



Clinic Sessions

To aid attendees interested in focusing on specific topics, Clinic Sessions are organized into the following categories:

(G) Governance and Executive Leadership—Effective leadership skills are necessary to transform public education. Learn how to align resources to the achievement of district standards and priorities, get updates on legal decisions impacting education, understand education reform, collaborate with diverse stakeholders and make better personal use of technology.

(I) Innovations in District Management (Including Collaboration and Resource Sharing)—Learn how to deal creatively and collaboratively with economic challenges, diminishing resources and local bond initiatives.

(SB) School Board/Superintendent/Community Partnerships—Learn the different roles and responsibilities of the board and superintendents, as well as how to collaborate and develop long-term successful relationships inside and outside the system.

(SA) Student Achievement, Accountability and Data—Understand and use data to inform strategy and board decision. Gain an understanding of the conditions that optimize teaching and learning, narrow or eliminate the achievement gap, improve accountability and foster continuous improvement within a system.

(SF) Student, Family, Community, Wellness and Environment—Support, environment and wellness profoundly affect student outcomes. Learn about factors that support and hinder these critical inputs to student learning, as well as strategies to address challenges.

(T) Technology + Learning Solutions—Technology is transforming how students learn. Learn about emerging research and technologies, practical strategies and real-life solutions.

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

(G) Executive Orders, Statutes, Policies and Regulations: Managing Compliance Issues During a Crisis

This session will focus on challenges encountered by district school boards and district leaders during times of crisis. A discussion of strategies for dealing with compliance issues while maintaining operations and delivering educational services will be held.

Presenters: Patrick Corbett, Neola, Inc. and Charyn Hain, Varnum LLP

(G) Ethics and Fraud Prevention

Learn about common ethical dilemmas that arise in schools. Examine examples of actual fraud that has occurred at local school districts and what you can do to prevent it from happening to you.

Presenters: Carol Patridge, Principal/Auditor, Taylor Diener, Manager/Auditor and Jennifer Watkins, Principal/Auditor, Yeo & Yeo CPAs and Business Consultants

(G) Understanding Your Annual Audit: A Guide to Effective Oversight

This presentation will provide a general overview of the school district audit process, while placing specific emphasis on areas of interest for those charged with governance. This will include a discussion of best practices for effective oversight of a school business office, aiming to provide attendees with additional tools for evaluating compliance and performance. Also included is a synopsis of the Federal Compliance Audit and its relationship to federal grants administered by a district; a summary of audit considerations for a prospective bond issuance; and an update on current events associated with the novel coronavirus and its impact on school districts for their fiscal year 2021 audits.

Presenters: Adriane Schrauben, Audit Shareholder, Marc Sawyers, Audit Manager, Mike Gruennert, Audit Manager and Carol Schachermeyer, Senior Audit Manager, Hungerford Nichols, CPAs

(I) Capital Projects and School Construction: From Concept to Breaking Ground

Learn the fundamentals of completing a capital project—from developing the initial project scope and planning phase, drafting effective bond proposals and the importance of the construction contracts and the bidding process. Attorneys specialized in both finance and construction will coordinate with other critical players in the school bond and construction process, including the financial advisor and architect or construction manager, to provide a complete picture of the process from start to finish. Walk away understanding the importance of coordinating with the district's professional team to ensure a smooth process.

Presenters: Fredric Heidemann, Attorney, Thrun Law Firm and Nate Watson, Director, PFM Financial Advisors

(SB) Student Representatives on Your School Board—The What, the Why and the How

Student representatives on your board of education can ensure student voice is a part of board governance. Students are why we serve and including them in the process of governance is critical for high-achieving districts. This session will highlight the why, including first-hand accounts from a current student representative. It will also highlight how to make this a reality and share insights into the possibilities that student voice at the board table can provide.

Presenters: Bill O'Brien, Superintendent, Stan Miller, School Board President and Neya Monroe, Board of Education Student Representative, Mona Shores Public Schools

(SB) Superintendent Retention and Turnover: Lessons From the Literature

Researchers report that the average superintendent tenure across the country is approximately five years and that superintendent turnover can contribute to organizational dysfunction and adversely impact student achievement. This session will examine the factors that contribute to superintendent turnover and retention, as well as the recruitment and hiring processes. Come prepared to share your experiences!

Presenter: Wilfred Cwikiel, Superintendent, Beaver Island Community School

(SB) Superintendent/Board Relations: Building a Strong Ship After the Perfect Storm

How can a superintendent and school board find the perfect balance? Creative and innovative strategies and ideas on how Howell Public Schools came out of some of its darkest political days, into a time of trust, balance and partnership that helped unite their community.

Presenters: Stacy Pasini, School Board President and Erin MacGregor, Superintendent, Howell Public Schools

(SA) Combatting Chronic Absenteeism—The Latest Research

Nearly 300,000 students in Michigan during the 2018-2019 school year were “chronically absent,” meaning they missed at least 10% or more of school days per year. School officials around the nation are focused on finding ways to reduce this number. Many schools, however, already have an effective and powerful tool at their disposal—school breakfast. We will share compelling new research on how effective serving breakfast after the bell can be to reducing chronic absenteeism in Michigan schools.

Presenters: Mindy Grant, Breakfast Grant Program Manager and Stephanie Willingham, Michigan Department of Education/No Kid Hungry

(SF) Cartoonversation Read-Along: Bringing Kids, Cops and Classrooms Together for Good and for Free

Looking for a way to talk with kids about school safety, bullying, social media and more? Then take a look at the Cartoonversation Read-Along—law enforcement, kids and educators coming

together to watch cartoons, laugh, talk and build lasting relationships and stronger communities. There is no prep time needed, no additional special skills. All materials are free for every school in Michigan and all materials are aligned with state teaching standards and SEL core competencies.

Presenters: Tim Wheeler, Owner, Wheeler Creative Studios, Steve Edwards, Superintendent, Reeths-Puffer Schools and Curt Babcock, Superintendent, North Muskegon Public Schools

(SF) #MASBHealthy: Bring Your Whole Self to the Board Table

Leadership requires a multitude of skills, including self-care, self-awareness and communication. This session will provide strategies participants can implement in and out of meetings to help build personal skills and routines designed to ensure they're taking care of themselves so they can then take care of others.

Presenters: TBD