

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FEB. 20 - 22 | LOUISVILLE

REGISTRATION INFO & CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



KSBA

KENTUCKY SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

Registration information

This year's conference registration fee is \$500 per board member or administrator, which includes admission to all general sessions, clinic sessions, trade show, Friday Networking Reception and Saturday Continental Breakfast. The fee does not include meals or preconference workshops. Tickets must be purchased for Saturday's lunch and/or Sunday's brunch by 5 p.m., Feb. 20.

Save \$50 per registration! Early bird registration for a discounted fee of \$450 per board member or administrator is available if registered by Jan. 23.

Each registrant should register for clinic sessions and preconference workshops (if applicable) during online registration. Sessions are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so plan on arriving early to secure a seat.

Cancellations for refunds must be received to training@ksba.org by Jan. 23. After this date, there is a cancellation fee of \$150 per registrant.

The cost for Friday's preconference is \$100. The cost for Saturday's lunch is \$45, and the cost of Sunday's brunch is \$35 – tickets must be purchased in advance. Extra tickets for Saturday's lunch are \$80 and extra tickets for Sunday's brunch are \$55. (Note: Lunch on Friday after the preconference is on your own. KSBA will communicate several options in or near the Galt House where attendees can purchase lunch.)

Register online

Registration for KSBA's 2026 Annual Conference is available at ksba.org/AnnualConference.aspx. Registrants can also access the link on KSBA website's home page (ksba.org).

Conference hotel information

KSBA has a block of rooms reserved at The Galt House. Rooms are \$160 (plus taxes/fees) for the West Tower and \$185 (plus taxes/fees) for the East Tower. **Members will receive the hotel registration link in their conference registration confirmation email.**

The deadline to reserve a room at the conference rate is Friday, Jan. 23 (or when the block sells out), so be sure to register for the conference as soon as possible.

Superintendents who plan to check in or out for their group should tell the hotel at the time reservations are made.

KSBA staff will monitor conference registration and hotel reservations in the room block in order to confirm that reservations are being used by registered conference participants. Keep in mind that if someone in the district reserves multiple hotel rooms at one time, rooms reserved for someone who is not yet registered for the conference may be subject to inquiry or cancellation by KSBA.

State-mandated topics

Training requirements for state-mandated topics changed in July 2024. New board members with less than two consecutive years of service are required to receive training in the topics of finance, ethics, superintendent evaluation and open meetings/open records. All board members seated after Jan. 1, 2015 are required to receive one hour of ethics training per year and one hour of open meetings/open records training at least once every four years. Members can earn their state-mandated hours during this year's Annual Conference with sessions on each topic offered during the conference, as well as during the preconference.

Sessions

All clinic sessions are open to all board members, regardless of experience, and all sessions qualify for Academy of Studies (A/S) general elective credit unless otherwise noted. (EILA credit pending approval.)

All clinic sessions are good for 1.25 hours of state-mandated board training credit. All general sessions are good for 1 hour of state-mandated board training credit.

If you have any questions about Annual Conference registration, contact training@ksba.org.

KSBA's 2026 Annual Conference Schedule

To help you make session selections during conference registration, and to plan for your conference weekend, use the schedule and session descriptions below. *Some conference details may be subject to change.*

Friday, Feb. 20

7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Registration desk open

8 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Exhibitor visitation

PC1**FIN 121 District policies and financial management**

Meets state-mandated finance training requirement

A/S level IV/V elective credit

Sound fiscal oversight is one of the most important responsibilities of a school board member. This practical, board-focused session walks you through nearly 40 policies that make up the Fiscal Management section of your school board policy manual – demystifying what they mean and why they matter to your role. Participants will gain a clear understanding of how these policies guide budgeting, financial controls and accountability, and how they connect to real-world board decisions. You will also learn how to ask the right, strategic questions of your chief financial officer to ensure transparency, compliance and responsible stewardship of public funds.

