

Discussing the Investment for Your District

The IASB • IASA • IASBO Joint Annual Conference, is an exclusive training and networking event for Illinois school board members, superintendents, and business officials. The event offers a unique array of opportunities for focused learning and professional development that are tailored to support your school leadership journey. These opportunities are not to be missed, as they are designed to equip you with the skills and knowledge necessary for your role.

Before registering, it is important to understand and be able to explain (to the community) the value and benefits the Conference provides for you as a school leader and as an investment for the district and its students. School board members are encouraged to use the following points to be proactive in discussing Conference attendance within the district and community.

- A cornerstone for successful school districts is sound leadership. The Joint Annual Conference provides training on local governance best practices that foster well-run schools and lead to better educational outcomes for students. These successful practices also increase accountability and transparency of school district decisions, leading to a more engaged community.
- This Conference is not just an event, but an investment for the district and the community. It offers more than 100 panel sessions that provide real and tested solutions working in schools across the state. These sessions cover topics ranging from school finance, community engagement, and educational equity to safety and security, collective bargaining, and student learning. Your participation in these sessions will bring tangible benefits to your district and community.
- The Conference is not only a platform for learning but also a hub for connecting with public education experts and high-performing school leadership teams. Attendees share knowledge, resources, and tools that create educational opportunities for all students. This event provides the ideal setting for school leaders to network with peers facing similar challenges, fostering a sense of community and shared success. You will leave the conference feeling more connected and part of a larger network of dedicated professionals.
- As with other elected offices and professions, ongoing professional development for school board members is critical for their success. Regulations and laws change, challenges are bound to occur, and new issues need to be addressed. To that end, the Conference provides current and Illinois-centric training to school board members.
- In addition to educating students, being responsible with taxpayer dollars is important for school districts. Where the day-to-day education of students falls to teachers, administrators, and other educational support staff, the school board carries the fiscal responsibility for the district. Conference presenters and resources emphasize fiscally responsible principles for managing school budgets and getting the best return on investment for community taxpayers. Panel sessions provide insight and advice about budgeting techniques, while others share tips about how to access additional school dollars through grants and other state and federal programs.
- As one of the largest public education-focused conferences in the country, the Joint Annual Conference is an excellent value for school districts. It is one of the few training opportunities available for school leadership teams, and it is right here in Illinois.