadership, clear governance, and effective communication. Join school safety expert Ken Trump for this webinar as he shares insights into the board's role in establishing safety as a foundation of school culture, setting expectations, and supporting accountability. This session provides a preview of Ken's PreCon Workshop at BoardCon and offers practical guidance to help board members lead with confidence on critical school safety issues.

Fee: Free for IASB members.

40 by 40 Special Education Federal Advocacy Campaign

October (Date TBA), Noon–1 p.m.—Digital (Zoom)

The federal government has never fulfilled its promise to fund 40% of excess special education costs. Alongside more than 25 other state school boards associations, IASB is advocating to secure full funding by 2040. Learn about the advocacy toolkit and discover simple, effective ways you can help make this long-standing commitment a reality.

Fee: Free for IASB members.



IASB BoardCon—Wednesday PreCon

Wednesday, Nov. 18—Iowa Events Center, Des Moines

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

Fee: \$125 per workshop for IASB members (excluding the free Basics for Board Secretaries mini-workshop). \$165 per workshop for non-members.

Strategic School Safety Leadership for Boards with Ken Trump

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

In today’s complex and high-pressure safety landscape, school board members play a critical role in guiding thoughtful, responsible decisions. This session focuses on strengthening governance, ensuring sound oversight, and communicating with clarity during uncertain situations. Participants will explore how to evaluate safety investments, avoid reactionary decisions, and balance transparency with legal considerations—while building sustainable, people-centered approaches that reduce risk and support effective crisis response.



Ready, Set, Govern! New Board Member Onboarding Workshop

9–11:30 a.m.

Take advantage of the Ready, Set, Govern! New Board Member Onboarding Workshop at BoardCon, 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.

Pressure Release—Communication Strategies for Boards & District Leaders

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

Board members and administrators are often called upon to communicate in high-pressure situations—whether responding to a tough media interview, addressing community concerns, or navigating a crisis. In these moments, your words—and your demeanor—shape public trust. This interactive two-and-a-half-hour workshop will help you sharpen your message, stay calm under pressure, and respond with confidence. Through realistic practice scenarios and group feedback, you’ll strengthen your ability to communicate clearly, stay aligned with your district’s message, build credibility, and keep the focus where it belongs: on students and the success of your schools.

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 for first-time attendees.**

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 for first-time attendees.**

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, property tax, use of the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC), and more. **All sessions offer SBO credit for first-time attendees.**

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 2026 legislative platform that guides IASB's legislative work. Delegate Assembly is offered annually in conjunction with BoardCon. 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 PreCon 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.

IASB BoardCon—Thursday

Thursday, Nov. 19, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. — Iowa Events Center, Des Moines

Need a fresh perspective, new ideas, and time to reconnect with your board team? BoardCon is the place to be.

IASB's premier annual event brings together school board members, superintendents, and education leaders from across Iowa for three days of learning, collaboration, and inspiration. We encourage your entire board-superintendent team to attend together—the conversations and connections you make at BoardCon often continue long after the event ends.

This year's keynote lineup is one you won't want to miss.

Author **John Hodge** (top) will kick off BoardCon with a powerful message about resilience and the difference caring adults can make in the lives of students. Drawing from his book *You Can Get in the Way: How You Can Become a Roadblock to Risk Factors*, John shares real-world stories and practical insights that will leave you thinking differently about your role in supporting student success.



Over lunch, podcaster **Matt Lehrman** (middle) will challenge us to rethink disagreement. In a time when difficult conversations seem unavoidable, Matt offers a refreshing approach to building trust, strengthening relationships, and creating spaces where people can disagree without becoming divided.



Author **David Horsager** (bottom) will close BoardCon with an engaging session on trust—one of the most important ingredients for effective leadership. Through stories, research, and practical strategies, David will share how leaders can build trust, improve communication, and create stronger teams and communities.



PLUS! PreCon Workshops, 30+ education sessions, and endless warm chocolate chip cookies. Be sure to check www.ia-sb.org/boardcon periodically for more information on keynote speakers, education sessions, and key dates.

