



MISSISSIPPI  
SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION

# MSBA

53RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# MSBA



*Future-Focused Leadership*

# MAGAZINE

February 24-26, 2025

Sheraton Flowood: The Refuge Hotel & Conference Center  
Flowood, Mississippi

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

380 Zurich Drive | Ridgeland, MS 39157 | 601-924-2001 | [msbaonline.org](http://msbaonline.org)





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**PRESIDENT**  
Dr. Delores McNair  
*Hattiesburg*



**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
Sondra Odom  
*Pearl*



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Etta Taplin  
*North Pike*



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*Quitman County*

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(2023-2025)



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Linda Bickerstaff  
*Monroe County*



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*Marshall County*

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(2024-2026)



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*North Panola*



Debra Johnson  
*Sunflower County*



Bernard Kines  
*Clinton Public*

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Dr. James Vernell  
Hooker  
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*Philadelphia*



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(2024-2026)



Dr. Barbara Thomas  
*Harrison County*



Jerry Frazier  
*Pearl River*



Dr. Jennifer Seal  
*Hancock County*

**PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES**



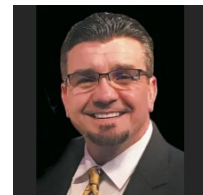
Jamelda Fulton  
*Western Line  
Consolidated*



Evelyn Murray  
*Leland*



Michael Thomas  
*Choctaw County*



Dr. Mohamad Schuman  
*Stone County*



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# Procedures for Earning Credit Hours

## AVAILABLE CREDIT

- **Board Members** can earn up to twelve (12) continuing education hours.
- **Administrators** can earn up to ten (10) SEMI credit hours. Administrators must provide their Mississippi Educator License Number and attend in-person to receive credit.

### Monday, February 24

- **Sign in** at the registration desk at least 15 minutes BEFORE the 2:00 p.m. Seminar begins.
- **Remain** until the seminar adjourns to receive three (3) hours of credit.

### Tuesday, February 25

- **Sign in** at the registration desk BEFORE the 8:00 a.m. start of the Conference.
- **Attend** all sessions and remain until the conference adjourns to earn up to six (6) hours of credit.

### Wednesday, February 26

- **Sign in** at the registration desk at least 15 minutes BEFORE the 8:00 a.m. start of the Conference.
- **Attend** all sessions and remain until the conference adjourns to earn up to three (3) hours of credit.



Your *commitment to students* across the state has *made a difference*.

We appreciate the work you do!

— The MSBA Staff

# WELCOME

## *From the President*



**W**elcome to the Mississippi School Boards Association 53rd Annual Conference!

We are thrilled to have you join us for one of the state's premier education events! The MSBA team has worked hard to create a dynamic and enriching experience just for you. This conference is packed with professional development opportunities designed specifically for school boards and superintendents.

Great leaders never stop learning, and this event is all about growing your knowledge and skills. Over the next few days, you will have the opportunity to connect with fellow governance leaders, exchange ideas, and discover best practices that will empower you to serve your students and their families even better.

Get ready for an exciting lineup of engaging speakers, insightful sessions, and in-depth seminars covering a wide range of topics. You will also enjoy incredible student performances and inspiring showcases of innovative programs from districts across Mississippi.

Make the most of your conference experience—immerse yourself, ask questions, and enjoy every moment of learning and networking!

Sincerely,

**Dr. Delores McNair**

*President, Mississippi School Boards Association*

*Board President, Hattiesburg Public School District*





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**Thank You,**  
***Diamond Sponsors***



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# WELCOME

## *From the Vice-President*



**F**or more than 50 years, MSBA has been dedicated to providing leadership training, advocacy, technical assistance, and unwavering support to school boards across Mississippi. This year's conference is designed to tackle the most pressing issues facing our districts, with expert-led sessions that will equip you with valuable insights and strategies.

We encourage you to actively engage with our presenters, ask questions, and share experiences with your fellow board members. The connections you make here can strengthen your leadership and inspire new ideas for your district.

As public education leaders, we have faced tremendous challenges and have overcome countless obstacles. But our work is far from over. Now is the time to push forward, to strive for even greater success, and to ensure every student in Mississippi has access to a high-quality education. For many of our students, school is more than just a place to learn—it is a safe haven where they are seen, supported, and encouraged to dream big.

