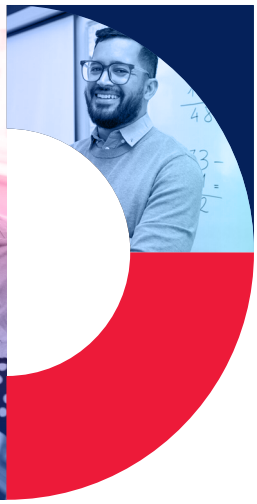
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

2027







THE PROMISE IN ACTION

PRE-EVENT PLANNER

FEBRUARY 25—27 • ATLANTA, GA

BROUGHT TO YOU BY AASA THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Register and Save at **nce.aasa.org/early**
Early Registration Ends Oct. 31

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, February 24

1 – 4PM	Pre-Conference Workshops
2 – 5PM	Registration Hours
2 – 5PM	Bookstore Hours

Thursday, February 25

6AM	Together We Stride Ticketed Event: $10
7AM – 3:30PM	Bookstore Hours
7AM – 4:15PM	Registration Hours
7:30AM – 3:15PM	NCE Exhibit Hall Hours
7:30AM – 3:15PM	Health & Wellness Center Hours
7:30AM – 3:15PM	The Commons Hours
7:30 – 9AM	Exhibit Hall Coffee Break
8 – 10AM	Special Contracts Session Ticketed Event: $75
9 – 10AM	Asian Affinity Group
9 – 10AM	Thought Leader, Educational and Roundtable Sessions
10:15 – 11:15AM	Latino/Latina Affinity Group
10:15 – 11:15AM	Thought Leader, Educational and Roundtable Sessions
12 NOON – 1:30PM	Federal Relations Luncheon Ticketed Event: $80
12:45 – 1:45PM	Thought Leader and Roundtable Sessions
1:45 – 3PM	Exhibit Hall Snack Break
2:15 – 3:15PM	Black Affinity Group
2:15 – 3:15PM	Thought Leader, Educational and Roundtable Sessions
3:30 – 5:30PM	Opening General Session
5:30 – 6:30PM	Welcome Reception Honoring the National Superintendent of the Year® and State Superintendents of the Year Winners

Friday, February 26

7:30AM – 5PM	Registration Hours
7:30AM – 5PM	Bookstore Hours
8 – 9AM	Educational Sessions
9 – 11AM	Second General Session
11AM – 12 NOON	Blessings in a Backpack Stuffing
11AM – 2:30PM	NCE Exhibit Hall Hours
11AM – 2:30PM	Health & Wellness Center Hours
11AM – 2:30PM	The Commons Hours
11:15AM – 12:15PM	Thought Leader, Educational and Roundtable Sessions
12:15 – 2:15PM	Dr. Effie H. Jones Memorial Equity Luncheon Ticketed Event: $80
12:45 – 1:45PM	Thought Leader, Educational and Roundtable Sessions
1:45 – 2:15PM	Exhibit Hall Snacks
2:30 – 3:30PM	Thought Leader and Educational Sessions
3:45 – 4:45PM	Thought Leader and Educational Sessions

Saturday, February 27

7:30AM – 12 NOON	Registration Hours
7:30AM – 12 NOON	Bookstore Hours
8 – 9AM	Educational Sessions
9:15 – 10:15AM	Educational Sessions
10:30AM – 12 NOON	Closing General Session

*All times are Eastern Time (ET).

Register By Oct. 31 and Save at **nce.aasa.org/early**

GENERAL SESSIONS

Opening General Session Keynote

Thursday, February 25 | 3:30 – 5:30PM

Fireside Chat with Sal Khan & LaTonya M. Goffney



Sal Khan
FOUNDER & CEO,
KHAN ACADEMY,
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA



LaTonya M. Goffney
AASA PRESIDENT,
SUPERINTENDENT, ALDINE INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT, HOUSTON, TX

Sal Khan is the founder and CEO of Khan Academy, a global nonprofit that provides free education to more than 200 million people worldwide. He's also Vision Steward and a board member of TED, a nonprofit conference and media organization with a mission to discover and spread ideas. Khan Academy was founded in 2008. It began as a way for Sal to remotely tutor his cousins in math. Since then, the organization has grown into a platform available in more than 50 languages that reaches students and teachers in more than 190 countries. Khan Academy partners with more than 600 school districts in the United States as well as school systems in eight countries to provide instruction, practice, assessment, and AI-supported learning in a single, connected experience that reaches 7 million students.

Sal is the founder of the nonprofits Schoolhouse.world, Khan Lab School, and Khan World School, and the author of The One World Schoolhouse and Brave New Words, and the co-author of Teaching Students to Use AI Ethically & Responsibly. His forthcoming book, expected in 2027, examines how AI will transform the future of work and how societies can build learning systems that help people adapt, learn, and thrive.



Ron Clark & Student Panel

AMERICAN EDUCATOR & AUTHOR, RON CLARK ACADEMY, ATLANTA, GA

Ron Clark's outstanding success with students from low-wealth areas of North Carolina and New York City led him to be named Disney's American Teacher of the Year. He is a New York Times bestselling author, and his classes have been honored at the White House on three separate occasions. Ron's teaching experiences in New York City are the subject of the uplifting film, The Ron Clark Story, starring the late Matthew Perry. Currently, Mr. Clark serves as a teacher and administrator at the Ron Clark Academy, an award-winning and internationally acclaimed middle school in Atlanta, GA. The school serves as a training site for educators, and each year thousands of teachers and administrators from around the world visit the school to be trained in their methods for helping all students achieve success.



Second General Session Keynote

Friday, February 26 | 9 – 11AM



Ana Homayoun

FOUNDER & CEO, GREEN IVY EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING LLC, LOS ALTOS, CA

Ana Homayoun is the founder of Silicon Valley–based Green Ivy Educational Consulting and executive director of Luminaria Learning Solutions, a nonprofit developing evidence-based executive functioning and well-being curriculum for schools and districts. With more than 25 years of experience working with students, families, and school leaders, she is a nationally recognized voice on preparing young people for success in an era of rapid change and complexity.

Her work with thousands of students revealed that many who struggle academically are not lacking intelligence or ambition, but the organizational, emotional regulation, and self-management skills essential to long-term success. This insight drives her mission to bring executive functioning and well-being programming directly into schools and districts.

Ana is the author of four books, including *"Social Media Wellness"* and *"Getting In Is Not Enough"*, and her work has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Fast Company, NPR, Good Morning America, and NBC News. She is a frequent keynote speaker at national education conferences and works with school and district leaders to help young people navigate complexity, recover from setbacks, and develop purpose and direction. Learn more at www.anahomayoun.com.

Closing General Session Keynote

Saturday, February 27 | 10:30AM – 12 NOON



Anne Marie Anderson

BROADCASTER AND AUTHOR, LOS ANGELES, CA

Anne Marie Anderson is a three-time Emmy Award-winning broadcaster, author, and keynote speaker who teaches education leaders how courage and calculated risk-taking can build stronger teams, confident students, and thriving school cultures.

Over more than three decades in sports broadcasting, Anne Marie has covered six Olympic Games, the Super Bowl, and more than 1,500 live events for ESPN, ABC, NBC, FOX, and TBS. Her experiences have given her unique insight into what separates good teams from great ones and how those lessons apply to educators and communities.

As a keynote speaker, Anne Marie combines humor, storytelling, and research-based insights to help educators overcome self-doubt, build cultures of courage and belonging, and take bold action. She is the author of *"Cultivating Audacity: Dismantle Doubt and Let Yourself Win"*, an Amazon #1 New Release in Business Diversity and Career Growth.

