IASB Illinois Association of School Boards

Lighting the Way to Excellence in School Governance

# Annual Report FY2026

JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026

IASB Illinois Association of School Boards

Lighting the Way to Excellence in School Governance

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**www.iasb.com**

**The vision of the Illinois Association of School Boards is excellence in local school board governance supporting quality public education.**

The mission of the Illinois Association of School Boards is to *Light the Way* for its members by developing their competence and confidence through a robust toolkit designed to build excellence in local school board governance, including:

- Premier training experiences;
- Networking opportunities for mutual support;
- Valuable benefits, pooled services, information, and expertise;
- Advocacy on behalf of public education; and
- A platform for a strong collective voice on common interests and concerns.

# From the Executive Director



At IASB, our vision is excellence in local school board governance and support of quality public education. This Annual Report highlights work to accomplish that in the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026 (FY2026). Our mission focuses on the needs of local boards of education that rely on Association resources and support to effectively lead their local schools and champion public education and the success of every child.

My role as Executive Director is to lead staff in work aligned with the Association's vision and mission and to fulfill IASB's Strategic Areas of Focus. Efforts during FY2026 centered on strengthening member relationships through in-district touchpoints, elevating member advocacy to impact public education, and leveraging technology to drive productivity and improve service to members. You can find highlights of these initiatives and other member services on the following pages.

Local school board governance is vital to the success of our public schools. Thank you for the important work you do — as volunteer officials in your communities — for the students your schools educate!



Kimberly A. Small, J.D.
Executive Director

## MEMBERSHIP

as of June 30, 2026

849 Member School Districts
100% Membership

5,894 Board Members

228 School Attorneys (ICSA)

73 Service Associates

87 Affiliate Members

16 Honorary Members

4 Associate Members

# FY2026 in Review

## In-District Touchpoints

*Strengthening member relationships, increasing participation, and enhancing IASB impact.*

**Division Meetings** – IASB refined outreach efforts to enhance participation in Division Meetings. FY2026 Division Meeting attendance increased by 2% in the fall and 6% in the spring, and district representation at Division Meetings increased by 3%. IASB staff attend Division Meetings to share expertise and knowledge with members. Additionally, staff attended 22 regional meetings of the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) to engage superintendents.

**Outreach to Unengaged Members** – IASB implemented targeted outreach strategies to encourage participation in board development activities and discussions from districts across the state. This led to 40 previously unengaged districts receiving tailored training via in-district workshops.

**Broaden Online Communities** – To foster a more inclusive and collaborative online environment, a space for all school board members to connect was launched in the IASB Community. Board members found




support and connection with members across the state through 804 discussion posts and 343 unique contributors.

**Develop a Membership-Driven Five-Year Strategic Plan** – IASB created an initiative to establish a strategic direction that focuses efforts statewide on improving district governance and ultimately student outcomes based on member needs. Insights were gathered through a statewide membership survey with 11% of board members responding, an environmental assessment with education leaders, and focus groups in all 21 divisions. That data was synthesized and prioritized with the help of board members and staff to determine the next strategic plan.



# Advocacy

*Elevating member engagement toward advocacy to impact public K-12 education policy and legislation.*

**Fortify Local Advocacy Efforts** – The IASB Advocacy Ambassador Program continues to grow with 182 ambassadors currently participating. IASB conducted seven virtual update meetings to keep this interested group up to date on the latest legislative developments.

**Enhance Legislative Engagement** – IASB facilitated direct interactions between school board members and members of the U.S. Congress and Illinois General Assembly. IASB Advocacy Day was held on March 24, 2026, in Springfield with 71 board members attending. IASB staff prepared members to share their local district stories through three workshops in advance of the event. Additionally, members were equipped with talking points and fact sheets to share with legislators.


Fact Sheet

IASB

Curricular Mandate Reform

Issue & Background

Curricular Mandates Introduced – 2026 Spring Session

House Bills

Senate Bills

Concerns

Impact on Students

Impact on Teachers

Impact on Schools

Proposed Solution



With IASB guidance, 17 school board members worked to capture data and stories of the students in their districts before arriving in Washington, D.C. for the Federal Advocacy Day, September 9, 2025. In the spring, working with the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA), IASB was successful at passing the first new advocacy tenet to support school boards nationwide in their work to improve student outcomes using data-driven goals.

