



# Summit *on Student Success*

Page 2	Agenda
Page 3	The Power of Many—Creating a Culture of Belonging for Student Success
Page 4	Breakout Sessions—10:30–11:30 a.m.
Page 6	Lunch & Learn
Page 7–8	Chronic Absenteeism & Student Risk Levels Data
Page 9	Breakout Sessions—1–2 p.m.
Page 11	Board Members to a "T"—Lead, Inspire & Transform
Page 12	Share Your Feedback

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# Agenda

**8–9 a.m.**

## **Registration**

**9–10:15 a.m.**

## **General Session—The Power of Many**

Stephen Sroka, Keynote Speaker

**10:15–10:30 a.m.**

## **Break**

**10:30–11:30 a.m.**

## **Breakout Sessions**

- Creative Spaces, Connected Students—The Vital Role of Fine Arts Programming in Our Schools, Rooms 108–109
- Iowa BIG North's Authentic Classroom—The Power of Belonging & Serving Communities, Rooms 112–113
- Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Students & Staff, Rooms 114–115

**11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.**

## **Lunch**

Frontline Analytics & West Des Moines Community Schools

**1–2 p.m.**

## **Breakout Sessions**

- From the Board Table to the Classroom—Keeping the Focus on Student Learning, Rooms 108–109
- Capturing Kids' Hearts—Seeing, Hearing & Empowering Our Staff & Students, Rooms 112–113
- Building Belonging Through School Branding Campaigns, Rooms 114–115

**2–3:30 p.m.**

## **Featured Workshop—Board Members to a "T"**

Stephen Sroka, Keynote Speaker

## **Access Resources**

Please scan the QR code to access presentations, handouts, and resources.



# Thank you for keeping your sights set on student learning!

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What's motivating me to attend the Summit on Student Success today?

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2

What are the challenges or questions I am hoping to explore during my time today?

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3

What do I hope to take away from today?

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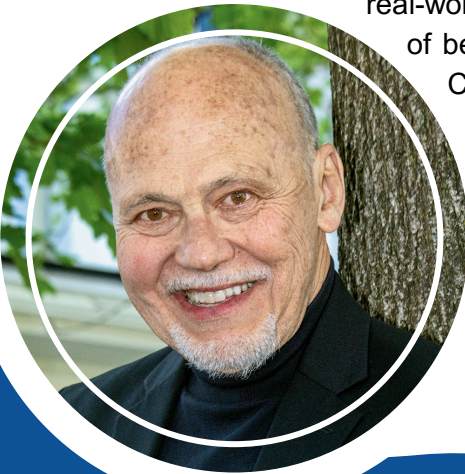
## General Session 9–10:15 a.m.

### The Power of Many—Creating a Culture of Belonging for Student Success

*Stephen Sroka*

It takes a team to make a lasting difference in the lives of students. School board members play a critical role in fostering a culture where every student feels valued, supported, and connected. This is The Power of Many—when board members, educators, and communities come together to create a sense of belonging that fuels student success.

This motivational keynote will feature Stephen Sroka's powerful "tips from the trenches" and real-world strategies to help build trusted relationships—the foundation of belonging. He explores the 4 Cs: Communication, Collaboration, Cultural Competency, and Caring, and how they shape leadership, equity, mental health, attendance, kindness, and school safety.



With honesty, humor, and hope, this keynote will challenge and inspire you to embrace The Power of Many. It will reinforce the 4 Ps—Purpose, Passion, Pride, and Persistence—while reigniting your "why" as a school board member.

## Breakout Sessions 10:30–11:30 a.m.

### **Creative Spaces, Connected Students—The Vital Role of Fine Arts Programming in Our Schools—Rooms 108–109**

*Creston Schools, Central Springs Schools & Iowa Alliance for Arts Education*

The opportunity to be involved in fine arts programs at school is essential to creating community and a sense of belonging for kids across Iowa. Board members, staff, and students at Creston Schools, Central Springs Schools, and Iowa Alliance for Arts Education will come together to share how districts across the state ensure access to high-quality fine arts programming for all students. Attendees will hear about the board's role in creating a culture where all students can thrive in fine arts programs, develop an understanding that high-quality fine arts programs for kids are always possible, and hear directly from students how access to fine arts programs helped them feel valued, engaged, and connected at school!