As you participate in this year's sessions, keep those students in mind. Their futures depend on the work we do together.

Thank you for your dedication, your leadership, and your commitment to Mississippi's students. We are honored to support you—and we are always here for you!

Sincerely,

**Sondra Odom**

*Vice-President, Mississippi School Boards Association  
Board President, Pearl Public School District*



# IMPROVING THE LIVES OF ALL CHILDREN

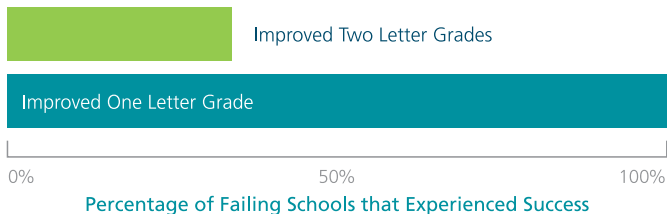


**Bailey Education Group is Mississippi's premier education consulting company with a proven track record of improving children's lives. We offer virtual and distance learning, coaching services and professional development, which can be customized group training.**

**A+**

### **Bailey Education Group Results**

In 2019, we worked in over 300 schools, 61 of which had a rating of "D" or "F". 95% of students in these schools come from high poverty. Supported by our partnership, these schools achieved dramatic results:



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# WELCOME

## *From the Executive Director*



**W**elcome to the MSBA 53rd Annual Conference!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Mississippi School Boards Association, we are thrilled to have you join us for this special event. Your presence here—alongside fellow board members, superintendents, board attorneys, district office personnel, and other educators—reflects your unwavering dedication to Mississippi’s students and public education.

Our goal is to provide you with an enriching experience filled with innovative ideas, practical strategies, and valuable networking opportunities. We carefully plan this conference with one focus in mind: helping school boards grow stronger, both individually and collectively. Your participation affirms your commitment to equipping students with the tools they need for success.

Students are at the heart of all that school boards do, and this conference reflects that commitment by showcasing student talent, leadership, and achievement from start to finish. From the disciplined presence of Navy JROTC cadets and inspiring musical performances at the Opening General Session to the recognition of School Board Member Recognition Week, students will take center stage. Attendees will hear directly from the next generation of leaders, including winners of the student essay and speaking contest, as well as insightful perspectives from student board and advisory council members in the dynamic *Student Voices in Leadership Insights* session. This conference is not only about supporting students—it is about learning from them and celebrating their voices in shaping the future of education.

This week, we also take time to celebrate **School Board Member Recognition Week**—a well-deserved tribute to the leaders who guide our schools with passion and purpose. We invite you to Tuesday evening’s **School Board Member Recognition Week Reception**, where we will express our appreciation with great food and fun.

As we wrap up the conference on Wednesday, we will gather for the **Lighthouse School Leader’s Luncheon**, an inspiring event dedicated to honoring school boards, superintendents, principals, and other administrators for their outstanding academic achievements. **Congratulations to all who will be recognized!**

Thank you for your service, your leadership, and your commitment to education. **Happy School Board Member Recognition Week—enjoy the conference!**

Sincerely,

**Dr. Denotris R. Jackson**

*Executive Director, Mississippi School Boards Association*





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## Early Bird Seminar

Monday, February, 24, 2025

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Registration; Exhibit Booth Set Up

2:00 PM

Navigating the Future: Responsible AI and Policy Insights

*Grand Ballroom*

*Dr. Nashlie Sephus, Applied Scientist, Amazon Web Services (AWS)*

From Theory to Reality: Hands-On AI for Leaders

*Ivan Walker, Engineer, AWS*

3:45 PM

Break

4:00 PM

Cyber Shield: Cybersecurity in the Age of AI

*Grand Ballroom*

*Courtney Walker, Cybersecurity Specialist*

5:00 PM

Adjourn



## MSBA Day at the Capitol Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Join us on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, for **MSBA Day at the Capitol**, where school board members and education leaders will connect with state legislators to advocate for Mississippi's public schools. This event runs from **11:30 AM to 4:00 PM** and offers a valuable opportunity to discuss key legislative issues and strengthen partnerships for education.

Register today at [msbaonline.org](https://msbaonline.org)!