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

IASB BoardCon—Friday PostCon

Board Presidents' Workshop

Friday, Nov. 20, 8 a.m.–Noon — Iowa Events Center, Des Moines

BOARD PRESIDENTS, VICE PRESIDENTS & ASPIRING LEADERS! Once again, we'll offer our interactive workshop designed to support board leaders in strengthening their governance skills. Join your peers and IASB staff experts as we explore timely, relevant topics and share practical approaches to navigating the challenges and opportunities facing school boards today. While the workshop is designed with board leaders in mind, all board members are welcome to attend.

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

Pre-Session Webinar—What’s Ahead for the Legislative Session (Preschool Focus)

Wednesday, Dec. 16, Noon–1 p.m.—Digital (Zoom)

Join us for a preview of what to expect in the upcoming legislative session. We’ll also share updates on our renewed efforts to secure funding for full-day preschool and highlight ways you can help build momentum on this priority as the session begins in January.

Fee: Free for IASB members.

December ISFLC Conference

Wednesday, Dec. 16–Thursday, Dec. 17—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.

Fee: \$350 for IASB members.

Parliamentary Procedure 101

December (Date TBA), Noon–1 p.m.—Digital (Zoom)

Whether you’re a new board member or simply want a refresher, this webinar covers the fundamentals of parliamentary procedure to help you participate confidently in effective board meetings. Learn the purpose of common motions, how meetings are conducted efficiently and fairly, and the board’s role in following proper procedures to support sound governance.

Fee: Free for IASB members.

2027

In-Depth Advocacy BoardCast—Condition of the State

January (Date TBA), Noon–1 p.m.—Digital (Podcast)

Join education advocacy experts for a recap of the governor’s annual Condition of the State address. The podcast 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 2027 Iowa legislative session!

Fee: Free for IASB members.

In-Depth Advocacy Webinar—State of the Budget

January (Date TBA), Noon–1 p.m.—Digital (Zoom)

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 other important issues to watch during the 2027 Iowa Legislative Session.

Fee: Free for IASB members.

Day on the Hill

Monday, Jan. 25—State Historical Building & Iowa State Capitol Rotunda, Des Moines

Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs), Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB), and School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) invite you to the 2027 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 tune into our two In-Depth Advocacy sessions in January!

Fee: \$45 for IASB members.

Frontline Analytics Certified Budget Workshops

Thursday, Feb. 4, Tuesday, Feb. 9, Wednesday, Feb. 10 & Thursday, Feb. 16—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

Wednesday, Feb. 17–Thursday, Feb. 18—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.

Fee: \$350 for IASB members.

COSSBA Annual Conference

Friday, March 12–Sunday, March 14—Dallas, TX

At the 2027 Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) Annual Conference, 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. 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 for the most up-to-date information on conference programming, speakers, and registration fees.

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

March (Date TBA)—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 available salary and staffing data.

Fee: Free for IASB members.

Safety Group Risk Management Workshop

Tuesday, April 6, 9 a.m.–Noon—FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny

Risk management is important and, if done well, can help districts reduce their liability over the long term. Each spring, IASB, EMC Insurance, and Jester Insurance 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 participants of IASB Affiliated Program, Safety Group Insurance Program.

School Board Recognition Month

May

Every year, IASB leads School Board Recognition Month (SBRM) to honor the volunteer board members who serve on Iowa's 324 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 2027 SBRM theme announcement in April 2027!

Legislative Recap Webinar

May (Date TBA)—Digital (Zoom)

Join IASB's government relations staff for a full rundown of bills that made it through the 2027 legislative session that will have an impact on public education in Iowa.

Fee: Free for IASB members.

Summit on Student Success

Tuesday, June 8—FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny

The IASB Summit on Student Success focuses on one thing—student achievement. This annual conference brings board members together for interactive sessions and peer-to-peer discussion to explore barriers to learning and share innovative strategies to improve student outcomes. Visit www.ia-sb.org/summit for the latest information!

It's a Wrap—Post-Session Legislative Policy Updates

June (Date TBA)—Digital (Zoom)

The 2027 Legislative Updates *Policy Primer* will be released in mid-June. *Policy Reference Manual* subscribers are invited to join IASB staff for a webinar to learn about updates to IASB sample policies resulting from the 2027 Iowa legislative session.