THOUGHT LEADER SESSIONS

Thought Leader Sessions are large-format educational sessions that touch on some of the most critical topics in the public education field.

Thursday, February 25

9 – 10AM

The Human Infrastructure of Schools: Creating the Conditions for Adults and Students to Thrive

Student mental health is influenced not only by programs and services, but by the people, relationships, and environments that surround young people every day. This session explores the human infrastructure of schools - the organizational culture, leadership practices, relationships, and working conditions that support adult well-being and, in turn, shape student connection, mental health, and success. At a time when both adults and students are navigating increasing pressure, disconnection, and rapid change, school systems must consider what it takes to create conditions where people can truly thrive. Together, leaders will examine what it means to treat human well-being as core infrastructure, and how doing so can reshape the way they lead and design the conditions adults and students experience every day.

Moderator:

Jennifer Reed, Senior Director, District Programs, The Jed Foundation, New York, NY

Speakers:

David Law, Superintendent, Minnetonka Public Schools, Minnetonka, MN

Denise Lutz, Chief Excellence and Engagement Officer, Upper Arlington Schools, Columbus, OH

John Malloy, Senior Vice President, Center for Leadership & Learning, AASA, Alexandria, VA

Tony Walker, Senior Vice President, Academic Programs, The Jed Foundation, New York, NY

9 – 10AM

Don't Worry, Be a Critical Thinker: The Equity Case and Practical Tools to Future-Ready Students through Prioritizing AI (Actual Intellect)

Districts often emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and adaptability as essential future-ready skills, yet access to meaningful opportunities to develop these skills remains uneven. The rapid growth of artificial intelligence makes closing this gap even more urgent, as students' greatest advantage will increasingly come from distinctly human abilities such as asking better questions, evaluating evidence, challenging assumptions, navigating ambiguity, solving unfamiliar problems, and imagining what does not yet exist.

In this provocative and highly practical thought-leadership session, educator, attorney, author, and ThinkLaw Founder & CEO Colin Seale will challenge district leaders to prioritize a different kind of AI: Actual Intellect. Participants will explore how to make rigorous critical thinking an equitable, everyday experience for every student and identify practical leadership, policy, and instructional strategies to bring future-ready learning into every classroom.

Participants will leave prepared to (1) identify the gap between their district's promise of future readiness and students' actual daily learning experiences; (2) reframe future readiness around the distinctly human skills students need for success in life, work, and citizenship alongside AI; and (3) identify practical leadership moves that democratize access to rigorous critical thinking across schools, classrooms, and student populations.

Speaker:

Colin Seale, Founder & CEO, ThinkLaw, Phoenix, AZ

Thursday, February 25

10:15 – 11:15AM

The Principal Effect: How Investing in School Leaders is Key to Solving Education's Challenges

Today's superintendents face no shortage of challenges—from improving student achievement and reducing chronic absenteeism to addressing teacher shortages and supporting student well-being. Research suggests that one of the most effective ways to address these challenges is to invest in principals. Join researchers from the Learning Policy Institute to explore findings from The Principal Effect: How Investing in School Leaders Is Key to Solving Education's Challenges and learn how superintendent leadership can strengthen principal preparation, professional learning, coaching, and leadership pipelines to build stronger schools and improve student success.

Moderator:

Valerie Truesdale, Senior Vice President, AASA, Alexandria, VA

Speakers:

Jill Baker, Retired Superintendent, Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach, CA

Molly Gordon, Senior Principal Researcher, Learning Policy Institute, Chicago, IL

Burke Royster, Superintendent, Greenville County Schools, Greenville, SC

Tony Watlington, Superintendent, School District of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Sponsored by:

Wallace

10:15 – 11:15AM

Portrait of a Superintendent as Civic Leader

A superintendent as civic leader enlists, empowers, and activates the whole community in preparing young people for citizenship, meaningful work, and flourishing lives. This session will introduce an emerging *"Portrait of a Superintendent as Civic Leader"* along with critical ideas that superintendents can put to use immediately: How does a superintendent distinguish authentic community concerns from manufactured conflict? How does a superintendent build durable cross-sector coalitions? How does a superintendent model pluralism? Together, we'll pressure-test these ideas against the lived experience of rural, suburban, and urban district leaders, surface real-world strategies, and identify gaps that HGSE's Initiative on Superintendent as Civic Leader can address.

Speakers:

Russell Booker, Joint Senior Fellow at Harvard Graduate School of Educational Initiatives for EdRedesign Lab and Initiative on Superintendent as Civic Leader, Spartanburg, SC

Jen Cheatham, Senior Lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Chair of the Initiative on Superintendent as Civic Leader, Cambridge, MA



Thursday, February 25

12:45 – 1:45PM

What's Next? Out-of-School Time Partnerships, Philanthropy and the Future of Education

Hear from superintendents and national philanthropic leaders on where the education and youth development field goes from here. From building strong partnerships and tending learning ecosystems, what can leaders do in this funding environment to ensure continued academic success for all students?

Moderator:

Bryan Joffe, Director, Center for Leadership & Learning, AASA, Alexandria, VA

Speakers:

Aaron Dworkin, CEO, National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), Washington, DC

Anita Huggins, Superintendent, Charleston County School District, Charleston, SC

Gwynn Hughes, Sr Program Officer, Mott Foundation, Flint, MI

John Skretta, Superintendent, Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln, NE

2:15 – 3:15PM

Understanding the Landscape of Professional Learning

Dr. Sahara Pradhan, research fellow with the Wallace Foundation, will provide an overview of research findings from a study by Vanderbilt University entitled, Understanding the Landscape of Professional Learning. A panel of three school system Superintendents will share how they have put Wallace Foundation research to practice. Superintendents include Drs. Jermaine Dawson, CEO of Baltimore City Schools, MD; Alexandra Estrella of Gwinnett County, GA; and Carlos Castillo of Fresno, CA. This Thought Leader session will be moderated by Dr. Jackie Wilson, author of Blended Coaching: Supporting the Development and Supervision of School Leaders.

Moderator:

Jackie Wilson, Executive Director, National Policy Board for Education Administration (NPBEA)

Speakers:

Carlos Castillo, Chief Academic Officer, Fresno Unified School District, Fresno, CA

Jermaine Dawson, Chief Executive Officer, Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore, MD

Alexandra Estrella, Superintendent, Gwinnett County Public Schools, Suwanee, GA

Sahara Pradhan, Research Fellow, Wallace

Sponsored by:

Wallace

Thursday, February 25

2:15 – 3:15PM

The Free & Scalable Solution to the Youth Mental Health Crisis

Filmmaker and bestselling author Alex Banayan has spent years researching the underlying causes of the youth mental health crisis and searching for a solution that is accessible, scalable, and free.

In this presentation packed with practical frameworks, surprising insights, and a clear path forward, Banayan offers district leaders a response to the youth mental health crisis that can be implemented in schools immediately—without costing a single dollar.

This session will reveal the "3 Toxins" that are fueling this mental health crisis, the "4 Antidotes" that lead to student wellbeing, and a new research-backed framework that decreases depression, anxiety, loneliness, and suicide.

Participants will leave this session with a transformed understanding of youth mental health, a renewed sense of hope of what's possible, and a concrete picture of how to implement a free solution in their district.

Speaker:

Alex Banayan, Filmmaker & Bestselling Author, Los Angeles, CA

Register By Oct. 31 and Save at nce.aasa.org/early

Friday, February 26

11:15AM – 12:15PM

Small but Mighty: How Rural Districts Are Redefining What's Possible

Discover how small and rural school districts can open the door to opportunities you might believe are only available in large school districts. Join an inspiring panel of innovative superintendents and national resource providers as they share strategies, partnerships, and low or no-cost resources that are transforming experiences for students and communities. Hear firsthand how district leaders have leveraged nationally recognized programs, strengthened business and community connections, and created meaningful real-world learning experiences. Leave with fresh ideas, a new network of contacts, and new possibilities.