KSBA Training Cadre

PC2**Board members and school safety: A Kentucky Center for School Safety overview**

A/S Level IV/V elective credit

Kentucky Center for School Safety Training Coordinator Dan Orman will lead this session with timely information about critical concepts in school safety and security and the many offerings from the Center for School Safety. As a board member, you are tasked with asking essential questions and providing resources necessary to accomplish the critical objective of keeping everyone in your district safe and secure – every day – so they can do their jobs to the best of their abilities. During this interactive session, there will be ample time to ask questions and learn what you can do to help activate services in your district.

Dan Orman, training coordinator, Kentucky Center for School Safety

PC 3**Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding program roadshow**

Meets state-mandated finance training requirement

A/S level IV/V elective credit

This session, presented by the Kentucky Department of Education, will provide training on the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding program and tackle the main challenges associated with SEEK funding. The workshop features a presentation followed by an extensive Q&A session. Topics covered will include: an overview of the SEEK calculation and statutory requirements, attendance, transportation, taxes, nickels, assessments, descriptions of data used in the SEEK calculation (including methods of data collected and verification) and challenges of the SEEK system.

Chay Ritter, director, Jessi Carlton, data controller, Division of District Support, Kentucky Department of Education

PC4

AI in our schools: A deep dive

A/S level IV/V elective credit

Research shows more than 90% of secondary students are using artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT. Are your schools ready for the opportunities and challenges this presents? Join a national leader in AI education to explore important topics, including: time-saving applications for teachers and staff; learning enhancement opportunities for students; challenges AI brings to schools – cheating, data exposure, deepfakes; policy and procedure considerations; and the impact of AI on the workforce. You do not need to be a tech expert to benefit from this informative and engaging workshop.

Mark Henderson, director of digital initiatives, Missouri School Boards' Association

Noon – 1 p.m. Lunch on your own

1 – 2:30 p.m. Opening session

Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell

KSBA welcomes Kentucky's commissioner of agriculture to the conference stage to discuss the intersection of public education and agriculture. Just a few weeks ahead of Agriculture Education Week in Kentucky, Commissioner Jonathan Shell will highlight the programs and resources available to districts and the students they serve.

The opening session will also feature awards presentations and kickoff of KSBA's 90th anniversary.

3 – 4:15 p.m. Clinic Sessions A

A1

ETH 104 Ethical governance in a divisive era

Meets state-mandated ethics training requirement

A/S Level I required topic: Ethics

School board members must be at the forefront in respecting ethical boundaries. They must take ethical decisions and behavior seriously, removing any personal issues or political views from their agendas in order to address student needs. After all, they set a public example for all students to learn to make ethical choices, to think critically and to believe they can make a difference through their words and actions.

KSBA Training Cadre

A2

Carrying the banner: How school board members champion the brand

A/S level I required topic: Staff/media/community relations

School board members are the visible faces of their districts, shaping public perception with every interaction they have. This session explores how to be an authentic brand ambassador by building trust, fostering relationships and sharing a consistent message of pride in public education. Attendees will leave with practical strategies and examples to champion their district's brand with confidence and purpose.

Carla Kersey, career design and project strategist, Wilderness Education Project

A3

Beyond initiatives: Superintendents aligning leaders, systems and culture

Leaders often find themselves overwhelmed by fragmented initiatives that fail to move the needle for students. During this panel, Warren County Schools and Meade County Schools leaders will discuss how they are aligning culture and systems at every level to improve results. From graduation rates to equitable access, leaders are building systemic coherence, scaffolding leadership capacity and sustaining improvement cycles. Learn the practical processes, lessons and next steps that are transforming their districts for lasting impact.

Rob Clayton, superintendent, Warren County Schools, Mark Martin, superintendent, Meade County Schools

A4

Social Security and the Windfall Elimination Provision

The goal of this session is to raise awareness for school board members and administrators about the repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision and how that positively affects those approaching retirement and those employees who are retired and may be working in their districts. The session will also provide general information about Social Security and provide free tools to participants that can help answer future questions.

Brandi Martinez, retirement services manager, Kate Mathis, Kentucky state manager, American Fidelity

A5

Solving the school funding crunch: How to get up to 50% back on HVAC upgrades

A/S level II required topic: School facilities

Facing budget gaps? Learn how K-12 schools can use the Inflation Reduction Act to get up to 50% back on geothermal HVAC renovations or new construction. This session covers how to claim federal rebates for qualifying projects and includes a quick primer on geothermal HVAC technology.