Fee: Free for IASB members.

Guide to IASB Tools—How to Complete the Teacher Compensation & Benefits (TCB) Survey

July (Date TBA)—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.



Register for any open event online at 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.

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 Update* 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.

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.

Affiliated Programs

Affiliated Programs are optional, member-only services through IASB supporting governance, finance, HR, communications, facilities, and risk management. They provide recognized, cost-effective solutions that save time, reduce costs, and simplify complex requirements. Participation offers valuable district services while supporting IASB's statewide advocacy, innovation, and resources. Learn more about these programs at www.ia-sb.org/affiliatedprograms.

Governance & Leadership

Simbli by eBOARDsolutions—Simbli offers a recognized platform for meetings, planning, policies, communications, and evaluations. It supports transparency, streamlines workflow, and improves board productivity.

Risk Management

Safety Group Insurance Program—This program meets the unique insurance and risk management needs of Iowa schools. Coverage is provided by EMC Insurance Companies, with program management by Jester Insurance Services, and includes specialized risk control support for schools.

Iowa Medicaid Education Disbursement (IMED)—Districts can access services from ClaimAid, a recognized provider of Medicaid eligibility, enrollment, billing and claims resolution support and services.

Financial Management

Iowa Schools Joint Investment Trust (ISJIT)—With services from PMA Financial Network, ISJIT offers recognized investment and cash management services that grow resources responsibly.

Frontline Education—Districts can contract with Frontline Education for analytics tools that turn financial, HR, and student data into easy-to-use dashboards, supporting budgeting, forecasting, and insights on readiness, equity, performance, and outcomes.

Gallagher's GASB 74/75 OPEB Valuation Compliance Service—Actuarial and consulting services provided by Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc., a recognized expert in compliance and consulting services with GASB 74/75, and GASB 101 actuarial valuations.

Human Resources

Iowa Schools Employee Benefits Association (ISEBA)—A joint program of IASB and the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA), administered with USI, providing recognized employee benefits programs and solutions designed for Iowa school employees.

Iowa Drug & Alcohol Testing Program (IDATP)—Offered by Medical Enterprises, Inc., IDATP helps school districts and student transportation contractors efficiently and cost-effectively meet state and federal testing requirements.

Employee Background Screening Service—Verified Credentials (formerly OneSource) offers best-in-class background screening and drug testing solutions, including pre-employment, volunteer, and vendor/contractor screening—helping ensure campus safety and peace of mind.

Facilities

Iowa Construction Advocate Team (ICAT)—Estes Construction supports districts with facility improvements—from building assessments and architect selection to master planning and bond referendum support—while providing expert construction management for projects of all sizes.

Communications

ParentSquare—ParentSquare is the trusted leader in school-home engagement, helping K-12 districts nationwide reach every family with an award-winning, all-in-one communication platform.

Why It Matters

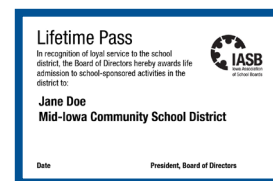
Affiliated Programs offer IASB members recognized, cost-effective services that reduce costs and workload while supporting IASB’s mission of advocacy, innovation, and member value to build strong schools statewide.

Service Recognition Program

Celebrate dedication to public education with IASB’s Service Recognition Program. Honor board members, student board members, and staff with meaningful recognition that highlights their service and impact.

Lifetime Pass Card—\$10

Provide retiring board members with lifetime access to district events—a lasting way to recognize their service and keep them connected to your schools.



Student Board Member Certificate & Award of Merit Plaque Templates

The Student Board Member Certificate and Award of Merit Plaque will be offered as customizable templates—giving districts the flexibility to personalize and print in-house or work with an AEA or local vendor.

Learn more at www.ia-sb.org/servicerecognition.



AT THE BOARD TABLE

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.