## Mississippi Millennials on the Move

This engaging session highlights the achievements and expertise of three Mississippi public school graduates who have excelled in the technology industry and are now shaping the future at major corporations. Discover how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming education and leadership in this forward-thinking session. The Early Bird Seminar will provide actionable insights and practical tools to help you navigate the AI-driven future while ensuring the success and security of your districts.

### *Navigating the Future: Responsible AI and Policy Insights*

Explore the evolving landscape of responsible AI, examining ethical considerations, policy developments, and real-world applications of AI innovations. Gain insights into balancing technology adoption with accountability to create practical and transparent educational environments.



*Dr. Nashlie Sephus is a pioneering applied scientist at Amazon Web Services (AWS), specializing in machine learning and AI fairness. With a Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Georgia Tech and a background in computer engineering from Mississippi State University, she has played a critical role in advancing AI technologies. As the former CTO of PartPic, a groundbreaking visual search tool for industrial parts acquired by Amazon in 2016, she has helped shape innovative AI solutions. At AWS, she works to enhance AI transparency, benchmark fairness, and drive research collaborations that push the boundaries of responsible AI development. Beyond her corporate success, Dr. Sephus is a passionate advocate for diversity in tech and community empowerment. She founded The Bean Path, a nonprofit dedicated to bridging the digital divide in Jackson, MS, by offering free tech guidance, youth coding programs, and small business support.*

### *From Theory to Reality: Hands-On AI for Leaders*

Explore AI's evolution and its transformative impact through interactive demonstrations using smartphones and laptops. Experience AI's potential firsthand and discover practical applications that can enhance learning, streamline operations, and inspire innovation in educational environments.



*Ivan Walker is a software engineer at Amazon, specializing in infrastructure and DevOps. A Jackson, MS native, he discovered his passion for technology early, learning to repair computers and exploring programming. He earned his B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science from Jackson State University, conducting research on navigation and video tracking using drones through the Army High Performance Computing Research Center and the Army Research Lab. As a National GEM Consortium fellow, he gained industry experience with Intel and later became a teaching assistant and instructor at Georgia Tech. His journey from self-taught tech enthusiast to industry leader highlights his commitment to innovation and mentorship in the field of computer science.*

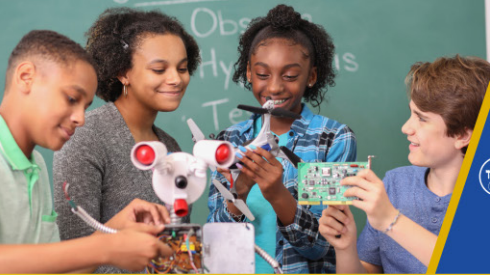
### *Cyber Shield: Cybersecurity in the Age of AI*

Examine the critical intersection of cybersecurity and AI, focusing on strategies to protect sensitive student and district data while integrating AI tools. Gain practical insights on mitigating risks, fostering trust, and ensuring compliance in an increasingly digital education landscape.



*Courtney Walker is a cybersecurity leader specializing in securing digital systems and protecting sensitive data in AI-driven environments. With expertise in risk management, compliance, and data security, she develops strategies that mitigate cyber threats while enabling secure technological innovation. She is currently employed as Cybersecurity Product Manager at Kohl's, a national department store chain which also has an online presence. She has previously served as a key team member of cybersecurity initiatives at The Home Depot, Storage 360, and the federal government, focusing on data protection, security, and regulatory compliance—all critical concerns for school districts facing growing cybersecurity risks. As education leaders increasingly rely on digital tools,*

*Courtney provides practical guidance on safeguarding student and staff data, preventing cyberattacks, and ensuring compliance with data protection laws. The United States Air Force veteran is a graduate of Clinton High School and attended the University of Southern Mississippi. Courtney applies a disciplined, strategic approach to solving cybersecurity challenges. She is a frequent speaker and mentor, helping organizations and individuals navigate cybersecurity best practices.*



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# Conference Agenda

**Tuesday, February, 25, 2025**

7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Registration**

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

**Continental Breakfast** — *Sponsored by Kids First Education*

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Exhibit Booths Open**

8:00 AM

**Opening General Session**

*Grand Ballroom*

- **Welcome**  
*Dr. Denotris Jackson, MSBA Executive Director; and  
Dr. Delores McNair, MSBA President*
- **Greetings**  
*Glen East, State Board President, Mississippi Department of Education (MDE);  
and Dr. Lance Evans, State Superintendent of Education, MDE*
- **Posting of Colors**  
*NJROTC, Canton High School, Canton Public School District*
- **Recognition of Sponsors**  
*Bailey Education Group, LLC*
- **Simbli Introduction**  
*Mark Willis, Assistant Executive Director, Georgia School Boards Association*
- **Presentation of MSBA Student Essay Contest Winners**