Joe Ledford, business development, Chris Tyler, CEO, BHP/Thermal Equipment Sales, Patrick Richardson, superintendent, Pulaski County Schools

A6

Are schools ready for wearable AI? Promise, pitfalls and preparation

Wearable artificial intelligence (AI) – such as smart glasses, earbuds and watches – is coming to classrooms sooner than we think. This session explores how these tools can support learning and accessibility while raising new challenges about privacy, equity and academic integrity. Through

demonstrations, scenarios and practical strategies, participants will discover how to prepare their schools now for the promise and pitfalls of wearable AI.

Jason Griffith, chief information officer/director of federal programs, Bath County Schools

A7

Local opioid funds: Why it matters to districts and how funds can support students

A/S level III required topic: Student health & wellness

As a Commonwealth, Kentucky can support healthy communities where students can thrive. Because states came together to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for the opioid epidemic, each Kentucky county now has settlement funds to help repair the harm to our communities. This session will share how positive childhood experiences can counterbalance adverse childhood experiences, highlight data on opportunities for action to heal from the impacts of substance use and identify opportunities for prevention.

Hannah Edelen, director of policy and advocacy, Tara Grieshop-Goodwin, chief impact officer, Kentucky Youth Advocates

A8

Grouping, looping and student choice: Impacts of student-driven curriculum and instruction in a rural public school

A/S level III required topic: Curriculum and instruction

In a changing world, true K-12 gifted education can be a challenge to implement within the rural public school system. However, Union County Schools, in rural western Kentucky, has found a way to do just that, despite social and economic challenges. The district developed programming focused not only on student areas of identification but also on student interest and self-advocacy. This initiative contains a student-driven curriculum along with student/teacher looping. Union County's goal through this program is to teach students to harness their abilities to succeed in and contribute to our ever-changing world.

Abigail Wheaten, Brooke Morgan, gifted/talented teachers, Union County Schools

A9

From vision to reality: Essential construction insights for school boards

A/S level II required topic: School facilities

School construction projects require major investments and big decisions. This session gives board members and education leaders a clear roadmap for the early stages that determine long-term success. In this session, you will learn how to choose architects, engineers and construction firms, compare delivery methods and build the right team. Real Kentucky examples will help participants spot red flags, ask smarter questions and confidently lead their district's next build.

James Weddington, business development, Trace Creek Construction

A10

Leveraging data to predict student improvement and optimize academic support

A/S level I required topic: The board's role in student achievement

This interactive workshop combines an exploration of relevant data, research and an Adair County case study. District administrators and board members will engage in discussions on setting goals, identifying at-risk students and aligning additional supports with current district initiatives.

Jason Faulkner, superintendent, Adair County Schools

4:15 – 5:15 p.m. Networking reception

Saturday, Feb. 21

7:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. Registration desk open

7:45 – 8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast

8:30 – 10 a.m. Plenary session and annual business meeting

Legislative session ‘halftime report’

The timing of KSBA’s conference marks the halfway point of the 2026 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. KSBA Advocacy Team members will provide updates on key pieces of legislation and engage the audience with live interactive polling, gauging perceptions of school board members on prevailing education issues.

A portion of the plenary session will also serve as the association’s annual business meeting, KSBA President Pamela Morehead (Eminence Independent Schools) presiding. Four candidates for at-large seats on KSBA’s board of directors will be presented for a vote of acclamation by members in attendance.

10 – 11 a.m. Exhibitor visitation and beverage break

11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Clinic Sessions B

B1

AI in action: Practical tools for school leaders

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we work, learn and lead. See AI tools in action and explore how they can enhance decision-making, streamline communication and improve efficiency. Whether you are new to AI or looking to expand your resources, this session will provide real-world demonstrations and actionable takeaways to help you harness the power of AI effectively. Bring a device and be ready to explore!

Mark Henderson, director of digital initiatives, Missouri School Boards’ Association

B2

SBM 101 Leading effective meetings: A board’s guide to parliamentary procedure

A/S level II required course

Are your meetings disorganized and chaotic? This interactive session provides a basic understanding of “Robert’s Rules of Order” as well as the concepts of parliamentary procedures for school board meetings. Learn basic terms and motions and take part in an activity that will leave you with practical examples to keep your board meetings on track.