**Delegate Assembly Education & Participation** – Communication to members was designed to enhance knowledge, effectively designate delegates from their local boards, and engage in state and federal policy discussions and Association-wide decision-making. Ten amendments to the IASB Constitution were presented to and approved by members at the IASB Delegate Assembly. There were 444 delegates voting on behalf of their boards.



# Technology-Driven Efficiency

*Improving business operations by leveraging technology to increase efficiency, reduce manual work, enhance productivity, and drive informed decision-making and legislation.*

**Optimize Technology Systems** – Internal systems and software upgrades to improve operational efficiency included accounting software, a data analytics platform, and an event management platform for award nominations and presentation proposals. For members, policy subscription service platforms were upgraded to improve efficiency and service delivery to PRESS, PRESS Plus, and School Board Policies Online subscribers. A new event portal was implemented for Conference exhibitors, sponsors, and speakers. All Conference attendees will experience the new system at the 2026 Joint Annual Conference during badge pickup and when using the event app.

**Enhance Technology Utilization** – Staff training and professional development were conducted to effectively integrate technology into Association programs and services. IASB created an internal AI policy and training plan to guide the appropriate use of generative AI tools by staff.

**Implement Data-Driven Decision Making** – New technology allows IASB to monitor member engagement to inform strategic decision-making.



# Awards & Recognition

Congratulations to board members earning Board Leader Recognition at the following levels:

**Established** BOARD LEADER
898

**Distinguished** BOARD LEADER
267

**Legacy** BOARD LEADER
58

Additionally, IASB recognized **42 school boards for achieving School Board Governance Recognition** and **25 districts were recognized for outstanding school design and planning** through the Exhibition of Educational Environments program.

# More Services and Resources to Support Members

*Highlighting additional services and resources to support school board member confidence and competence:*

**Policy Services** – Almost all members subscribe to PRESS Online, the foundational service for sample policies, exhibits, and procedures, plus the legal rationale and legal references supporting them. PRESS Plus, the customized, full-maintenance service, supports 67% of members.

**Superintendent Searches** – IASB facilitated 18 superintendent searches in Illinois. Among districts hiring an outside firm to conduct a search, IASB conducted 42% of the searches, offering services at a significant savings as a member benefit, compared to competitors.

**Training** – New school board member training, following the April 2025 election, continued with online courses to meet the state-mandated training requirements, plus core governance essentials. Three "Super Saturday" in-person training events for those newer in the role were delivered to 190 participants in Naperville, Peoria, and Collinsville.

**Equity Services** – IASB continues to initiate, advocate for, and support efforts to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion within IASB's workplace, workforce, and member community. IASB received high attendee satisfaction ratings for Joint Annual Conference equity programming. A


















new in-district workshop was launched, offering boards tools and systems to support all learners. *Doing Right By All Students* explores educational equity utilizing data to guide decision-making and foster meaningful engagement with community stakeholders to strengthen trust and make informed choices that serve every student.

**Information Resources** – Publications, available in both digital and print formats, assist school board members with increasing their knowledge base and staying up to date on changes and trends in education. This fiscal year, IASB released new print and digital versions of the *Illinois School Law Survey*, a revised edition of *The Effective School Board Member*, six issues of *Illinois School Board Journal*, 23 *Inside IASB* podcast episodes, 133 news articles, and more. Members were introduced to a new monthly IASB Update e-newsletter to stay informed about Association news, upcoming webinars and events, resource updates, available services, and more.

**Sponsored Programs** – Members have access to programs designed to save school districts money or ensure competitive pricing. Sponsored programs include

- Beacon cleaning and disinfection;
- Mid-West Truckers Association drug and alcohol testing;
- Illinois Energy Consortium powered by Future Green energy; purchasing and renewable energy;
- Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus financial; investment pool;
- Munetrix and SchoolData.net financial tools;
- Illinois Schools Employee Benefits Consortium and Metropolitan Schools Employee Benefits Program group health insurance;
- Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Trust (WCSIT) and Illinois School District Agency (ISDA) insurance pools;
- BuyBoard national purchasing cooperative;
- SchoolGuard® safety app;
- LBL Strategies strategic planning and consulting;
- p-Card streamlined purchasing;
- SuperEval® education leadership evaluations;
- and NSN Employer Services for unemployment claims services.