Moderator:

Kadee Anstadt, Senior Vice President, Center for Leadership and Learning, AASA, Alexandria, VA

12:45 – 1:45PM

What Counts? Rethinking How We Measure Student Readiness

For decades, our education systems have relied on a relatively narrow set of measures to tell us whether students are succeeding. Yet the outcomes we now expect from public education are much broader: young people who can think critically, communicate, collaborate, adapt, solve problems, and direct their own learning.

If these capabilities matter, how do we meaningfully measure them without turning them into one more test?

This Thought Leader conversation explores the growing movement toward more purposeful and balanced approaches to assessment, including performance tasks, portfolios, student reflection, demonstrations of learning, durable-skill progressions, and emerging measures of future readiness. Together, we will examine what different forms of evidence can tell us, what they cannot, and how leaders can build assessment systems that support learning while still providing credible evidence of progress.

Participants will leave with a new way to think about a deceptively simple question: Are we measuring what is easiest to measure, or what matters most?

Speakers:

Shannon King, Vice President, Center for Leadership & Learning, AASA, Alexandria, VA

Laura Slover, Managing Director of State Strategy & Innovation, ETS, Washington, DC



Friday, February 26

12:45 – 1:45PM

Building Leadership Capacity for Sustainability

Principal pipelines with features such as rigorous job standards and high-quality pre-service training can produce school leaders who boost student learning. That's what major research has found in Principal Pipelines: A Feasible, Affordable and Effective Way to Improve Schools. But can these pipelines produce principals who foster educational equity as well? Eight large school districts around the country are trying to find out. Each has developed a vision of what equity means to its schools. Each is also working to embed equity into the key components of what's known as a "comprehensive, aligned" principal pipeline. These pipelines are "comprehensive" because their parts cover the major actions districts can take to develop and support effective principals. They are "aligned" because the parts reinforce one another. Join this Thought Leader session, moderated by Dr. Rotunda Floyd-Cooper, vice president of education leadership, of the Wallace Foundation, as Superintendents share their Equity-Centered Leadership Initiatives. Drs. Kimberlee Armstrong of Portland, Oregon, Angela Chapman of Columbus, Ohio and Kim Jackson of DC Public Schools will share stories of how their systems have developed and sustained leadership pipeline work.

Moderator:

Rotunda Floyd-Cooper, Vice President, Education Leadership, Wallace Foundation

Speakers:

Kimberlee Armstrong, Superintendent, Portland Public Schools, Portland, OR

Angela Chapman, Superintendent, Columbus City Schools, Columbus, OH

Kim Jackson, Interim Chancellor, District of Columbia Public Schools, Washington, DC

Sponsored by:

Wallace

2:30 – 3:30PM

Strategic Hiring & Retention of School Leaders: Competency-Driven Talent Management

Finding and keeping great talent starts with clarity. This session explores how defining the core competencies of effective school leaders can strengthen hiring decisions and create a clear throughline from selection to development. Participants will examine how competency-aligned professional learning can ensure new leaders receive the targeted support they need to grow, succeed, and stay.

Speakers:

Lexie Bostick, Assistant Superintendent for High Schools, Cobb County School District, Atlanta, GA

Bruce Fraser, Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools, Cobb County School District, Atlanta, GA

Jasmine Kullar, Chief School Leadership Officer, Cobb County School District, Atlanta, GA

Liss Maynard, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools, Cobb County School District, Atlanta, GA





Register By Oct. 31 and Save at nce.aasa.org/early

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

All Pre-Conference Workshops will take place on Wednesday, February 24.

Wednesday, February 24

9:30AM – 3:30PM

Visit the Acclaimed Ron Clark Academy and get Slide Certified!

Step inside the internationally acclaimed Ron Clark Academy (RCA) for an unforgettable taste of the professional development experience that has inspired educators worldwide. During this visit, you will hear directly from Ron Clark himself, enjoy lunch on campus, and tour RCA's immersive facilities, all while gaining a firsthand look at the strategies and school culture that set RCA apart.

Walk away with practical inspiration rooted in RCA's nationally recognized approach to teacher training and student engagement, and discover why thousands of educators from across the country make the journey each year. Get ready to slide!

Speaker:

Ron Clark, American Educator and Author, Ron Clark Academy, Atlanta, GA

1 – 4PM

Making Public Education Promise Real: A Leadership Lab for System Coherence

District leaders don't need another initiative—they need a way to reduce fragmentation and turn vision into a coherent student experience. This 3-hour preconference is a "Promise to Practice" leadership lab that provides a concise, accessible overview of the Public Education Promise (PEP) as a system redesign framework, then moves quickly into application. Participants will begin to diagnose current state across key system levers, engage with tools to map existing efforts to PEP principles, and consider high-leverage next-step onramps that fit their context.

Learning Outcomes

- Explain the PEP as a system coherence framework (not a program) and describe how the principles work together in practice.
- Diagnose a district's current state by identifying assets, gaps, redundancies, and constraints across key PEP-aligned system levers.
- Make initiative coherence visible by mapping current work to PEP principles and surfacing where effort is high but impact is limited.
- Select 1–2 high-leverage onramps and define early indicators that show progress from promise to practice.

Speakers:

Jessica Harding, Senior Director, Center for Leadership & Learning, AASA, Alexandria, VA

Beth Silveira, Senior Director, Center for Leadership & Learning, AASA, Alexandria, VA

Wednesday, February 24

1 – 4PM

When Vision Meets Evidence: A Leadership Lab for Measuring What Matters

District leaders across the country are asking the same question: If we value deeper learning, durable skills, student agency and future readiness, how do we meaningfully measure them?

This highly interactive 3-hour leadership experience explores Principle 5 of the Public Education Promise, Measure What Matters, through the lens of purposeful assessment. Rather than focusing solely on accountability or isolated assessment tools, participants will examine how districts can build coherent systems of evidence that support learning, improvement and meaningful student success.

Using real district examples, collaborative protocols, hands-on design experiences, and practical reflection tools, leaders will investigate the types of evidence their systems currently prioritize, identify gaps between vision and measurement, and explore how portfolios, performance-based assessment, learner reflection, executive function skills and everyday classroom evidence can work together within a balanced assessment ecosystem.

Participants will leave with:

- A clearer framework for purposeful assessment.
- Practical tools for leading assessment conversations.
- Examples from districts implementing this work.
- Actionable next steps for aligning assessment practices to student-centered learning goals.

This session is designed for superintendents and district leaders seeking thoughtful, practical ways to move from compliance-driven measurement toward more meaningful evidence of student growth, readiness and success that centers students as key stakeholders in the assessment process.

Speaker:

Shannon King, Vice President, Center for Leadership & Learning, AASA, Alexandria, VA

1 – 4PM

Building a Rural Portrait of a Graduate: A Community-Driven Framework for Defining the Future of Learning

Rural school systems are often the heart of their communities—deeply connected to local values, traditions, workforce needs and aspirations for young people. Yet many rural districts face a common challenge: how to lead meaningful, future-focused transformation work with limited time, staffing and financial resources.

This highly interactive pre-conference session is designed specifically for rural superintendents and leadership teams who want to develop or refresh a Portrait of a Graduate in ways that are practical, community-centered and sustainable. Participants will leave with a clear framework, tools and facilitation strategies they can immediately use to guide Portrait development conversations within their own districts and communities—without needing to hire outside consultants.