Davonna Page, Policy and eMeeting Services manager, Debra Webb, Board Team Development director, KSBA

B3

Proactive safety strategies in school design

A/S level II required topic: School facilities

Schools are places where students and educators need to feel safe, supported and ready to engage in learning. Today’s realities demand that safety planning go beyond proactive design strategies for school safety, highlighting approaches that weave safety into the very fabric of learning environments without compromising warmth and the sense of community that we desire for our students.

Brian Buckner, associate senior project architect, RossTarrant Architects

B4

Turning data into direction: Boards and superintendents leading change

Join superintendents from Barren County Schools, Graves County Schools and Hardin County Schools for a panel discussion. Panelists will share how they use stakeholder feedback and data tools to drive improvement. Learn how surveys, rounding and scorecards strengthen teaching and learning, enhance operations and build cultures that increase staff retention. Gain practical strategies to align resources, monitor progress and elevate the voices of employees, parents and students for lasting impact and improvement.

Terrie Morgan, superintendent, Hardin County Schools, Amy Irwin, superintendent, Barren County Schools, Mark Madding, superintendent, Graves County Schools

B5

10X: Scalable systems that drive academic and financial success

Over a 10-year period, Boyle County Schools implemented symbiotic systems connecting academics and finance that simultaneously improved its financial position and academic state ranking more than tenfold. This led to new investments in facilities and student programs, a top No. 4 state ranking on Kentucky Summative Assessment and significant gains in ACT and AP performance.

David Young, chief executive officer, David Morris, associate director, Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative

B6

See the story behind the numbers: Infinite campus data in action

A/S level I required topic: The board's role in student achievement

Discover how Infinite Campus tools such as the Early Warning Tool, Insights Data Visualizations and reports on chronic absenteeism and transient students can help schools identify challenges and support student success. This demonstration will show how Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and Multi-tiered Systems of Supports teams, administrators, school counselors, Family Resource and Youth Services Centers and student support teams can apply these tools to monitor attendance, behavior, course performance and stability factors. School board members, superintendents and administrators will gain awareness of these powerful resources and be prepared to take the information home to encourage effective use in supporting successful outcomes and improved student achievement.

Christina Watford, Judi Vanderhaar, Lisa Henry, Persistence to Graduation program consultants, Kentucky Department of Education

B7

Prevention is possible: Strategies for reducing violence in schools

A/S level II required topic: School safety & discipline

The Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs invites school board members to learn about evidence-based prevention strategies to reduce violence in Kentucky schools and among youth. We will discuss the impact of violence on students, factors that influence its prevalence and how school policies and programming can shape safer environments where students can thrive.

Loren Droege, director of Prevention & Public Education, James Scott, lead public education specialist, Ion Center for Violence and Prevention

B8

Emerging tech: Empowering facility teams to shift from reactive to proactive

A/S level II required topic: School facilities

Discover the cutting-edge cloud-hosted analytics and AI applications available today that can enhance your building operational costs. Explore real-world examples of these technologies in schools and learn how they empower facility teams to transition from reactive to proactive management.

Kurt Barrett, regional digital services leader, Trane

B9

Building a unified safety & security framework for school districts

School districts are investing in more safety tools than ever but disconnected systems can create gaps when seconds matter. This session gives board members a clear roadmap for unifying existing safety and security technologies across the district. Learn how to strengthen policy, improve communication flow and support more coordinated responses through an integrated approach designed for today's challenges.

Kevin Linden, director of Innovation and Technology, South Western Communications

B10

GOV 104 KSBA's eMeeting service: Its value to boards and SBDM councils

Effective school-level and district-level governance is critical! This interactive session highlights how the use of eMeeting and its related training is valuable to boards and school councils as they conduct important business. The session will also cover how to use eMeeting to avoid Open Meetings/Open Records Act violations.