### **Iowa BIG North's Authentic Classroom—The Power of Belonging & Serving Communities—Rooms 112–113**

*New Hampton Schools*

Iowa BIG North (Business Innovation Group) is a groundbreaking initiative by the New Hampton and Turkey Valley school districts that transforms education through student-driven, community-partnered, problem-based, authentic learning experiences. As part of the high school curriculum, students collaborate with community partners, peers, and educators to identify and solve real challenges facing businesses, organizations, communities, and schools. By engaging in authentic, problem-based learning, students gain valuable skills, develop deep learning competencies, and experience education in a meaningful, hands-on way. Join this session to hear from former students, district leaders, and community partners about the impact of this collaborative approach. Discover how Iowa BIG North is not only helping all students develop a sense of belonging but also strengthening local communities and driving economic development.

### **Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Students & Staff—Rooms 114–115**

*Scanlan Center for School Mental Health*

Meeting the mental health needs of students and staff at school is becoming an increasingly vital component of building safe, connected environments where students can thrive. The University of Iowa's Scanlan Center for School Mental Health is Iowa's go-to resource for everything from professional development and training, to clinical services, to research for school mental health best practices. At Summit, you'll hear how Scanlan has partnered with Iowa districts to utilize their conditions for learning survey results to inform policy and better support the mental health of the students and staff in their communities. You'll walk away with tips, tools, and actionable insights to remove barriers to learning through policy that meets the mental health needs of your community!

## Access Resources

Please scan the QR code to access presentations, handouts, and resources.



# Brilliant Ideas

What takeaways from your morning breakout session resonated with you?

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**Name one colleague, board member, or staff person you're grateful for and why. Consider sending them a quick thank-you text or note today.**



## Lunch & Learn 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

### From Messy to Meaningful—Turning Data into Boardroom Insights

Join Frontline Analytics and West Des Moines Schools over lunch to learn how one district turned data clean-up into clear, actionable insights. See how organized data supported confident decision-making—and how your district can benefit, too.



### Chronic Absenteeism & Student Risk Levels

We know that when students aren’t present, they miss the valuable learning opportunities provided through instruction and engagement in school. Chronic absenteeism can have a negative impact on a student’s achievement. What exactly does this look like in Iowa schools? In their 2023–24 Spring BEDS data, the Department of Education reported the average daily attendance for students in grades K-12 at 92.65%. Let’s break this down further to see what this looks like in school. Below you can find the attendance rates, chronic absenteeism rates, and at-risk percentages of two different sample districts.

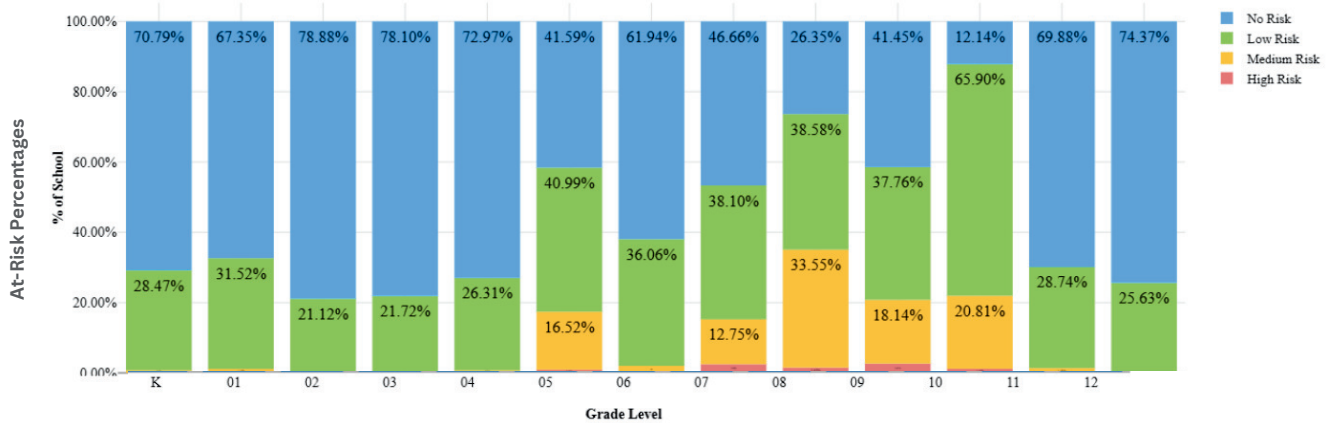
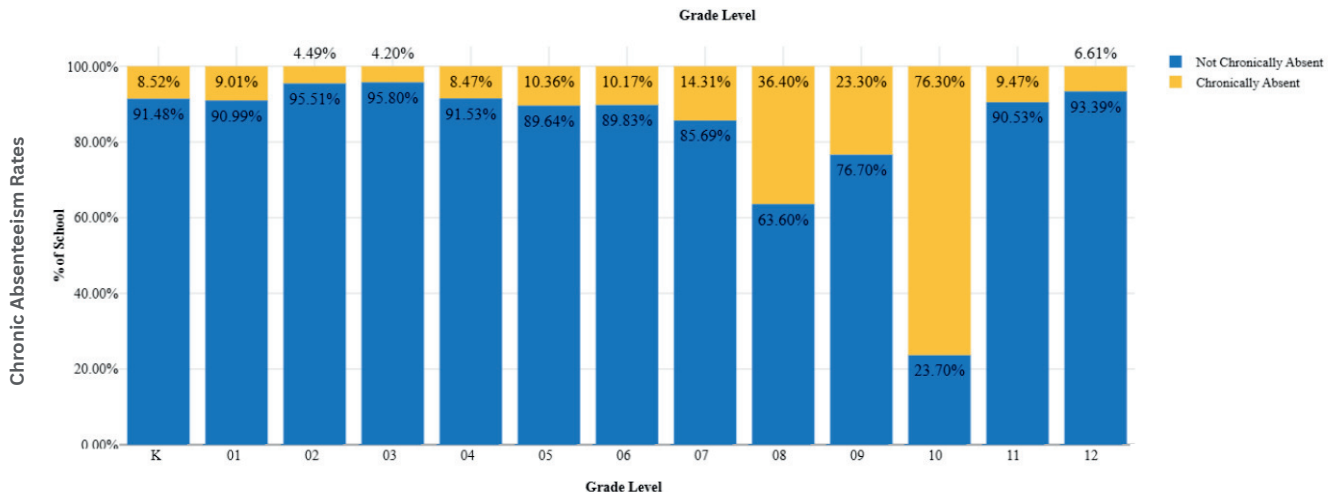
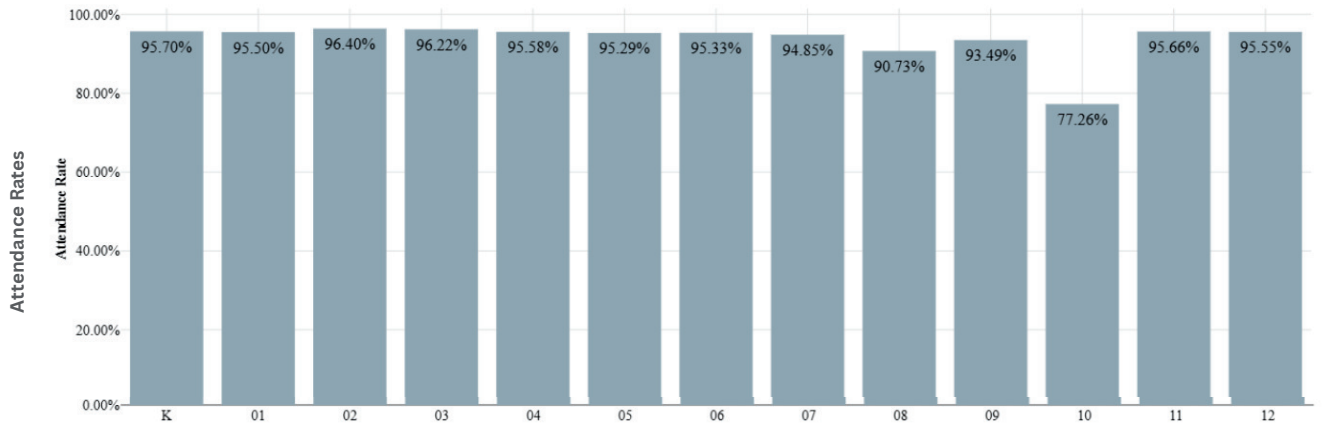
#### Iowa State Average Daily Attendance

Number of Students Grade K-8	Average Daily Attendance % Grade K-8	Number of Students Grade K-12	Average Daily Attendance % Grade K-12
330,404	93.65%	490,111	92.65%

2023–24 Iowa Public School District K-8 & K-12 Average Daily Attendance

Source: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, Student Reporting in Iowa 2023–24 spring data collection.

## Iowa Sample District 1—Per Building

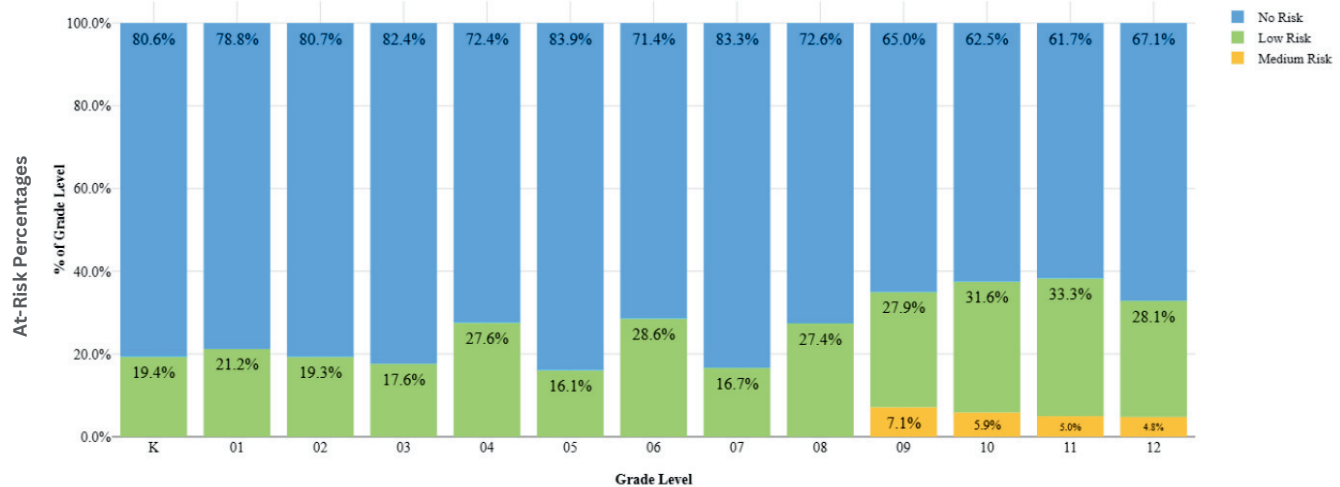
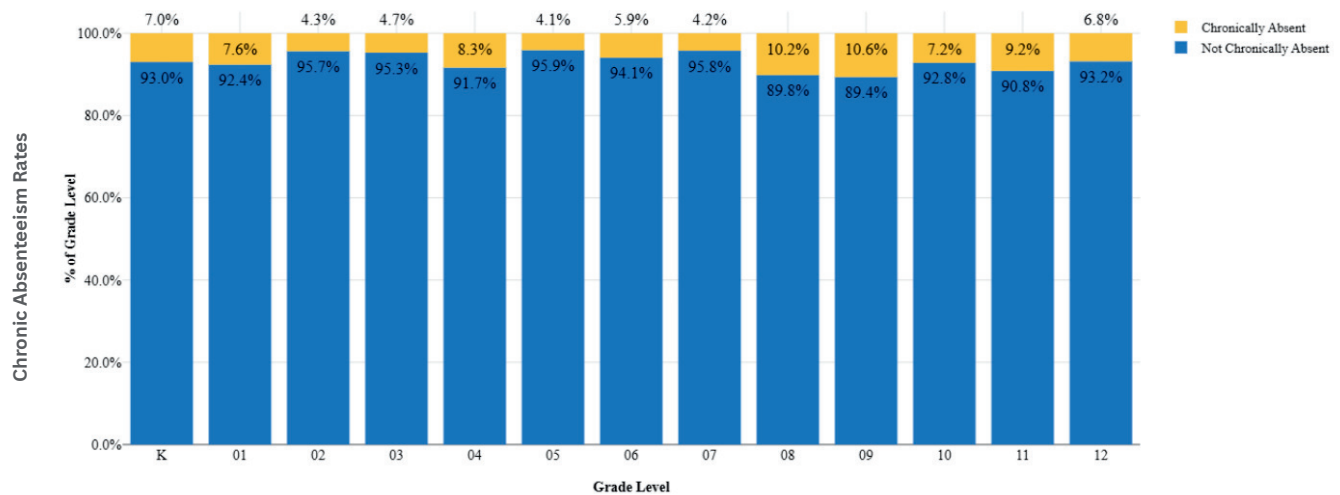
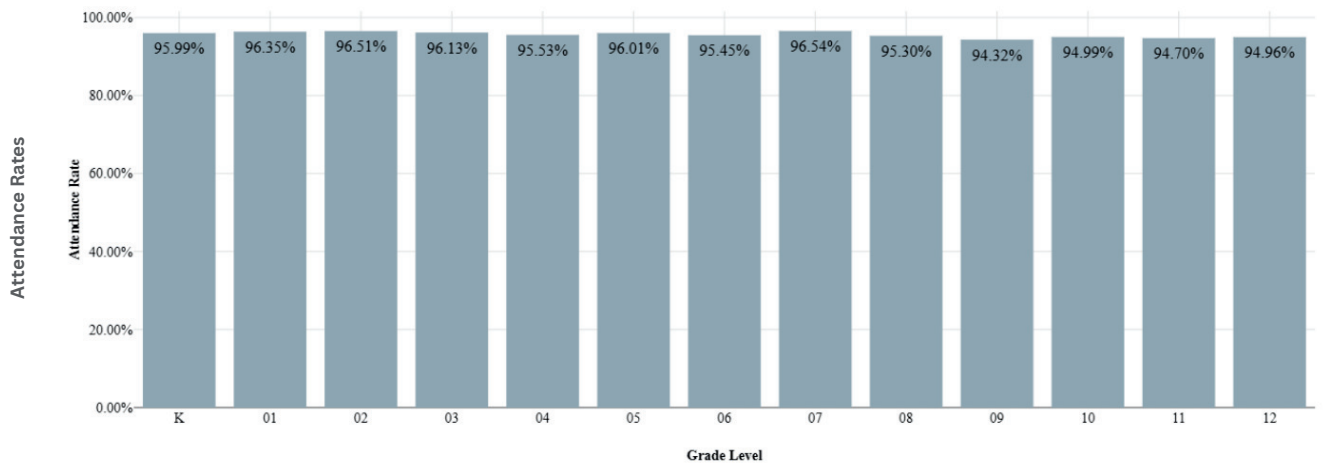


Risk Levels		Criteria & Points																																		
<table><tr><th>Risk Levels &amp; Points</th></tr><tr><td>No Risk (0 Pts)</td></tr><tr><td>Low (1-2 Pts)</td></tr><tr><td>Medium (3-4 Pts)</td></tr><tr><td>High (5+ Pts)</td></tr></table>		Risk Levels & Points	No Risk (0 Pts)	Low (1-2 Pts)	Medium (3-4 Pts)	High (5+ Pts)	<table><tr><th>Attendance - As of Today</th><th>Points</th><th>Grades (Most Recent)</th><th>Points</th><th>Discipline - Full Year</th><th>Points</th></tr><tr><td>Attendance Rate &gt;94%</td><td>0</td><td>A's, B's and C's Only</td><td>0</td><td>0-1 Discipline Incidents</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Attendance Rate 90% to 93.9%</td><td>1</td><td>No More than 1 D/F</td><td>1</td><td>2-5 Discipline Incident</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Attendance Rate &lt;90%</td><td>2</td><td>2 or more D's/F's</td><td>2</td><td>6+ Discipline Incidents</td><td>2</td></tr></table>						Attendance - As of Today	Points	Grades (Most Recent)	Points	Discipline - Full Year	Points	Attendance Rate >94%	0	A's, B's and C's Only	0	0-1 Discipline Incidents	0	Attendance Rate 90% to 93.9%	1	No More than 1 D/F	1	2-5 Discipline Incident	1	Attendance Rate <90%	2	2 or more D's/F's	2	6+ Discipline Incidents	2
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Students by Risk Level		Students Attendance Risk		Students Academic Risk		Students Behavior Risk																														
Risk Level	Student Count	Attendance Risk Level	Student Count	Academic Risk Level	Student Count	Behavior Risk Level	Student Count																													
No Risk	4,817	0	5,640	-- No Value --	4,850	0	8,653																													
Low Risk	2,993	1	1,757	0	2,156	1	262																													
Medium Risk	1,090	2	1,575	1	681	2	57																													
High Risk	72			2	1,285																															



## Iowa Sample District 2—Per Building

Data provided by Frontline Analytics.



Do you see any patterns between attendance, chronic absenteeism, and at-risk student percentages by building or grade level?

What patterns have you noticed in your own district, and what do they reveal about your school community?

In buildings or grade levels with fewer at-risk students, what factors support connection and success? What barriers exist where more students are at risk?



## Breakout Sessions 1–2 p.m.

### From the Board Table to the Classroom—Keeping the Focus on Student Learning—Rooms 108–109

#### *Winterset Schools*

How much time do you spend talking about student learning at your board meetings? In Winterset, they are changing the learning experiences for their students by keeping student learning front and center at the board table! Their commitment to engaging and empowering staff to create memorable moments and authentic learning experiences is a team effort. Don't miss this opportunity to hear how Winterset connects the work from the board table to the classroom. Guided by their community developed strategic directions and Profile of a Graduate, they are creating powerful learning experiences for their students. With their continued focus, Winterset's board-superintendent team is finding ways to leverage resources in support of their strategic priorities.

### Capturing Kids' Hearts—Seeing, Hearing & Empowering Our Staff & Students—Rooms 112–113

#### *Clinton Schools*

"If you have a child's heart, you have a child's mind." Relationships are the foundation of schools where students feel connected, safe, and supported. Join us as Clinton Schools share the real-world impact of Capturing Kids' Hearts, a transformational process that puts students at the heart of school culture. They'll share the unique experiences of two schools, highlighting how this program has created a space where everyone feels valued. Don't miss your chance to hear how Clinton has created and cultivated a collaborative environment where students are part of the solution and teachers are equipped to celebrate every success, big or small.

### Building Belonging Through School Branding Campaigns—Rooms 114–115

#### *Dubuque Schools & Bondurant-Farrar Schools*

A strong sense of belonging is a key factor in student success, and school boards play a vital role in fostering that connection. This panel discussion will feature two districts that have led the charge creating a welcoming environment, strengthening community pride, and boosting student engagement through the successful implementation of school branding campaigns.

Panelists will share their challenges, strategies, and results, providing practical takeaways that board members can bring back to their own districts. Don't miss this opportunity to gain insights and inspiration to help every student feel seen, valued, and connected.

## Access Resources

Please scan the QR code to access presentations, handouts, and resources.



# Brilliant Ideas

What takeaways from your afternoon breakout session resonated with you?

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**Take a moment to reflect on what's good—in your district, your team, and your own leadership journey. Gratitude is a powerful tool for staying grounded, connected, and inspired.**



## Closing Interactive Workshop 2–3:30 p.m.

### Board Members to a "T"—Lead, Inspire & Transform

**Stephen Sroka**

Wrap up the Summit with an energizing, hands-on experience led by keynote speaker Stephen Sroka! In this dynamic 90-minute workshop, board members will connect with each other to dive into The Power of Belonging—reflecting on their crucial role in shaping school environments where every student feels valued and supported.

Get ready to participate in Stephen's Board Members to a "T" exercise—a fun, interactive, and eye-opening technique designed to strengthen relationship-building, partnerships, and leadership skills.

This isn't just another workshop—it's a high-energy, motivational experience that will equip you with real strategies to lead with Purpose, Passion, Pride, and Persistence. Don't miss this unforgettable closing session!



**What takeaways from this workshop resonated with you?**

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# Thank you!

What is motivating me as I leave the Summit on Student Success and head back to my board? What new perspectives, ideas, or innovations am I taking home with me?

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## Share Your Feedback

We'd love to hear your thoughts—please scan the QR code to share your feedback and help us make next year's Summit even better.



SAVE THE DATE

IASB **BoardCon**

2025

**November 19–21, 2025**  
**Iowa Events Center, Des Moines**

Delve into the essential aspects of leadership, enhance your communication skills, and establish connections with school board members from all over Iowa.