Wednesday Workshops

Workshops Reimbursed by the State -

The Legislature appropriated $6,600 per school district and charter school to be used for qualified trainings of **board members and superintendents/charter administrators.** There are five areas of training that are reimbursable, and they are governance, finance, ethics, superintendent/charter administrators evaluations, and strategic performance planning.

This year we are offering 46 workshops and 4 Early Bird workshops that are reimbursable. Board members, superintendents, and charter administrators who attend a reimbursable workshop, which are designated by a $$$ can complete the reimbursement form found inside their tote bag. **Reimbursement forms will NOT be available at workshops. This form is a separate sheet inside your Convention Bag with the title "2026 ISBA Annual Convention Reimbursable Workshop Form."** Once this form is completed, please drop it off at the ISBA Registration desk.

NOTE: The following are not eligible for reimbursement.
• Trustee Elects • Clerks • Business Managers

Session 1

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Hot Topics in School Policy

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Presenter:
April Hoy, Research & Policy Specialist, Idaho School Boards Association
Jason Knopp, Director of Strategic Advocacy, Idaho School Boards Association

Location: Boise Centre West 100C

Category: Policy

This will be an overview of policy topics that have recently been of interest to Idaho school boards. These include subjects of recent legislation – like the new laws on local education associations, providing first aid to students, and electronic communications between students and staff – and topics districts and charter schools frequently have questions on – like generative AI tools and other emerging issues. We'll give an overview of these topics and discuss ISBA's policy recommendations regarding them.

AI and K-12 Education

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Presenter:
Katie Bosch-Wilson, Coordinator, Computer Science and Emerging Technologies, Idaho Department of Education

Location: Boise Centre West 100D

Category: AI

Gain a practical overview of Idaho's evolving artificial intelligence landscape and what it means for Idaho's LEAs. This session will explore newly enacted 2026 AI legislation, compliance considerations, and the Idaho State Department of Education's statewide AI framework. Attendees will learn about available resources, professional learning opportunities, and implementation supports. Through real-world examples and interactive discussion, we will help board members and education leaders better understand opportunities, risks, and next steps for responsible AI adoption. Participants will leave with actionable insights and time will be provided for questions and collaboration.

Wednesday Workshops

Session 1

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

New Trustee Onboarding: Building a Strong Foundation from Day One



Presenter:
Lara Stone, Board Chair, Blaine County SD #061
Jim Foudy, Superintendent, Blaine County SD #061
Adam Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Blaine County SD #061

Location: Boise Centre West 100E

Category: Board Chairs/Vice Chairs

How do you set a new school board trustee up for success? Join this session to learn one district's step-by-step onboarding process, starting with the board clerk and chair to cover board meetings, policy development, and the budget, then moving through hands-on time with the directors of Finance, Human Resources, Facilities, and the Superintendent. Walk away with a practical model for helping new trustees understand where the board's role ends and administration begins.

Keeping the Public in Public Meetings: Open Meeting Law Requirements and Common Pitfalls



Presenter:
Jayson Lloyd, Board Development Specialist

Location: Boise Centre West 110A

Category: New Board Members

Transparent governance starts with understanding the rules—and recognizing where boards can stumble. This practical session introduces Idaho Open Meeting Law requirements and explores common mistakes that can put school boards at risk. Topics include meeting notices, agendas, executive sessions, minutes, and communications outside board meetings. Through realistic school board scenarios, participants will practice spotting potential violations and discussing how to avoid them. New and experienced trustees, board clerks, and administrators will leave better prepared to conduct public business with confidence, support compliance, and strengthen public trust.

The New Blueprint for IDLA

Presenter:
Jeff Simmons, Superintendent, Idaho Digital Learning Alliance
Jeff Farden, Director of Supervision and Instruction, Idaho Digital Learning Alliance

Location: Boise Centre West 110B

Category: Students

Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA) is Idaho's state virtual program. The 2026 Idaho Legislative session changed our scope. This session will review the new IDLA blueprint. We will share what we will stop, what we will reduce, and where we will refocus during the 26-27 school year.

Wednesday Workshops

Session 1

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Explore and Compare Your School Data

Presenter:
Jennifer Swindell, CEO/Publisher, Idaho Education News
Randy Schrader, CFO/Data Analyst, Idaho Education News

Location: Boise Centre West 110C

Category: New Board Members

It's important for elected officials to be open and transparent with patrons, parents and students. Our workshop will give you tips on how to control messaging so your community gets accurate and timely communication from its board. We'll also connect communication to Idaho's open meeting laws and access to public records.