KSBA Policy staff

12:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Luncheon session and student scholarship presentation

One Team, One Dream: Built to last
Rennie Curran

What does it take to build a team that doesn't just perform well for a season – but lasts for the long haul? In this inspiring and practical presentation, former professional football player, Rennie Curran challenges leaders to rethink teamwork, culture and purpose through the lens of unity and shared vision.

Drawing from real-world leadership experiences, *One Team, One Dream: Built to last* explores how high-performing teams are intentionally built on trust, accountability, and a commitment to something bigger than individual success. Participants will learn how to break down silos, align people around a common mission, and create systems and habits that sustain momentum even during times of change or challenge.

The luncheon will also include the presentation of KSBA's 2026 First Degree College Scholarships.

2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Clinic Sessions C

C1

Academic honesty in the age of AI

Explore how artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping traditional notions of cheating, examine real-world examples from K-12 classrooms and discuss how schools can adapt their policies, practices and conversations with students. Join us to share perspectives, ask tough questions and consider how to support both academic integrity and authentic learning in the age of AI.

Mark Henderson, director of digital initiatives, Missouri School Boards' Association

C2

ETH 105 Ethics and the school board meeting

Meets state-mandated ethics training requirements

A/S level I required topic: Ethics

Effective school board leadership often involves making ethical decisions. This session looks at board member roles and responsibilities, as well as best practices before, during and after the school board meeting.

KSBA Training Cadre

C3

FIN 121 Best practices for finance managers for communicating to boards

Counts toward state-mandated finance training requirements

A/S level III required topic: Finance

Effective financial oversight depends on clear, timely and transparent communication between finance managers and school boards. This session is designed for board members who want to better understand what *effective* financial communication looks like – and how to foster it. Participants will explore best practices finance managers should be using when presenting financial information to boards, including how complex data can be translated into clear, meaningful insights that support sound decision-making. The session highlights what board members should expect in financial reports, budget presentations, forecasts and discussions of risk, as well as how questions, timing and presentation style can strengthen board-administration collaboration.

KSBA Training Cadre

C4

Live well with KEHP LivingWell

Improve your well-being with the LivingWell program. Castlight provides a one-stop shop for everything Kentucky Employees' Health Plan (KEHP) members and those who have waived insurance need to stay well and informed. Do not miss this chance to dive into the LivingWell program and the KEHP vendor offerings, all while discovering the tools available to you to tackle your wellness goals and live well.

Carl Pickering, regional well-being coordinator, WebMD & KEHP

C5

Board leadership through facility innovation: Lessons from the IMPACT Center

A/S level II required topic: School facilities

Explore how the IMPACT Center for Leadership and Innovation connects community, sustainability and student success. This interactive session equips board members with tools to evaluate facility projects, ask the right questions and guide long-term planning. Participants will leave with practical strategies they can apply immediately in their districts.

Kenny Stanfield, principal, Jennifer Cash, principal, Sherman Carter Barnhart Architects, Chris McIntyre, chief financial officer/chief operating officer, Warren County Schools

C6

Values into action: Boards and superintendents building cultures of excellence

A/S level II required topic: Board & superintendent relations

When school boards and superintendents work together to embed service excellence into daily practice, districts see stronger cultures, engaged staff and improved outcomes. This panel from Campbellsville Independent and Russellville Independent schools brings together two superintendents who, alongside their boards, are building service-centered districts anchored in core values and reinforced through actions of excellence. It is not simply about improving customer service, it is about aligning behaviors and operational practices.

Kirby Smith, superintendent, Campbellsville Independent Schools, Kyle Estes, superintendent, Russellville Independent Schools

C7

SBM 102 Maximize your meetings: Policy, practice and public perception – Part 1

A/S level I required topic: School board meetings

Do you want to maximize your school board meetings and foster public trust in the effective governance of your district? In this interactive two-part session, experienced KSBA staff will review key statutory requirements of school board meetings and offer best practices for effective communications before, during and after meetings. From preparing for a potentially contentious meeting to understanding the ins and outs of agendas, this session will answer many frequently asked questions.

Josh Shoulta, associate executive director, Davonna Page, Policy and eMeetings Services manager, John Powell, staff attorney, KSBA

2:30 – 5:30 p.m. (Three-hour sessions)

C8/D8

Don't be left behind: What boards need to know about artificial intelligence

A/S level IV/V elective credit

This session will provide board members with a clear, practical overview of how artificial intelligence (AI) is being used in Kentucky schools and beyond. We will explore specific applications that impact student learning, such as personalized instruction, tutoring platforms and tools that help teachers save time on grading and lesson planning. We will also highlight how AI can improve support services, from predictive analytics that flag student needs early to technology that enhances communication with families.

Darrell Witten, board member, Grayson County Schools

C9/D9

Transforming district facilities through leveraging creative funding sources

A/S level IV/V elective

Learn how Superintendent Ryan Clark and the team at Bardstown Independent Schools have transformed the district's facilities and ultimately the education of their students. To accomplish this, the district used traditional and non-traditional funding sources to achieve its goals.

Ryan Clark, superintendent, Bardstown Independent Schools, Andrew Survant, project manager, Tim Hockensmith, director of client relations, CMTA, Inc.

C10/D10

LDR 100 Exemplary leadership strategies for school board members

A/S level IV required topic: Exemplary leadership strategies

This session is designed to equip school board members with practical, proven leadership strategies that strengthen board effectiveness and improve outcomes for students and communities. Participants will explore the core responsibilities of exemplary board leadership,

including setting a clear vision, establishing strong governance practices and maintaining a productive partnership with the superintendent. Through real-world examples and guided discussion, board members will learn how to lead ethically, make informed decisions and navigate complex challenges while keeping student success at the center of every action. The course emphasizes collaborative leadership, effective communication and accountability, helping board members build trust with fellow board members, staff and the public.

Becky Burgett, KSBA Training Cadre

4 – 5:15 p.m. Clinic Sessions D

D1

OMR 100 Open meetings/open records training

*Meets state-mandated open meetings/open records training requirement
A/S level III required topic: Legal issues*

Legislation passed in 2024 requires all school board members to receive one hour of open meetings/open records training. The presenter will review key provisions of Kentucky's Open Meetings Act and Open Records Act. What do the laws require and what do they really mean? This session will also review best practices to help board members avoid pitfalls and gray areas. Attendees will also learn how districts can properly and efficiently respond to open records requests.

John Powell, staff attorney, KSBA

D2

Empowering tomorrow's workforce with leadership, skills and opportunities

Looking for a way to better engage your students, connect them with their community and prepare them for success after high school? Come learn how you can bring a Jobs for America's Graduates Kentucky program to your school, with grant funding available. This impactful program supports students with the highest needs, giving them skills, direction and purpose for a successful future in college, careers or the military.

Jason Miner, senior vice president for programs, George Stafford, president, JAG KY

D3

What to expect when you're expecting: School construction

A/S level II required topic: School facilities

A crash course in school construction. This session will introduce board members to the District Facility Planning process as both a roadmap and a funding tool. It will also discuss what to consider when hiring a design and construction team, how to set project goals and budgets, discuss the realities of construction cost, schedule, change orders and project contingencies and highlight the positives of completing a project.

Bradley Beatty, associate AIA, ClotfelterSamokar Architects

D4

10 questions for board members to ask about reunification after the emergency

A/S level II required topic: School safety and discipline

Parent-student reunification is one of the most frequently ignored or underdeveloped aspects of school emergency planning, yet a poorly developed reunification plan has the potential to become an enormous source of chaos in the aftermath of a school crisis.

As a board member, you are tasked with asking questions and providing resources necessary to accomplish the critical job of keeping everyone in your district safe and secure – every day – so they can do their jobs to the best of their abilities. Having an effective reunification plan is certainly worth the time and effort required. In this session, learn about issues surrounding reunification of students and school personnel after an emergency. Whether it's a gas leak, a damaging storm or a shooting, effective reunification can be the tipping point for getting back to normal and beginning the healing process.

Dan Orman, training coordinator, Kentucky Center for School Safety

D5

GOV 103 Be prepared: If your superintendent left, would you know how to fill the job?

A/S level II required topic: Superintendent selection

At some point, most board members are faced with a superintendent vacancy. Hiring a district CEO is one of the most important roles of a school board, but it can be daunting to carry out. This session provides practical insight boards should know before filling the top job, including statutes and regulations, basic elements, timelines and considerations in undertaking a search and developing a contract.

Don Martin, field consultant, KSBA Superintendent Search Service

D6

Key financial performance measures for Kentucky schools

Counts toward state-mandated finance training requirements

A/S level III required topic: Finance

In this session, we will take an in-depth look at key financial metrics for schools to help determine the financial health of your district. This will include observing financial trends, peer analysis and impact on future bonding capacity.

Michael Oldiges, senior vice president, Public Finance, Matt Robbins, business development, RW Baird

D7

SBM 103 Maximize your meetings: Policy, practice and public perception – Part 2

A/S level I required topic: School board meetings

Part 2 of two-part session - Do you want to maximize your school board meetings and foster public trust in the effective governance of your district? In this interactive session, experienced KSBA staff will review key statutory requirements of school board meetings and offer best practices for effective communications before, during and after meetings. From preparing for a

potentially contentious meeting to understanding the ins and outs of agendas, this session will answer many frequently asked questions.

Davonna Page, Policy and eMeeting Services manager, John Powell, staff attorney, Josh Shoulta, associate executive director, KSBA

Sunday, Feb. 22

7:30 – 8 a.m. Student-led devotional

8 a.m. – Noon Registration desk open

8:30 – 10:15 a.m. Brunch session

Audacious optimism: The mindful choice to live boldly and create endless possibilities **Shanna Adamic**

What if optimism wasn't something you felt – but a bold decision you made? In this energizing and uplifting presentation, former Kansas City Chiefs cheerleader, Shanna Adamic invites audiences to embrace audacious optimism: the intentional, sometimes “mindless” choice to believe bigger, live braver and move forward even when certainty is out of reach.

Drawing from her experiences as a professional cheerleader and survivor of a life-threatening tumor, Adamic challenges the limits we place on ourselves and reframes fear, failure and doubt as gateways to growth. With authenticity, humor and powerful storytelling, she shows how optimism – when paired with action – can unlock confidence, resilience and endless possibilities.

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. Clinic Sessions E

E1

ETH 109 School leaders and social media: Engaging for positives, handling the negatives

Meets state-mandated ethics training requirement
A/S level I required topic: Ethics

School and district leaders have a greater ability to connect with students, parents, staff and other stakeholders thanks to the growing use of social media platforms such as Facebook and X, formerly Twitter. But social media outlets carry their own sets of challenges, especially on the ethical management of district and personal use. This course introduces school board members to the basics of social media, ethical problems and opportunities for leaders and their districts.

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E2

LDR 101 Leadership through teamwork

A/S level III required topic: Leadership through teamwork

In this session, participants will explore what it means to govern as a team while honoring diverse perspectives and responsibilities. Board members will learn practical strategies for effective communication, shared decision-making and constructive conflict resolution, all within the

context of public school governance. The session emphasizes how teamwork between board members, the superintendent and district leadership leads to clearer direction, stronger community confidence and better outcomes for students.

Becky Burgett, KSBA Training Cadre

E3

The pros and cons of passing a recallable nickel

Counts toward state-mandated finance training requirements

A/S level III required topic: Finance

This session will provide an overview of the process for approving and levying a recallable nickel tax. Participants will review the relevant statutes and required steps, as well as additional actions that may be recommended. The discussion will also cover the funding options available when levying the recallable nickel and examine the potential impacts – both positive and negative – on a district's general fund and restricted funds.

Dwight Salsbury, managing director, David Gillam, business development, RSA Advisors

E4

We are all on duty – The sequel

A/S level II required topic: School safety

School security is a topic that is on everyone's radar as mass acts of violence continue to spearhead the news cycle. What do we need to do to keep everyone safe? What warning signs do we need to recognize? What are the potential pitfalls that we need to avoid? In this session, we will discuss the answers to these questions and more as we explore the power of building relationships, the need to train students and staff on how to report concerns and the crucial role behavioral threat assessment plays in school safety.

Chele Gillon, Lori Downs, consultants, Kentucky Center for School Safety

Questions about KSBA's 2026 Annual Conference may be directed to training@ksba.org.