9:00 AM

**General Session Speaker**

*Grand Ballroom*

*Judy Newman, Chief Impact Officer, Scholastic*

10:15 AM

**Exhibitor Break**

10:45 AM

**Student Voices in Leadership: Insights from Student Board and  
Advisory Council Members**

*Grand Ballroom*

*Lathan Lewis, Senior, Pass Christian High School, Pass Christian Public School District;  
Crosby Parker, Junior, Gulfport High School, Gulfport School District;  
Kate Riddle, Senior, Lafayette High School, Lafayette County School District;  
Amaya Whigham, Senior, Hattiesburg High School, Hattiesburg Public School District;  
and Kenai Williamson, Senior, Independence High School, Tate County School District*

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

**Lunch on Your Own**

Thank You  
**Kids First Education**  
for Sponsoring  
Tuesday's Breakfast!





# Conference Agenda

**Tuesday, February, 25, 2025**

**1:00 PM**

## Concurrent Sessions

- **What's on the Horizon? Transitioning to a New Governance Platform**  
*Meeting Room B*  
*Mark Willis, Assistant Executive Director, Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA); and Sandra McGuire, Training & Support Manager, GSBA*
- **Open Meetings & Ethics: Foundations for Transparent Governance**  
*Meeting Room A*  
*Tom Hood, Esq., Executive Director and Chief Counsel, Mississippi Ethics Commission*
- **Building Stronger School Districts Through Community Partnerships**  
*Jr. Ballroom D*  
*Dr. Matt Dillon, Superintendent, Petal School District*
- **Cultivating Success: Transforming School District Culture for Student Success**  
*Jr. Ballroom C*  
*Dr. Hilute Hudson, Superintendent, Kemper County School District*
- **Superintendent Evaluation: A Governance Tool for Student Success**  
*Grand Ballroom; Virtual Attendee Concurrent Session*  
*Dr. Denotris Jackson, MSBA Executive Director; and Dr. Tommye Henderson, MSBA Superintendent Search Manager*

**2:15 PM**

## Concurrent Sessions

- **Building Stronger School Districts Through Community Partnerships**  
*Jr. Ballroom D*  
*Dr. Matt Dillon, Superintendent, Petal School District*
- **Open Meetings & Ethics: Foundations for Transparent Governance**  
*Grand Ballroom; Virtual Attendee Concurrent Session*  
*Tom Hood, Esq., Executive Director and Chief Counsel, Mississippi Ethics Commission*
- **Leading the Board: Essential Skills for Board Presidents**  
*Meeting Room B*  
*Sondra Odom, Board President, Pearl Public School District; and Etta Taplin, Board Member, North Pike School District*
- **Let Policy Govern Your Decisions**  
*Meeting Room A*  
*Austin Gilbert, Esq., MSBA Policy & Legislative Manager*
- **Legal Essentials: Navigating School District Legal Challenges**  
*Jr. Ballroom C*  
*Jim Keith, Esq., Partner, Adams & Reese, LLP; and Elizabeth Lee Maron, Esq., Partner, Adams & Reese, LLP*



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# Conference Agenda

**Tuesday, February 25, 2025**

3:15 PM

**Exhibitor Break**

3:30 PM

**Concurrent Sessions**

- **Superintendent Evaluation: A Governance Tool for Student Success**  
*Jr. Ballroom AB*  
*Dr. Denotris Jackson, MSBA Executive Director; and*  
*Dr. Tommye Henderson, MSBA Superintendent Search Manager*
  - **Let Policy Govern Your Decisions**  
*Meeting Room A; Virtual Attendee Concurrent Session*  
*Austin Gilbert, Esq., MSBA Policy & Legislative Manager*
  - **Legal Essentials: Navigating School District Legal Challenges**  
*Jr. Ballroom C*  
*Jim Keith, Esq., Partner, Adams & Reese, LLP; and*  
*Elizabeth Lee Maron, Esq., Partner, Adams & Reese, LLP*
  - **Cultivating Success: Transforming School District Culture for Student Success**  
*Jr. Ballroom D*  
*Dr. Hilute Hudson, Superintendent, Kemper County School District*
  - **Leading the Board: Essential Skills for Board Presidents**  
*Meeting Room B*  
*Sondra Odom, Board President, Pearl Public School District; and*  
*Etta Taplin, Board Member, North Pike School District*
- School Board Member Recognition Week Reception; Awards Photos\***  
*Featuring the Germantown High School Legacy Choir,*  
*Madison County School District*