# Financial Report

*The Association achieved 100% member retention in FY2026 with 849 school boards renewing annual membership.*

## Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2026

| ASSETS | |
|---|---|
| Cash and investments | $22,854,050 |
| Accounts receivable | 221,742 |
| Prepaid expenses | 368,802 |
| Inventories | 61,258 |
| **Total current assets** | **23,505,852** |
| | |
| Property and equipment | |
| Cost | 8,191,672 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (5,467,288) |
| **Net property and equipment** | **2,724,384** |
| | |
| Other asset | |
| **Right-to-use lease asset** | **420,171** |
| | |
| **Total assets** | **$26,650,407** |

| LIABILITIES | |
|---|---|
| Accounts payable | $211,285 |
| Accrued payroll and other costs | 278,797 |
| Member lodging deposits | 758,400 |
| Dues and other income received in advance | 8,132,516 |
| Current portion of operating lease liability | 292,390 |
| **Total current liabilities** | **9,673,388** |
| | |
| Long-term liability | |
| Operating lease liability, less current | 145,015 |
| | |
| **Total Liabilities** | **9,818,403** |
| | |
| **Net assets, unrestricted** | **16,832,004** |
| | |
| **Total liabilities and net assets** | **$26,650,407** |

## Statement of Activities

For the year ended June 30, 2026

| INCOME | |
|---|---|
| Dues - Active members | $4,498,053 |
| Dues - Other memberships | 105,970 |
| Programs | |
| Annual Conference | 3,687,097 |
| Division Meetings | 82,026 |
| Workshops | 412,461 |
| Publications | 98,007 |
| Special services | 4,039,018 |
| Interest & dividends | 644,926 |
| Royalties | 1,065,888 |
| Sponsorships | 194,805 |
| Other income | 158,901 |
| Realized gain (loss) on investments | 49,220 |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on investments | 855,100 |
| **Total income** | **15,891,472** |

| EXPENSES | |
|---|---|
| Salaries | 5,739,734 |
| Employee benefits | 3,046,976 |
| Travel and professional development | 158,263 |
| Board of Directors | 243,359 |
| Office rent, maintenance, and utilities | 569,504 |
| Postage | 27,766 |
| Supplies | 77,479 |
| Printing | 9,970 |
| Accounting and audit | 20,266 |
| Equipment maintenance | 9,943 |
| Equipment rental | 33,462 |
| Insurance | 95,438 |
| Contractual services | 618,041 |
| Other administrative | 193,362 |
| Programs | |
| Annual Conference | 1,450,126 |
| Division Meetings | 116,974 |
| Workshops | 604,862 |
| Publications | 150,418 |
| Special services | 1,524,581 |
| National dues | 76,400 |
| Provision for depreciation | 252,556 |
| **Total Expenses** | **15,019,480** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS** | **$871,992** |

| **NET ASSETS, unrestricted** | |
|---|---|
| **Balance as of June 30, 2025** | **$15,960,012** |
| **Balance as of June 30, 2026** | **$16,832,004** |

## Expenditures

58.5% Personnel

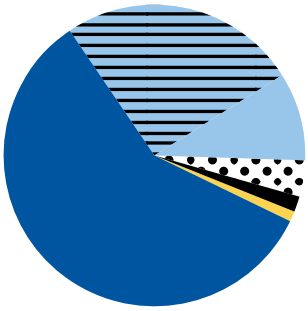
25.6% Programs

9.4% All other

3.8% Office rent / building

1.6% Board of Directors

1.1% Travel



## Revenue

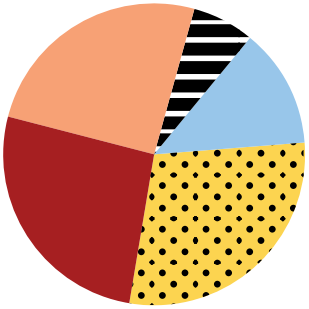
29.0% Member dues

26.3% Conference and programs

25.4% Special services

6.7% Royalties

12.6% All other





**IASB Staff**

# Joint Annual Conference Facts & Figures

*School leaders, officials, and educators gathered in Chicago November 21-23, 2025, for the 92nd Annual Conference to Light the Way for Illinois public schools through learning and collaboration.*

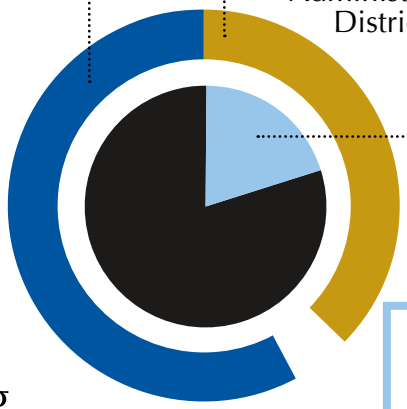
**86%** District Participation



Registrants from **730** of Illinois' **849** Public School Districts

**3,123** Board Members

**1,995** Administrators and District Staff



**5,394** Registered Attendees

**1,101** First-Time Attendees

**325+** Presenters

**3** General Sessions

**120+** Panels

**3** Days of Programming

**2** Spotlight Sessions

**14** Workshops

**Sold-Out** Exhibit Show

**245** Companies (286 Booths)

**36%** Exhibiting 10+ years

**51** First-Time Exhibitors



Downtown Chicago

3 Venues for Programming and 10 Hotel Blocks

TOPICS COVERED:

- ✓ Student Achievement
- ✓ Funding and Finance
- ✓ Legislation
- ✓ Legal Updates
- ✓ Rural Districts
- ✓ Large Districts
- ✓ Governance Best Practices
- ✓ Education Equity
- ✓ Social Emotional Health
- ✓ Crisis Management
- ✓ Technology
- ✓ And more!

**23** Sponsoring Companies

INDUSTRIES REPRESENTED:

- Administrative data and operations software
- Architecture and engineering
- Athletic and playground equipment
- Bus and transportation services
- Energy solutions
- Food service operations
- Curriculum tools
- Safety and security programs
- And more!

# IASB Officers



**President**
Tracie Sayre
Triopia CUSD 27



**Vice President**
Alva Kreutzer
THSD 214



**Immediate Past President**
Mark Harms
Flanagan-Cornell USD 74



**Treasurer**
Marc Tepper
Kildeer-Countryside CCSD 96

# Board of Directors



**Abe Lincoln**
Stephanie Neuman
New Berlin CUSD 16



**Blackhawk**
Jeffrey Johnson
Kewanee CUSD 229



**Central Illinois Valley**
Jason Cowen
East Peoria SD 86



**Chicago Public Schools**
Ebony DeBerry
Chicago SD 299



**Corn Belt**
Nick Sartoris
Pontiac THSD 90



**DuPage**
Mark W. Rising
Indian Prairie CUSD 204



**Egyptian**
Schannone Steinberger
Frankfort CUSD 168



**Illini**
Kimberly Keniley-Ashbrook
Heritage CUSD 8



**Kaskaskia**
Linda Eades
Northwestern CUSD 2



**Kishwaukee**
Robert Geddeis
Hononegah CHSD 207



**Lake/Treasurer**
Marc Tepper
Kildeer-Countryside CCSD 96



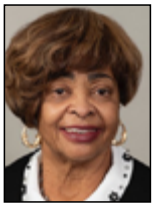
**North Cook**
Bill Harrison
Wheeling CCSD 21



**Northwest**
Chris Buikema
East Coloma-Nelson SD 20



**Shawnee**
Vernon Stubblefield
Cairo SD 1



**South Cook**
Janet Rogers
Harvey SD 152



**Southwestern**
Heather LoBue
O'Fallon THSD 203



**Starved Rock**
Austin Taylor
Peru ESD 124



**Three Rivers**
Liz Campbell
Valley View CUSD 356U



**Two Rivers**
Lisa Schwartz
Payson CUSD 1



**Wabash Valley**
Mandy Rieman
Jasper County CUSD 1



**West Cook**
Janice Roeder
Rhodes SD 84.5



**Western**
Sue McCance
CUSD 3 Fulton Co



**IASB Service Associates**
Stephen Nelson
Larson & Darby Group