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 *Iowa 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 WORKSHOPS

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 at your board's convenience.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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 policymaking 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 conduct a customized review of your district's financial condition using your data and trends, helping the board-superintendent team identify appropriate oversight strategies and key decision points. IASB staff can work directly with the board during a meeting or work session to improve understanding of the district's finances, with the first consultation provided at no cost. In addition, IASB offers a complimentary half-day, one-on-one session for a district's new superintendent or school business official to build their understanding of Iowa school funding laws, processes, and the district's current financial status.

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.



Waukee Custom Board Development Workshop



PODCASTS, RECORDINGS & RESOURCES

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 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 to listen to all available episodes.

Stop the Prop—A Statewide School Safety Campaign

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. Campaign materials are provided free of charge to IASB member districts. Let's work together to make Iowa schools safer—one door at a time. Visit www.ia-sb.org/Stop-the-Prop to access these resources.



BOARD BOOKS

www.ia-sb.org/boardbooks

Board Member Handbook

IASB's invaluable *Board Member Handbook* is a must-read for every board member and a great 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! Updated 2025.

The *Board Member Handbook* is updated during school board election years.

Fee: The PDF is free for IASB members. Printed copies are available for a fee of \$25 for IASB members. Download the PDF or purchase a print copy at www.ia-sb.org/boardbooks.

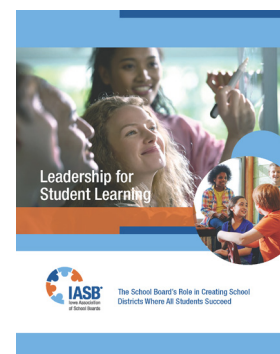


Leadership for Student Learning Book—2025 Edition

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. It is also a great reference for staff leadership teams and school improvement committees. Updated 2025.

Fee: The *Leadership for Student Learning* PDF is free for IASB members. Printed copies are available for a fee of \$25 for IASB members. Download the PDF or purchase a print copy at www.ia-sb.org/boardbooks.



Leadership for Student Learning Study Guide—This study guide is designed for use with *Leadership for Student Learning*. Its purpose is to help the entire board and superintendent team use the book's concepts to have meaningful conversations about creating a school district where all students succeed. Updated 2026.

Roles of the Board for Improving Student Learning

Based on the Iowa Lighthouse Study

1. Set Clear Expectations

- Get clear about the greatest student learning needs—the most important content area to improve first.
- Believe more is possible and communicate high expectations.
- Establish a clear and narrow focus for improvement—clarify improvement goals and specific targets.
- Focus on student learning and teaching (Improving teaching as the key strategy for improving learning).



2. Create Conditions for Success

- Demonstrate commitment to the improvement focus through board actions and decisions.
- Support quality professional development.
- Stay the course.
- Support & connect with districtwide leadership.
- Develop and nurture the board-superintendent team leadership.
- Ensure all parts of the system are aligned around the learning needs of students (curriculum, instruction, assessment; goals, actions, resource allocation; etc.).

3. Hold the System Accountable to the Expectations

- Use data extensively.
- Determine what you will accept as evidence of progress/success.
- Monitor progress regularly.
- Apply gentle pressure for accountability.

4. Build Collective Will

- Create awareness of the need.
- Create urgency around the moral purpose of improvement.
- Instill hope that it's possible to change.
- Connect with the community.

5. Learn Together as a Board Team

- Establish board learning time.
- Learn together.
- Talk to each other—extensive board conversations.
- Develop a willingness and readiness to lead and allow others to lead.
- Build commitment to improvement through shared information and discussion.
- Engage in deliberative policy development—lead through your policies.

New Edition!
*Leadership for
Student Learning*



PDF download
is free for IASB
members!



ANNUAL BOARD AWARDS PROGRAM

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 from Nov. 1 through Oct. 31.

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.

Honoring the Legacy of Carolyn M. Jons

The Annual Board Awards, given in honor of Carolyn M. Jons—a dedicated former board member and leader who played a key role in the *Lighthouse Research Study* and exemplified excellence in board service—recognize individual and team commitment to ongoing learning and professional growth through IASB-led educational opportunities.





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Photo courtesy of Des Moines Public Schools.

2026–27 IASB® AT YOUR SERVICE GUIDE



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Des Moines, IA 50312



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