5:00 PM — 6:30 PM

*Grand Ballroom*

*\*Awards photos will be available on the MSBA Annual Conference webpage after the conference.  
School districts can download their own photo starting Friday, February 28.*

MISSISSIPPI  
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**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER  
RECOGNITION WEEK  
RECEPTION**

Tuesday, February 25

Location:  
Grand Ballroom

Tuesday, February 25  
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM



# Conference Agenda

## Wednesday, February, 26, 2025

6:45 AM — 7:45 AM

**Board Presidents & Superintendents Networking Breakfast**

*Jr. Ballroom AB*

7:00 AM — 8:00 AM

**Continental Breakfast**

7:00 AM — 11:00 AM

**Registration; Exhibit Booths Open**

8:00 AM

*Grand Ballroom*

**General Session**

- **Welcome**  
*Dr. Denotris Jackson, MSBA Executive Director; and  
Sondra Odom, MSBA Vice-President*
- **Musical Presentation**  
*Pearl Madrigals, Pearl Public School District*
- **Recognition of Sponsors**  
*American Fidelity and Scholastic*
- **Recognition of Retiring Directors**
- **Presentation of MSBA Student Essay Contest Winners**
- **General Session Speaker**  
*James Pond, President & CEO, Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (Scholastic)*

10:00 AM

**Exhibitor Break**

10:30 AM

**Concurrent Sessions**

- **Future-Ready Education: Integrating AI into the Classroom**  
*Jr. Ballroom C*  
*Chris Chism, Superintendent, Pearl Public School District*
- **Building Future Innovators: How Grenada School District Leverages Project Lead the Way for STEM Success**  
*Meeting Room B*  
*Dr. David Daigneault, Superintendent, Grenada School District*
- **The Future of Leadership: Strategies for Meaningful Impact**  
*Jr. Ballroom AB*  
*James Pond, President, Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (Scholastic)*
- **Be THE Leadership Standard**  
*Jr. Ballroom D*  
*Cory Uselton, Superintendent, DeSoto County School District*
- **Avoiding Liability Through Effective Policy Implementation**  
*Virtual Attendee Concurrent Session ONLY*  
*Anissa Young, MSBA Insurance Program Manager; and  
Austin Gilbert, Esq., MSBA Policy & Legislative Manager*

11:45 AM

*Grand Ballroom*

**Awards Luncheon; Door Prizes**

1:15 PM

**Adjourn**

*Diamond Sponsor*

SCHOLASTIC  
**Literacy**<sup>™</sup>

A New K–6 Literacy Program

CREATING INDEPENDENT  
★ THINKERS,  
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# General Session Speakers

Sponsored by: Scholastic

**Tuesday, February 25, 2025**

**8:00 AM**

*Grand Ballroom*



**Judy Newman** is a career literacy advocate dedicated to ensuring all children can proudly say, “I am a reader.” As Chief Impact Officer at Scholastic, she leads efforts to expand access to books and literacy through partnerships with nonprofits and organizations, championing equal opportunities for all children. With decades of experience, including her tenure as President of Scholastic Book Clubs, Judy has supported teachers in building classroom libraries and empowering students to choose their own books. A committed nonprofit leader, she serves on multiple boards, including Reach Out and Read, and co-chairs Scholastic’s DEIB Leadership Task Force. Judy is also launching *The United States of Readers*, a program providing children in under-resourced schools with the opportunity to own books and build home libraries, supported by their teachers and caregivers.

**Wednesday, February 26, 2025**

**8:00 AM**

*Grand Ballroom*



**James Pond** has more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership. As President of Governor’s Early Literacy Foundation (GELF), he develops long-term strategies for strengthening early literacy in Tennessee, partnering with organizations to amplify innovative programs for children statewide. His leadership role unites the efforts of the GELF team; more than 700 statewide volunteers; corporate partners; municipal and state government; and other public and private organizations. A native of Antioch, CA, James previously served as Executive Director of Veteran’s PATH, which helps combat veterans find health and healing. He also spent 12 years working with organizations combating sex trafficking in Southeast Asia. After serving eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps, he worked 10 years in corporate America before beginning his nonprofit career.