Grounded in AASA's Public Education Promise, this session will help leaders think beyond creating a Portrait as a standalone document and instead position it as the foundation for long-term district transformation. Participants will explore how the five Public Education Promise principles can serve as the implementation framework for bringing a Portrait to life through student-centered learning, real-world skill development, workforce readiness, community partnerships, talent development and meaningful measures of success.

Speaker:

Colon Lewis, Vice President, Center for Leadership & Learning, AASA, Alexandria, VA

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, February 24

1 – 4PM

AASA Safety and Security Initiative: Leadership Lessons Learned 2027

In today's evolving landscape, school safety extends beyond emergency response. Join us for an interactive session exploring practical strategies across physical safety, behavioral threat assessments, digital risk, and crisis communication.

AASA School Safety and Security Consultant and author of the best-selling book Education in a Violent World, Dr. Steve Webb will highlight the latest lessons learned from recent incidents of potential and realized violence and how technology and effective leadership continue to shape the future of 21st century school safety and security operations. As a board-certified Threat Assessment Specialist and retired Superintendent, Dr. Webb describes the mindset necessary to lead schools in the world today to help protect our students from the world of tomorrow.

During this workshop, you will:

- Enhance situational awareness
- Learn leadership qualities that drive an effective safety and security culture
- Explore tools and protocols you can implement immediately
- Learn alongside peers and experts leading safety efforts in districts

This experience is designed for leaders ready to shift from reaction to action, strengthen stakeholder confidence and ensure every student and staff member feels safe, supported and empowered to be part of the process.

Speaker:

Steve Webb, President, Safe Secure Systems, Goreville, IL

1 – 4PM

Strengthening Community Confidence: Turning National Research into District Action

Public confidence in K-12 education is declining even as many traditional performance measures improve. Superintendents are navigating a widening gap between what their districts do, measure, and communicate and what their communities expect—a gap that increasingly affects enrollment, funding, bond support, and staff retention.

This workshop unpacks the 2026 findings of the AASA ThoughtExchange National Research Initiative, the largest study of community confidence in American public education, and moves participants directly into application. Superintendents will explore what drives confidence among students, staff, families, and community members, examine real district results, and hear from leaders already applying the findings.

Participants will leave with:

- A clear understanding of the research-backed and emergent drivers of confidence across the staff, student, family, and community findings of the 2026 dataset
- Practical tools for benchmarking their own district against state and national peers
- A simple framework for applying proven practices from comparable districts toward strengthening community confidence in their own district context
- Real-life examples and experiences from districts already applying these findings
- A defined next step for engaging with the National Research Initiative, whether their district has already participated or is just getting started

This session is designed for superintendents and district leadership teams ready to move beyond reacting to public narrative and start shaping it, with real data from their own local communities.

Speakers:

Kristine Gilmore, Chief Leadership & Learning Officer, AASA

Dave MacLeod, CEO, ThoughtExchange

Tickets can be purchased during online registration for special events that require a fee. Space may be limited.

Wednesday, February 24

2PM – 5PM

AASA Bookstore

HALL C LOBBY

Stop by the Bookstore in Hall C Lobby, right outside the entrance to the NCE Exhibit Hall, for the latest education-related titles and AASA merchandise.



Thursday, February 25

6AM

Together We Stride

TICKETED EVENT: $10 FEE

AASA's NCE Together We Stride is a guided fitness opportunity, a chance for attendees to start the day with some morning miles and smiles. Join us as we start the day with a supported, no-drop 5k walk/run through Atlanta.

Note: As we continue to evolve the NCE fitness opportunities, we are moving away from a chipped/timed event and are happy to debut a guided fun run/walk event.

7AM – 3:30PM

AASA Bookstore

HALL C LOBBY

Stop by the Bookstore in Hall C Lobby, right outside the entrance to the NCE Exhibit Hall, for the latest education-related titles and AASA merchandise.

8 – 10AM

Special Contracts Session

TICKETED EVENT: $75

No part of a superintendent's working conditions is more important than the contract with the school board. Get an overview of key contract provisions for superintendent contracts and contract provisions to avoid. Participate in a discussion about who should negotiate a contract for a superintendent, how a superintendent can avoid being terminated and key provisions of severance agreements, should termination be necessary.

12 NOON – 1:30PM

Federal Relations Luncheon

TICKETED EVENT: $80

Join us for a lunch discussion on education policy, updates and news.

Sponsored by:

CENTEGIX

CONCURRENT EDUCATION SESSIONS

Thursday, February 25

5:30 – 6:30PM

Welcome Reception Honoring the National Superintendent of the Year® and State Superintendents of the Year Winners

Sponsored by:

corebridge financial

Sourcewell

Friday, February 26

7:30AM – 5PM

AASA Bookstore

HALL C LOBBY

Stop by the Bookstore in Hall C Lobby, right outside the entrance to the NCE Exhibit Hall, for the latest education-related titles and AASA merchandise.

11AM – 12 NOON

Blessings in a Backpack Stuffing

TICKETS NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT

Approximately 13 million children struggle with hunger on a regular basis. AASA and Sourcewell are proud to partner with Blessings in a Backpack (BIB) during the 2027 National Conference on Education to help provide food on weekends for elementary students who qualify for their school's free and reduced-price meal program.

Sponsored by:

Sourcewell

Visit them at Booth #508 in the NCE Exhibit Hall

Friday, February 26

12:15 – 2:15PM

Dr. Effie H. Jones Memorial Equity Luncheon

TICKETED EVENT: $80

The Dr. Effie H. Jones Memorial Equity Luncheon is an annual event at the National Conference on Education. It remembers Dr. Effie H. Jones, who was a teacher, counselor and school administrator for 15 years and served as an associate executive director at AASA, promoting the interests of minority educators and children.

Sponsored by:

IEI Institute for Education Innovation

Saturday, February 27

7:30AM – 12 NOON

AASA Bookstore

HALL C LOBBY

Stop by the Bookstore in Hall C Lobby, right outside the entrance to the NCE Exhibit Hall, for the latest education-related titles and AASA merchandise.

Connect with like-minded leaders and share strategies on hiring and retention, community engagement, finance, technology, operations, student success, school safety and so much more! Here is a sampling of sessions:

Attract, Hire, Retain and Reward the Best Employees

- A Quarter-Century of Superintendent Community: Supporting System Leaders in Networks
- Addressing Workload to Strengthen Special Education Teacher Recruitment and Retention
- Building Your Bench: A Superintendent's Blueprint for Growing Leaders from Within
- Built by Superintendents for Superintendents
- Cultivating a Culture that Attracts, Retains, and Elevates
- From Shortage to Strength: AI Tools That Recruit, Inspire, Retain, and Keep Great Educators
- From Staffing Crisis to Student Impact: Rethinking the Educator Workforce for Measurable Results
- Fully-Staffed by Design: A Hiring Season with Structure, Definition, and Cadence
- Growing the Superintendent Tree: Building a Leadership Culture That Develops Future School Leaders
- Reading the Signals: How Leaders Predict and Prevent Teacher Attrition
- Reimagining Principal Support: From Supervision to Instructional Leadership
- Retirement Strategies and Contract Considerations for School Superintendents
- Rise 360: Building Homegrown Educators Through a Learn Earn-and Return Pipeline
- Solve Your K12 Staff Shortage Puzzle
- Staffing Stability as a Special Education Compliance Strategy
- The Conversation Nobody's Having: A Superintendent's Guide to Knowing When to Stay & How to Move On
- The DNA of Top Teams: Using Behavioral Frameworks to Attract and Retain Premier Talent
- Unapologetic Leadership: The 10 Shifts Women Must Make to Lead with Authority
- Who's Talking to the Second-Shift Custodian? Building a Culture that Stays
- You Can't Retain Who You Don't Hear: Building Staff Trust Through Predictable Listening

Build Highly Engaged School, Family and Community Partnerships

- All In for Rural Students: School, Afterschool & Community Partnerships That Deliver
- Articulating a Positive Narrative: Protecting Good Teaching, Important Content and Inclusive Culture
- Authentic Engagement: How Effective Data and Civic Alliances Transform Districts
- Belief Lag and Enrollment Decline: A Trust-Centered Approach to Retaining and Reengaging Families
- Board Transitions: A Superintendent's Playbook for Leading Through Election Cycles, New Majorities
- Books, Babies, and Business: How Springfield Public Schools Mobilized a Community for Literacy
- Build Highly Engaged School, Family and Community Partnerships Transactional to Transformational
- By Choice: How Districts Are Earning Family Trust in a School Choice Era
- From Voices to Vision: Running a Community Design Day That Transforms Strategic Planning
- If You Don't Tell Your Story, Someone Else Will
- Leadership at its Best: The Superintendent Effect
- Leveraging Partnerships to Elevate Public Education's Impact
- Partners in Trust: The Essential Relationship Between Superintendents and Communication Leaders
- Partnership and Coalition to Navigate Challenges and Leverage Opportunities in Public Education
- Reclaiming Trust: How Districts Are Re-Engaging Families by Co-Creating New Public School Models
- Repairing the Foundation: Leadership Practices for Authentic Native Family and Community Engagement
- The Architecture of Trust: High-Leverage Moves for Authentic Community Partnership
- The ECCS Model: Student Voice from the Classroom to the Board Room
- The Promise in Action: Partnering for Public Trust
- Trust Isn't Enough: Closing the Public Confidence Gap
- Unlocking New Dollars: Using the Education Freedom Tax Credit for Afterschool
- What Builds Trust (and What Breaks It): Lessons from Three School Districts

Future-Ready Systems: Finance, Technology, and Operations

- A New Org Chart Won't Save You: What High-Performing Central Office Teams Do Differently
- Balancing Screentime Concerns
- Cybersecurity, AI...Oh My!!! What is a district leadership team to do?
- Leading the Stewardship of Financial and Chronemic Capital: A Framework for Superintendent Leaders
- Less Micromanaging, More Support: Reclaiming Central Office's Role
- Nightmare on Network Street: Surviving the Friday the 13th Ransomware Attack
- One Platform, Every Classroom: How Integrated, AI-Enabled Campus Systems Improve Learning, Safety and Operating Costs
- Perception Before Performance: PCSD's Revitalization Plan
- Prepare Your Team for the Bad Actors: Running a Cybersecurity Tabletop for Non-Tech Administrators
- Small Districts, Big Impact: AI Governance and Efficiency for Rural Schools
- Stop Renting, Start Building: How Superintendents Are Breaking Free from Big EdTech with AI
- Walkthroughs to Workforce Efficiency: Leveraging AI to Build Future-Ready School Systems



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Measure What Matters

- Beyond a Survey: Turning Student Voice into Systemwide Change
- Beyond the End-of-Year Test: A District Playbook for AI-Powered Assessment
- Bright Spots to Breakthroughs: Testing Actions with Little Data to Remove Barriers & Scale Success
- Designing a Future-Focused Life Ready Graduate System
- Designing for Early Success: Real Data and Student Outcomes
- From Data Overload to Hitting the Strategic Bullseye: How Districts Measure What Matters
- From Data to Action: A Superintendent's Approach to Using AI for Student Support
- From Vision to Evidence: Building Systems That Measure What Matters
- Implementing and Scaling Durable Skills: Lessons from Education Leaders
- Math, Unmuted: Hearing the Data That Standardized Tests Miss
- Measure What Matters: A District System for Resilience and Readiness
- Measuring What Matters: New Data on Durable Skill Development Through Experiential Learning
- Prove It: How Superintendents Use AI to Evaluate District ROI
- Successful Evaluation and Reporting of Students' Durable Skills
- The Feedback Gap: Scaling Reflective Teaching Practice to Every Teacher, Every Day
- The Missing Link Between Vision and Results: Building Districtwide Leadership Coherence
- The Skills That Predict Student Success (And Why We Keep Ignoring Them)
- The Transparency Transformation and the Future of District Accountability
- Voice as Evidence: San Diego Unified's Playbook for Whole-Child Wellness Accountability
- When Leaders Come Together, It Should Matter: Turning Human Connection into Real Impact for Children

Prioritize Student-Centered Learning

- Are Students Really Doing the Thinking? A Superintendent Conversation on Instruction
- Before You Buy: A Superintendent's Framework for Vetting Ed Tech and Navigating Screen Time Laws
- Beyond the District: How International Educational Exchange Shapes Local Leadership
- Coherent AI: Aligning Student Facing AI with District Strategy to Drive Student Outcomes
- Crayons to Careers
- Dethroning the Checklist: Using Student-Led AI to Animate Your Portrait of a Graduate
- Empowering Generation Alpha: Boosting Student Agency & Executive Function
- From AI Hype to Student Outcomes: Superintendent Playbooks for Measurable Learning Gains
- From School System to Learning Ecosystem: Flight Plan 2035 and the Future of Public Education
- From Student Voice to Stronger Governance: District Lessons in Shared Decision-Making
- Joyful Learning Through Play: Using DAP to Boost Engagement and Achievement
- Leading with Vision, Principles, and Outcomes in the Age of AI
- Phone-Free and Student-Powered: Research, Results, and the Case for Co-Creation in New Canaan
- Rethinking Screen Time in Classrooms
- The Freshman Experience Starts in Middle School: Three Districts Redefine High School Readiness
- The Future of Schools - The Future is Now!
- The UNbreakout: Trust First - Success starts with student well being. Well being starts with trust.
- Turning Promises Into Action With Students Leading the Way
- When Minutes Matter: Closing Literacy Gaps with Efficacy-Proven Solutions



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School Safety, Well-Being, and Mental Health

- Before the Headlines: Preventing the Crisis No District Thinks Will Happen
- Beyond the Nurse's Office: Reimagining Care for Students and Staff
- Beyond the Strategic Plan: Leading Student Wellbeing From Priority to Practice
- Humanizing the Role of the Superintendent: Leading with Courage, Resilience, and Authenticity
- Improving Attendance, Improving Student Outcomes: Lessons from Oregon's Attendance Initiative
- Leading for Belonging: Building the Competencies Leaders Need to Foster Resilient Communities
- Leading Like a Neighbor: Mr. Rogers and the Future of School Leadership
- Leading Through Crisis: Building Trust, Connection, and Effective Threat Assessment Systems
- Learning from Chaos: Practical Strategies for School Safety in the Wake of a Swatting Threat
- School Letters for Secure Firearm Storage
- School Safety, Well-Being and Leadership: It's all about Trusted Relationships with Heartware
- See Something, Support Someone: Peer-Led Safety Nets for Student Well-Being
- SET for Success: A Collaborative Framework for Shared Responsibility in District Safety
- Supporting Student Well-Being Through Focused Learning & Meaningful Connection
- The Double Standard: Building Mental Health Supports With the Same Rigor as Academics
- The Gifts of Imperfect Leadership: Cultivating a Culture of Play, Wellness, and Authenticity

The New Basics: Real Skills for Real Life

- All Means All: Making Career Pathways a Graduation Requirement for Every Student
- From Isolated to Interconnected: How Four Indiana Districts are Building WBL Together
- Future Focused Leadership: Pathways to Success for Every Student
- Moving Your Portrait of a Graduate from Aspiration to Action
- Pathways to Possibilities: Using Dual Enrollment to Disrupt Barriers to College Access
- Portrait of a Graduate 5.0: Putting Your Portrait into Practice
- Re-imagining CCL in Rural Communities: A Starting Point For & By School Leaders
- Real Work Readiness: Partnering With Industry, Higher Ed, and Community for Student Success
- Scaling Work-Based Learning: How Any District Can Drive Student Success
- Small District, Big Outcomes: Building Intentional College & Career Readiness in Rural Illinois
- The Blueprint for Future-Ready Systems: Integrating AI, Durable Skills, and Student Agency
- The Full Service High School: Truly Something for Everyone



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ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

Choose an interactive deep-dive on a specific topic to participate in during one-hour time slots. This format encourages group discussion in a relaxed environment. All presentations take place in the NCE Exhibit Hall in the designated Roundtable Area.

Attract, Hire, Retain and Reward the Best Employees

- A Great Staff Health and Wellness Program is the Answer to Your Recruitment and Retention Challenges
- AI Coaching That Keeps Great Teachers in the Classroom: Lessons from 3 Title I School Systems
- Attract, Hire, Retain and Reward the Best Employees
- Beyond Coaching: Building Learning-Focused Partnerships between Principals and Central Office
- Beyond the Job Description: Innovative Staffing and Flexible Work for Equity and Retention
- Beyond the Vacancy Crisis: Building Superintendent-Led Educator Workforce Pipelines That Last
- Building Teacher Success: Retention Strategies and New Teacher Program Alignment
- Care Is a Strategy: How Leadership Culture Attracts, Engages, and Retains Educators
- Cultivate and Compensate
- Educator Pathway Programs: Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Educators
- From Burnout to Belonging: How One School District Built a Culture of Courage
- From Burnout to Belonging: Strengthening Educator Retention Through Healthier School Environments
- From Burnout to Breakthrough: Teacher Choice, AI Coaching, and a Culture of Improvement
- From Childcare to Career Pathways: Building a Sustainable Educator Pipeline Through Before-and-After
- From Fragmented to Aligned: What High-Performing Leadership Teams Do Differently
- From Portrait of a Bee to Portrait of an Educator: Aligning Hiring Practices to District Vision
- Grow Your Own, the Right Way: Building a Stronger Teacher Pipeline
- Hiring for Success: How to Identify, Grow and Reward Your Best Staff
- How District and Building Culture Becomes Your Most Powerful Retention Strategy
- Human Capital Meets Fiscal Strategy: A Rural District's Blueprint for Workforce Success
- Invest in Who You Have: A Speed Learning Exchange Model for Leadership Development and Retention
- Keep One to Keep Many: What the Data Actually Says About Leadership and Teacher Retention
- Leading People to Excel
- Mentoring Outside the Lines: A Whole-Person Mentoring Model for Central Office Leaders
- Partnership, Preparation, and Pipelines: Growing Strategic Capacity to Grow Your Own Educators
- Personalized Professional Learning: A Workforce Strategy for Every Role
- Retention is the Result
- Strategies for Teacher Retention: Simple and Affordable Blueprint for All School Districts
- Strengthening the Educator Pipeline: Simulation and Coaching in Bibb County
- The KELI Effect: Developing Leaders, Strengthening Districts
- The Superintendent Reality Check: Aligning Leadership, Systems, and Student Needs
- Train. Lead. Win.: Building Leadership Pipelines That Grow and Retain Strong Leaders
- Why Teachers Stay in Rural Schools: School Culture & Leadership Practices

Build Highly Engaged School, Family and Community Partnerships

- Build Trust, Grow Enrollment: Student Recruitment That Works
- Building a Highly Engaged Ecosystem of Excellence
- Building Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success
- Building from the Community to the Boardroom to the Classroom for Student Achievement
- Building Trust and Visibility: Sharing the Promise and Power of Public Education
- Building Trust That Holds: Practical Strategies for Strong Superintendent-Board Relationships
- Community as a Strategy: Leveraging Partnership to Accelerate Student Success
- Community Engagement to Build Stronger Schools and Communities
- Compass and Blueprints: Keeping Strategic Plans and Culture & Climate from Sitting on a Shelf
- Connected By Design: Building Coherent Systems for Family and Community Engagement
- Connected for Impact: Building School-Community Partnerships That Strengthen Student Success
- Connecting Through Conflict: Navigating Tough Conversations
- Conscious Discipline - Creating a School Family: Leading with Safety, Connection, and Consistency
- Creating a Career-Connected Ecosystem: How Strategic Partnerships Transform Student Futures
- From Classroom to Community: How ASPIRE Gorham Builds Authentic Learning Through Radical Partnership
- From Controversy to Coherence: Rebuilding Trust Through Dignity and Belonging
- From Events to REAL Impact: How Superintendents Use Family Engagement to Improve Outcomes
- From Listening to Legitimacy: Essential Infrastructure for Community Trust
- Future Ready Systems: Leading Change Through Deeper Learning and Human Centered Design
- How an Entire Community is Creating a New Vision for School in the Bronx
- In Search of Community: Strategic Approaches to Building Engagement and Growing Enrollment
- It Starts with Pawsitive Beginnings
- It Takes More Than Schools: Co-Designing Early Literacy Solutions with Families and Communities
- Leading in Narrow Space: Building Trust When Consensus Is Small
- Leading in the Public Square: Trust, Politics, and the Modern Superintendency
- Leading Through Complexity: Lessons in Resilience, Inclusion, and Civic Education from Israel's Schools
- Level Up: Fixing the Communication Systems Frustrating Your Families
- Ready, Set, Build: Launching Successful School Design and Construction Projects
- Rethinking K-12: The Power of Community-Connected Transformation
- Shared Students, Shared Community: Leading an Inter-District Partnership for Collective Impact
- Shrinking Smarter: Leading Districts Through Enrollment Decline as the New Normal
- Stronger Together: Building a Districtwide Ecosystem of Family and Community Partnerships
- The Art of Master Planning
- The Blueprint for Belonging: Transforming Schools into Community Hubs
- The EdTech Leader's Change Management Playbook
- The Four-Day Window: Moving from Broadcast to Partnership for Cross-Sector Attendance Support
- What They Never Teach You About Being a Superintendent: Lessons Learned Beyond the Certificate
- When Independence Grows: Reimagining Family Engagement in Secondary Schools
- Where Belonging Begins: Building Strong Early Learning Partnerships

Future-Ready Systems: Finance, Technology, and Operations

Adaptive Governance for AI in K-12: Organizing for a Competency, Not a Tool

AI 101 to Student Empowerment: A Journey Toward an AI-Literate School Community

AI and the Modern Superintendent: Moving from Tool Adoption to Strategic Leadership Infrastructure

Beyond the Bot: Strategic AI Implementation for the Whole Child

Budgeting With Intention: Aligning Resources to Long-Term Goals

Building Virtual Learning Models That Work: A District Playbook

Cybersecurity for K–12 Leaders: How to Strengthen Systems and Protect Student Data

Designing With, Not For: How System Leaders Can Shape the EdTech Tools That Actually Work

Don't Fear the Future: Understanding the Ethics and Safety of AI Before It Hits Your District

From AI Tools to AI Teammates: Building Safe, Strategic Agentic AI Systems in K–12

From Policy to Practice: A Superintendent's Guide to Leading an Ethical and Efficient AI Journey

How District Leaders Build Capacity to Innovate and Scale What Works

How to Take That Book Inside Your Head and Get It Published

Leading for Healthier Schools: Practical Strategies for Cleaner Indoor Air and Better Outcomes

Moneyball Leadership: Leveraging AI to Drive Data-Based Decision Making

My Superintendent AI Teammates Have Grown Since Nashville!

Navigating the Road to Strategic AI Governance with National School Leaders

Small Schools, Smart Moves: AI Integration in Action

Strategic Resource Allocation: Budgeting to Reflect Your Priorities

The Open Adaptive District: An Operating Model for Running a District at AI Speed



Measure What Matters

American Public Education is Dying . . . and Only We Can Save It.

Belonging First. Everything Else Follows: A Proactive Approach to Student Success Initiatives

Beyond the Dashboard: Using Whole-Child Data to Drive Better Student Outcomes

Beyond the Framework: Real Lessons from a Successful High School MTSS Journey

Beyond the Plan: Unifying a District through Cohesive Metrics and Impactful Practice

Beyond the Scoreboard: Measuring Learning Experiences that Matter

Bridging Strategy & Stewardship: Using iMTSS and Academic ROI to Fund Student Success.

Building Collective Efficacy Across Educational and Operational Silos

Connected Kids, Closing Gaps: How Extracurricular Engagement Drives Academic and Behavioral Outcomes

Creating a Culture of Listening: Transforming Stakeholder Feedback Into Action

Diagnosis Before Prescription A Clinical Model for Measuring Instructional Intervention

Driving Sustained School Improvement: Impact of Diagnostic Reviews/Root Cause Analysis in JEFCOED-AL

Five-Week Reviews: A Superintendent's System for Follow-Through and Instructional Accountability

Friction That Builds Trust: Co-Creating an Accountability Dashboard With Your Community, Not For!

From Boardroom to Classroom: The Blueprint for Total District Alignment

From Compliance to Core: Operationalizing School Improvement through Leadership Academies.

From Contract to Classroom: How Outcomes Based Partnerships Drive Real Results for Students

From Data to Daily Action: A Scalable Model for Real-Time Instructional Impact

From Scramble to Strategy: Measuring What Matters in the Fight Against Chronic Absenteeism

From Silos to Systems: A District Leadership Model for Integrated Systems

From Vision to Action: Bringing the Strategic Plan to Life

From Vision to Victory: A Transformation Pathway Leading to Student Success

How to Destroy Trust in Public Education

Local Accountability: A Shared Vision Centered on the Student Experience

Measuring from 0% to 100%: A Strategy for Scaling Postsecondary Planning Districtwide

Measuring What Matters: Building District Systems That Sustain School Improvement

Measuring What Matters: Using Research to Drive Equity and Accelerate Student Outcomes

One Band, One Sound: Measuring Impact and Success through Strategic Alignment & Program Evaluation

Planning for Performance: Activating Data Through Systemic Accountability

Scheduling Students for Success: Using Calendar Flexibility to Improve Attendance

The Architects of Tomorrow: How K-12 Student Voice is Driving the Future of Education

Voices, Vision, and Values: Shaler Area's Strategic Planning Story

What We Got Wrong Before We Got It Right: Lessons in Leading Math Improvement

What's Your District's Operating System? Applying OKRs to Build Focus, Alignment, and Momentum

Wired to Learn Fast: Building a Comprehensive Data Ecosystem for Continuous Improvement

Prioritize Student-Centered Learning

AI as a Teammate: Building a Districtwide Roadmap for Lasting Integration

Aligning Vision and Instruction: A Systems Approach to Rigor and Relevance in Curriculum

All Kids Are Gen Ed Kids: Reframing Special Education for District Leadership

Beyond the Label: Leveraging Student Voice to Build Relationship-Driven, High-Expectation School System

Beyond the Workshop: Maximizing PD ROI Through Equity and Agency Coaching

BILDing the Future: Accelerating Innovation Through Personalized and Flexible Learning

Building a Culture of Shared Learning & Reflective Practice for Student Success

Building a Leadership Pipeline for Student-Centered Systems Change

Building a Leadership School: Embedding and Credentialing Durable Skills for Every Learner

Building Student-Centered AI & Data Literacy Pathways Across K-12

Centering Student Voice through Local and State Student Advisory Councils

Co-Designers, Not Bystanders: Hardwiring Improving Systems with Students, Staff & Leaders for Impact

Creating Student-Centered Learning Environments: One School District's Story

Designing Systems of Belonging: Why Student Outcomes Reflect System Design More Than Their Motivation

Designing the Future: An AI-Readiness Framework for Future-Ready School Systems

Every Student, Every Classroom: Superintendents Building Systems for Instructional Access

Every Student, Every Day: A District Blueprint for Solving Chronic Absenteeism

Finding the Way Back: How Middletown Aligned Leadership to Re-Engage At-Promise Youth

From Compliance to Agency: Student-Centered Learning Through Clarity and Collective Efficacy

From Vision to Practice: Turning Portraits of a Graduate into Student-Centered Implementation

Greenlighting Learning: How Purpose-Driven Design Builds Skills Generation Alpha Actually Needs

High Tech, Low Standards: New Data on Screens, AI, and the Collapse of Academic Rigor

High-Rigor, High-Agency, Real Results in Title I Schools

How Joyful Rigor Can Unlock Adolescent Literacy Across Your District

LAUNCH: Reimagining High School for Real-World Impact

Leading with Excellence: How District Leaders and Top Teachers Collaborate to Reduce Burnout

Move to Learn: How Intentional Movement Environments Transform Student Regulation, Focus & Engagement

Present, Engaged, and Thriving: The Power of a Wellness Culture in Schools

Rebel Period: A dynamic approach to meaningful advisory periods in high school

Rethinking the Middle School Experience: A Research-Driven Path to Student-Centered Learning

Screen Time without Sacrificing Efficacy: Implement and Invest with Intention

Simple Solutions to Stubborn School Problems

The Bottom Line on Green: Environmental Education as a Strategic Investment

What Happens When Students Lead Alongside the Superintendent?

When Instruction Becomes the Intervention: A District Strategy for Better Student Outcomes

School Safety, Well-Being, and Mental Health

A Comprehensive, Unified Approach to Next-Generation School Safety

A Regional Approach to Student Wellness: Mental Health, Crisis Response, and Re-Engagement

Beyond Crisis Response: Building Connected and Prevention-Focused School Systems

Beyond the School Day: SEL, Attendance, and Student Success

Beyond the Scoreboard: Mastering Safety Under the Friday Night Lights

Connection as Prevention for The Anxious Generation: A Superintendent's Playbook for the Age of AI

Course Correct: Navigating Today's Influences on Brain Health

Creating the Gold Standard for Culture, Climate and a Student-Centered High School

Crisis Communication for School Administrators

Cultivating Staff Engagement and Well-being via Intentional Structures that Support Staff Resilience

Culture Is a Nervous System

Enhancing Student Wellness at Scale: Partnerships, Access, and Student Voice

From Voice to Action: Reimagining Student Engagement for Safety and Well-Being

Homecourt Advantage: Building a Winning Wellness Ecosystem

Leading Beyond the Three Tiers: Modernizing MTSS to Bridge the Student Mental Health Gap

Leading in Ink

Leading with Core Values: Crisis, Criticism, and the Courage to Protect All Children

Middle School Engagement Reimagined: A Districtwide Model for Connection and Success

Operationalizing Leader Well-Being in Trauma-Informed District Systems & Emotional Intelligence

Peer-Led Programs That Work: Building Student Belonging Through Research

Planting the Seeds: Active Learning in Outdoor Spaces

Preparedness Without Harm: A Superintendent's Guide to Inclusive Active Threat Training

Protecting Our Schools, One Student at a Time

Removing Non-Academic Barriers to Student Success: Building a Student Wellness Ecosystem

Safer Schools by Design

Schools as the Cornerstone of Health and Wellness: Innovating and Leading to Meet Need

Strategies For Recovery and Beyond

The Language of Leadership: How Everyday Words Shape Culture, Connection, and Capacity

The Superintendent's Promise: Building Safer Schools Without Sacrificing Culture

You Can't Pour from an Empty Nervous System: Why Adult Regulation Is the Foundation of Safe Schools



The New Basics: Real Skills for Real Life

- A Stressed Brain Is a Blocked Brain: The Key to Strengthening Executive Function in the Classroom
- Balanced Wellness: A School Based Wellness Course for Every Child
- Beyond Graduation: Building Partnerships that Expand Postsecondary Pathways and Workforce Readiness
- Building Tomorrow's Workforce: Strategic Insights from Lamar CISD's CTE Center
- Career Connected & Life Ready: Because High School SHOULD Be About More
- District-Wide Strategies for Career-Connected Learning
- Earn While They Learn: Nabholz Teen Youth Apprenticeship Pathway from Classroom to Career
- From 9th Grade Transitions to Senior Internships: Embedding Skills Across the High School Experience
- From Add-On to Core: How One District Made Executive Function Real Skills for Real Life
- From Vision to Verification: Building Real-World Readiness for Every Learner
- Integrated Infrastructure & College/Career Readiness: A Systems-Based Approach for K-12
- Leaders of Their Own Learning: Building Student Independence Through Senior Expeditions
- Learning Like an Artist: Reimagining Schools for Connection, Creativity, and Belonging
- Life Discovery Interviews: Connecting Schools & Communities Through Real World Skills
- No Default Path: How Two DMV Districts Are Building Fulfilling Futures for Every Student
- Partnering for Pathways: Columbus City Schools' Blueprint for College & Career Connected Learning
- Reimagining High School Through Student-Led Enterprise
- So You Want a CCR System? Here's What Actually Worked
- STEM Starts with Wonder: Reimagining Learning Through Wonder Wednesday
- The 'New Basics'. Transcending Traditional Classroom Boundaries
- The New Basics: Turning Employer Needs into Student Competencies with AI
- The Next Generation Blueprint: Financial Literacy, Innovation and Career Exploration in Action
- Work That Pays & Careers That Last: The Story of the BK STEAM Center & How It's Spreading

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PLAN AHEAD TO EXPLORE THE NCE EXHIBIT HALL

Compare and demo the products your district needs over the next 1–3 years. Make appointments in advance — you can meet more suppliers in two days than over several months back at the office.

EXHIBIT HALL HOURS:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25
7:30AM – 3:15PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26
11AM – 2:30PM

Stop By These Key Destinations in the NCE Exhibit Hall:

Health and Wellness Center (Booth #1128)

- Recharge and relax in this special area of the hall dedicated to your well-being.

The Commons (Booth #728) (FORMERLY SOCIAL MEDIA LOUNGE)

- The Commons, brought to you by AASA, is your space to connect, learn, and engage with colleagues in an informal setting. Hear expert panels, enjoy interactive engagements, and discover support and resources for you and your district community.

Knowledge Exchange Theater (Booth #1646)

- Listen and learn with professional development sessions.

Coffee Breaks and Snack Breaks

- Relax, check back with the office and do some informal networking.

School of the Future (Booths #521 and #1214)

- Learn about out-of-the-box products and services offered by exhibiting companies.



THANK YOU NCE EXHIBITORS

Exhibitor list current as of October 9, 2026.

- 1GPA
- 7 Mindsets
- AASA The Commons
- ABM
- Abre
- Acellus
- Allegion
- Alpaca
- AlphaBEST Education
- American Fidelity
- AmTab
- Anatomage, Inc.
- Apollo After School
- Aramark Student Nutrition
- ArtCart: Quality Art Expertise, Endless Student Joy
- Audio Enhancement
- AVID Center
- Axis Communications
- Backpack Stuffing
- Becoming Your Best
- Blocksi
- BloomBoard
- Blue App
- BoardBook
- BootUp PD
- BrightBee
- BYU Independent Study
- Cambridge International
- Capturing Kids' Hearts
- Carroll Daniel
- Center For Bridging Cultures
- Center for Creative Leadership
- CENTER NOVA
- Champions® Before- and After-School Programs
- Channie's Visual Resources
- Chartwells
- ClassDojo
- ClassLink
- Classroom Champions
- CMTA, Inc.
- Colleague AI
- Columbia Southern University
- Conscious Discipline
- Consertus
- Cook Center For Human Connection
- Coryell Roofing
- Daktronics
- Dedicated School Staffing
- Defend Systems
- Digital Scoreboards
- District First
- DK Education Collaborative
- Durham School Services
- Duro-Last Roofing
- ECRA Group
- Edia
- Edmentum
- Edustaff
- EF Educational Tours
- Equature
- ERA
- Esports Integration
- ESS
- Evergreen Certifications
- Evolv Technology
- Exhibitor Lounge
- ExQ
- Facing History & Ourselves
- Family Leadership Inc
- Finalsite
- First Student Inc.
- FlexPoint Education
- Food & Beverage Seating
- Forrest T Jones
- Fortified
- FranklinCovey Education
- Frontline Education
- Gaggle
- Generation Faraday
- Glimpse Learning Library
- Global Educational Concepts
- GMC
- Grand Canyon University
- Guardian Sports
- Hanover Research
- Health & Wellness Center
- HES Facilities Management
- heyC AI
- Highland Electric Fleets
- HiNAIA: The AI Co-Teacher for Special Education
- HopSkipDrive
- Horace Mann
- iClass School Solutions
- Ignite Reading
- ImBlaze
- Immersivevision Technology, Inc.
- Infinite Campus
- Intelocate
- IXL Learning
- Just Right Reader
- Kaplan
- Kelly Education
- Kids First Education, LLC
- Knowledge Exchange Theater
- LATHAN-MCKEE ARCHITECTS
- LEAN Frog
- LinkIt!
- MagicSchool
- Magma Math
- Maia
- Marco
- Meteor Education
- MGT Impact Solutions
- Microsoft
- MoakCasey
- Modern Classrooms Project
- MUZO
- NABHOLZ
- NAPA Tools & Equipment/ Genuine Parts Company
- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- Navigate360
- NCE Sales Office
- New Leaders Inc.
- New Story
- neXus by SWC
- Nightlock Lockdown
- Nook Neighbourhood
- NoRedInk
- Omnilert
- Otus
- ParentSquare
- PathLink
- Paxton Patterson
- PBLWorks
- Pearl Education
- Pearson Virtual Schools
- Performance Services
- Pikmykid
- Poppin Jobs
- Possip
- PowerSchool
- PracticePlan
- Project Lead The Way
- Proximity Learning
- PTMA Financial Solutions
- Public Consulting Group
- QuickSecure
- Radon Training for School Districts
- Raptor Technologies
- RingPlan
- Riverside Technologies Inc. (RTI)
- Roundtable Sessions
- SafeDefend
- SafeGuard/IMMI
- SaferWatch
- School of the Future #1
- School of the Future #2
- School Spirit PR
- SchooLinks
- SchoolMint
- Securly, Inc.
- Service Center
- SFE- Southwest Foodservice Excellence
- Sibme AI
- Skyward
- Smart Mouth Pizza
- SmartLab
- Snap! Mobile
- Sodexo
- SolidProfessor
- Stowe
- Studer Education
- Summit K12
- SuperEval
- Target River
- TenCate
- The Blue Witch Read Along
- The Danielson Group
- The Mill Institute | Periscope
- The Neurodiversity Alliance
- The Quest Zone Afterschool Program
- Thinkverse
- TIPS - The Interlocal Purchasing System
- Toltech
- Touchstone Digital Solutions
- Tyler Technologies
- U.S. Department of State-BridgeUSA
- Uwill
- Vasco Translators
- Wall of Fame (Vitalsigns)
- Wayfinder
- Wilson Language Training
- Win Elements LLC
- Wyman
- YouScience
- Zen Educate

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