Beyond the Classroom: Schools as Trusted Access Points for Youth and Family Support

Presenter:
Laura Denner, Division Administrator, Division of Family and Community Partnerships, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
Chenele Dixon, Former Teacher, Former Legislator, Advocate, Idaho Behavioral Health Council

Location: Boise Centre West 110D

Category: Students

What do Idaho youth and families really need to thrive—and how can schools help connect them to support without taking on another program? This interactive session will explore data on the challenges affecting youth well-being and success, including financial and future stability, social isolation, substance use, mental health, and unmet family needs. Participants will learn how schools can serve as trusted access points within the Idaho Community Resource Network (ICRN), creating clearer pathways to community-based resources and upstream supports. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for strengthening connections between schools, families, and communities while supporting prevention, student well-being, and long-term success.

Keeping Your Board Out of Hot Water: Governance Pitfalls Every Clerk Should Recognize and Help Prevent



Presenter:
Monica Pauley, Consultant, Idaho School Boards Association
Tanna Wicks, Clerk, St. Maries SD #041
Morgan Cenarrusa, Business Development Specialist, Idaho School Boards Association

Location: Boise Centre West 120A

Category: Clerk, New Board Member

We will discuss common legal and procedural risks that can place school boards in violation of Idaho Open Meeting Law and other governance requirements. Clerks will learn how to identify and prevent high-risk practices such as "daisy chain" email communications, serial communications between board members, and informal deliberation outside of publicly noticed meetings. The session will also cover other frequent compliance concerns, including improper use of emails or messaging apps for board discussion, inadvertent quorum violations, and unclear communication channels between trustees and district staff. We will focus on clerk's role as a governance safeguard helping ensure transparency, proper documentation, and adherence to lawful decision-making processes.

Wednesday Workshops

Session 1

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Guardians of Trust: Leveraging Ethical Resources in Education



Presenter:
Cina Lackey, Director - Certification and Professional Standards, Idaho Department of Education
Annette Schwab, Coordinator - Educator Ethics, Background Checks, Idaho Department of Education
Victoria Del Toro, Coordinator - Certification and Professional Standards, Idaho Department of Education
Lewis Coyne, Program Specialist - Educator Ethics, Background Checks, Idaho Department of Education

Location: Boise Centre West 120B

Category: Educator Ethics

This session will provide an overview of laws pertaining to Idaho educator ethics that all local education agencies are required to adhere to. Knowledge is power; stay informed! Presenters will engage participants on the topic of newly developed free resources to help LEAs and educators navigate ethical dilemmas and avoid potential issues.

The Top Ten Questions Every School Board Should Ask About School Safety and Security



Presenter:
James Mitchell, Chief Training Officer, Panacea S.A.F.E. Schools
Amy Schell, Founder and President, Foundation for Safer Schools

Location: Boise Centre West 120C

Category: Safety

Creating safer schools requires more than policies, plans, and equipment it requires asking the right questions. School board members play a critical role in ensuring their districts are prepared to prevent, respond to, and recover from today's evolving safety and security challenges. In this engaging session, "The Top Ten Questions Every School Board Should Ask About School Safety and Security," we'll explore the essential questions every board should be asking its superintendent and leadership team. Attendees will leave with practical insights to evaluate current practices, identify potential gaps, strengthen accountability, and confidently support a comprehensive approach to protecting students, staff, and the entire school community.

Wednesday Workshops

Session 1

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Beyond The Call: Creating a Culture of Trust and Service

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Presenter:
Jesse Howard, Keynote Speaker

Location: Boise Centre West 130

Category: Safety

Strong boards, effective superintendent relationships, and healthy leadership teams do not happen by accident. They are built through trust, communication, clarity, accountability, and a shared commitment to serving students and communities.

In this breakout session, Jesse Howard will take a deeper look at the leadership principles behind building a healthy team culture. Drawing from his Iowa Army National Guard leadership experience, lessons from his book Beyond The Call: The Team BEAST Leadership Blueprint, his service as President of the Iowa Association of School Boards, and his perspective as a father of Gen Z and Gen Alpha children, Jesse will share practical strategies school board members and superintendents can use to strengthen relationships, improve communication, and lead with purpose.

Participants will explore how leaders can build trust, model selfless service, invest in people, and create a culture that helps bridge generational communication gaps while preparing the next generation of leaders.