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# Student Board Panel

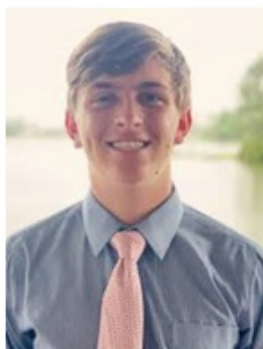
## Student Voices in Leadership: Insights from Student Board and Advisory Council Members

TUESDAY AT 10:45 AM • GRAND BALLROOM

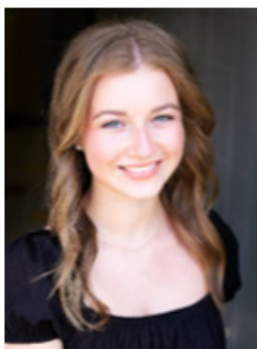
Join a dynamic panel featuring student leaders serving in various governance roles, including local school district boards, the Mississippi Department of Education State Board of Education, and superintendent advisory councils. These inspiring students will share their experiences, challenges, and triumphs as they navigate the unique responsibilities of representing their peers in critical decision-making spaces.



**Lathan  
Lewis**



**Crosby  
Parker**



**Kate  
Riddle**



**Amaya  
Whigham**



**Kenai  
Williamson**

**Lathan Lewis** is a senior at Pass Christian High School in the Pass Christian School District, where he serves as the student representative on the Board of Trustees and is a member of the Superintendent’s Student Leadership Council. A three-sport athlete, Lathan excels in football, basketball, and track while maintaining a strong academic record as a scholar-athlete. Lathan has also showcased his creative talents by writing, producing, directing, and acting in his first short film. He hopes to continue his football career in college while earning a degree. Lathan comes from a family with a tradition of service to the school board, as his grandfather Cecil Lizana served as a member and president of the Mississippi School Boards Association.

**Crosby Parker** is a junior at Gulfport High School in the Gulfport School District, where he excels academically with a 4.3 GPA and a 34 on the ACT. He is a member of the 30+ Club and Beta Club, showing his commitment to academic excellence. As a student-athlete, Crosby competes in golf, cross-country, and track and field, while also serving in leadership roles with Student Council, Youth Legislature, Model UN, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Passionate about STEM, Crosby mentors younger students through the Boys and Girls Club robotics camp. He was selected as the junior representative for the Mississippi State Board of Education and aims to improve educational equity across the state.

**Kate Riddle** is a senior at Lafayette High School in the Lafayette County School District and serves as the 2024-2025 senior student representative on the Mississippi State Board of Education. A Principal’s List student and recipient of the Outstanding Leadership Award, Kate helped establish the Lafayette High School Dance Team and is its captain. She is involved in numerous extracurricular activities, including Student Council, Beta Club, and the Oxford Elite Dance Company. Kate also volunteers at Vacation Bible School, teaches dance, and brings joy to nursing home residents. Her leadership extends to shaping state educational policy as she continues to advocate for Mississippi students.

**Amaya Whigham** is a senior at Hattiesburg High School, where she demonstrates leadership, academic excellence, and a strong commitment to community service. She serves as Student Body and Class President, the 2023-2024 Southern District Vice President for Mississippi HOSA, and President of Ivy Pearls of Hattiesburg, MS. Amaya is an active member of the National Technical Honor Society, Beta Club, and the Mayor's Youth Council. She excels academically with multiple honors and is involved in biomedical research at the University of Southern Mississippi. A recipient of several awards, including the Alpha Phi Alpha Book Scholarship, Amaya is passionate about leadership, service, and STEM as she prepares for her future.

**Kenai Williamson** is a senior at Independence High School in the Tate County School District. She serves on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council and the High School Student Council, representing her peers and contributing to school initiatives. A dedicated student-athlete, Kenai has been a cheerleader for six years, earning All-American honors multiple times, and is currently co-captain of the Wildcat cheerleading team. She is also president of the senior class, a member of the Lady Kats powerlifting team, and was named the 2024 Homecoming Senior Maid and Most Beautiful. Kenai is involved in her community, attending local government meetings and volunteering at school and local events. She plans to pursue a business administration degree at Mississippi State University.

## FORMER MSBA PRESIDENTS

1971-73 Arch Dalrymple, Amory	2000-01 Dewitt Hawkins, Senatobia
1973-74 Robert Wesley, Poplarville	2001-02 Glenda Barrett, Newton County
1975-77 Paul Shannon, New Albany	2002-03 Gemma Beckley, Holly Springs
1977-79 William O. Oliver, Kosciusko	2003-04 Roosevelt Ulmer, West Jasper
1979-80 Fred Carron, Biloxi	2004-05 Paul Chamblee, Leake County
1980-81 Henry Myles, Greenville	2005-06 Ann O. Jolley, DeSoto County
1982-83 Bill Perkins, Senatobia	2006-07 Denotris R. Jackson, Clinton
1983-84 Vivian Valentine, Meridian	2007-08 Julie Jordan, Columbus
1984-86 Dr. E. Harold Fisher, South Tippah	2008-09 Kenneth Fountain, Jackson County
1986-87 Milton Bradley, Cleveland	2009-10 Lygunnah Bean, South Panola
1987-88 Lawrence Roberts, Pass Christian	2010-11 Marian Barksdale, Oxford
1988-89 Cloma Mangum, Simpson County	2011-12 Miranda Beard, Laurel
1989-90 Jo Taylor, Forest	2012-13 Bobby Gault, New Albany
1990-91 Leonard Morris, South Panola	2013-14 James Stubbs, Long Beach
1991-92 Doug Stewart, Picayune	2014-15 Etta Taplin, North Pike
1992-93 John Johnson, Greenwood	2015-16 Sondra Odom, Pearl Municipal
1993-94 Claude Hartley, Tupelo	2016-17 David Duncan, South Tippah
1994-95 Remona Suttler, Yazoo County	2017-18 Scott Bryan, Lawrence County
1995-96 Fred Jenkins, Pearl River County	2018-19 Jamelda Fulton, Western Line
1996-97 Ann Odom, Amory	2019-20 Jan Vaughn, Greenville
1997-98 Mercidees McTeer, Greenville	2020-21 Leroy Matthews, Jr., Quitman County
1998-99 Earl Richard, Oxford	2021-23 Cecil Lizana, Sr., Pass Christian
1999-00 Jannette Adams, Columbus	



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# Concurrent Sessions & Speakers

## What's on the Horizon? Transitioning to a New Governance Platform

TUESDAY AT 1:00 PM • MEETING ROOM B

Effective boards do more than just conduct meetings. They plan strategically, manage board policy, and measure performance through ongoing evaluation. To support school boards in effective governance, **MSBA is moving to a new governance platform!** Simbli is designed to help board members stay highly organized, laser-focused, and aligned with their district's priorities.



**Mark Willis** is a Certified Public Accountant with nearly 30 years of experience at the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA). As COO of eBOARDsolutions and Assistant Executive Director at GSBA, he has enhanced governance, technology, and operations for school boards. Mark played a key role in developing Simbli, a leading board management software. He holds an accounting degree from the University of Tennessee and is committed to community service, having served 12 years on the Peachtree Corners Planning Commission. He also chairs the Salvation Army of Gwinnett, is a past President of the Rotary Club of Gwinnett, and serves on the Citizens Advisory Board for Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful.



**Sandra McGuire** is a training and support specialist with over a decade of experience helping boards optimize operations through digital solutions. As Training and Support Manager at eBOARDsolutions, a division of the GSBA, she assists boards in streamlining meetings, policies, and strategic planning. With 12 years in technical support at Cognos, Sandra brings a strong background in business administration and technology. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Salisbury University. A committed community leader, she has served as a PTA President and Treasurer, and as the Norcross High School Band Booster Treasurer, supporting local schools and organizations. Based in Norcross, Georgia, Sandra is a mother of two adult children and remains dedicated to advancing education and organizational efficiency.

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## Cultivating Success: Transforming School District Culture for Student Success

TUESDAY AT 1:00 PM • JR. BALLROOM C

TUESDAY AT 3:30 PM • JR. BALLROOM D

Understand the critical role that school culture plays in student success. This session offers strategies and best practices for creating a positive, inclusive, and motivating environment that fosters student achievement, community support, and well-being.



**Dr. Hilute Hudson** has served as superintendent of the Kemper County School District (KCS D) since 2019, leading a transformation from an "F" rating to a high-performing "B" within four years. With over 13 years of experience in education, he has held roles as a teacher, coach, principal, and assistant superintendent in the Louisville Municipal School District. Under his leadership, Kemper County secured voter approval for a \$12 million bond issue to build a state-of-the-art elementary school, reflecting his commitment to innovation and student success. Dr. Hudson holds degrees from Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi and is dedicated to fostering a culture of excellence and community collaboration.



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# Concurrent Sessions & Speakers

## Building Stronger School Districts Through Community Partnerships

TUESDAY AT 1:00 PM • JR. BALLROOM D

TUESDAY AT 2:15 PM • JR. BALLROOM D

Discover how to create impactful collaborations that enhance educational opportunities and strengthen district-community connections. In this session, Dr. Matt Dillon, an award-winning superintendent and leader of Petal School District, one of Mississippi's top-ranked school districts, shares proven strategies for engaging stakeholders, fostering partnerships, and leveraging community resources to drive student success.



**Dr. Matt Dillon**, a native of Columbia, Mississippi, and a product of that public school district, was appointed superintendent of the Petal School District (PSD) in 2014. Under Dr. Dillon's leadership, PSD has been named the number one school district in the state on multiple occasions, has claimed several state and national awards in arts and athletics, and is recognized annually as an "A Rated" school district by the Mississippi Department of Education. Graduation rates are at an all-time high, and the district is consistently competitive on a national level with the NWEA testing assessment that measures growth and proficiency. Before he was appointed superintendent, he served as assistant superintendent for the Tupelo Public School District and as a principal in the Pearl Public School District. He began his educational career as a teacher, coach, and assistant principal at the elementary, junior high and high school levels. Dr. Dillon earned an associate of arts degree from Jones County Junior College, a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Southern Mississippi, as well as a master's degree and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, both from The University of Mississippi.

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## Open Meetings & Ethics: Foundations for Transparent Governance

TUESDAY AT 1:00 PM • MEETING ROOM A

TUESDAY AT 2:15 PM • GRAND BALLROOM

TUESDAY AT 2:15 PM FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

Transparency and ethical leadership are essential for effective school governance. In this session, Tom Hood, Executive Director of the Mississippi Ethics Commission, will guide board members and superintendents through key aspects of the Open Meetings Act and Public Records Act, ensuring compliance and accountability. Attendees will explore best practices for board transparency, ethical decision-making, and maintaining public trust through clear communication and responsible governance.



**Tom Hood, Esq.**, Executive Director and Chief Counsel for the Mississippi Ethics Commission, joined the Ethics Commission in 2003. As executive director, he makes recommendations to the Commission about advisory opinions, investigations, public records opinions, open meetings decisions, and virtually all other matters coming before the Commission. Hood began his career as a prosecutor with the Public Integrity Division under former Attorney General Mike Moore. He earned a law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Millsaps College.



# Concurrent Sessions & Speakers

## Leading the Board: Essential Skills for Board Presidents

TUESDAY AT 2:15 PM • MEETING ROOM B

TUESDAY AT 3:30 PM • MEETING ROOM B

The role of the Board President is crucial for effective governance. Equip yourself with the leadership skills necessary to effectively guide a school board. This session provides practical advice on facilitating meetings, building consensus, and making informed decisions.



**Sondra Odom**, a veteran board member with 30 years of service to the Pearl Public School District, has served as board president for over 15 years. As a parent, she was a member of the Community Task Force, which studied and recommended the reorganization of the school district by grade level, rather than by neighborhood. A graduate of Mississippi State University, she is a former youth court counselor. She is a Pearl Chamber of Commerce Pillar of the Community award recipient and is a devoted supporter of all Pearl Pirate student activities.



**Etta Taplin** has served as a member of the North Pike School District Board since 2003 and is a past president of the board. A consultant specializing in grant writing, she served as the chief financial officer of the Amite County Medical Center and the SHARP Community Health Center. Her community service includes helping to establish the Pike County Animal League Shelter and serving as a committee volunteer for the Mississippi March of Dimes efforts. Currently, she is a member of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure with the Mississippi Department of Education. She is a graduate of Jackson State University.

## