




2014 WASB LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 8, 2014 | **HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER - STEVENS POINT, WI**

Event Schedule in Complete Detail

EVENT HOME PAGE

LOCATION & REGISTRATION INFORMATION

[Event Home](#)

[More Info.](#)

Schedule At-A-Glance—Saturday, November 8, 2014

7:45 AM	REGISTRATION
8:15 AM	<p>WELCOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mike Blecha, WASB President</i>
8:30 AM	<p>PRIVATE VOUCHERS, INDEPENDENT CHARTERS AND THE “PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVANTAGE”</p> <p>The 2013-15 state budget expanded private school vouchers statewide, capping enrollment at 1,000 students, and created regional independent charters in the Milwaukee-Racine area. The governor and key legislative leaders want to lift the voucher enrollment cap. We'll explore the implications of voucher expansion for public schools as well as new evidence that suggests students in public schools governed by school boards outperform students in these alternatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Julie Mead, Educational Leadership Professor, UW-Madison</i>
9:35 AM	BREAK
9:45 AM	<p>A CLOSER LOOK AT THE HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS AND THE ROLE OF SCHOOL BOARDS REGARDING ACADEMIC STANDARDS, CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION</p> <p>Wisconsin adopted the Common Core State Standards in math and English language arts in 2010. Learn about the history and development of these standards, the concerns they are intended to address, and the ongoing role of school boards and local control in determining curriculum and instruction. Hear from our panelists about why various groups found the standards and the goals underlying them to be attractive. We'll look at where Common Core may be headed in Wisconsin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dennis Kostac, Math/Science Coordinator, Common Core Consultant, CESA 7</i> • <i>Jim Morgan, Vice President, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC), and President, WMC Foundation</i> • <i>John Hendricks, District Administrator, Sparta Area Schools</i>
10:50 AM	BREAK
11:00 AM	<p>KEY TRENDS AND CONDITIONS THAT WILL IMPACT STATE SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE LONG AND SHORT RANGE</p> <p>Wisconsin's population is aging, resulting in long-term trends that will have a tremendous impact on our state's schools. Meanwhile, pressing short-term conditions (transportation funding needs, growth in Medicaid spending, tax reforms and reductions, and a slowing of tax collections, etc.) could hamper the state's ability to support its public schools in the next state budget. Learn about how these trends and conditions make it more important than ever for school boards to forge strong relationships with the lawmakers who represent them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Todd Berry, President, Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance</i>
12:05 PM	LUNCH
1:00 PM	<p>THE 2015-17 STATE BUDGET—PREPARING FOR YOUR ADVOCACY ROLE</p> <p>Historically, the state budget bill has been the vehicle lawmakers have used to expand vouchers and independent charters and make other education changes. Critical issues affecting K-12 education and school funding will likely be decided as the two-year 2015-17 state budget is debated early next year. In this interactive session, you'll learn how the state budget process</p>

works and get expert tips on how to put your board in the best position to successfully advocate for the needs of your district and its schoolchildren.

- **Dan Rossmiller, Director, WASB Government Relations**
- **Christopher Kulow, Specialist, WASB Government Relations**

Special Guests

- **State Senator Luther Olsen (R-Ripon), Senate Education Committee Chair**
- **State Representative Steve Kestell (R-Elkhart Lake), Assembly Education Committee Chair**

2:05 PM

BREAK

2:15 PM

WHAT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SCHOOL REPORT CARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Wisconsin's public school report cards rank among the top picks by parents for the readability and usefulness, and also report every essential indicator identified by experts, according to a study by the Education Commission of the States. Nevertheless, some lawmakers want to change the report cards. Learn more about the state's existing report cards and school accountability system, the issues surrounding measuring school performance in a fair but transparent manner, and the controversies that, to date, have thwarted attempts to bring private voucher schools into the accountability system.

- **Dr. Bradley Carl, Associate Director for Policy, Value-Added Research Center, Wisconsin Center for Education Research, UW-Madison**
- **Laura Pinsonneault, Director, Office of Educational Accountability, Department of Public Instruction**

3:30 PM

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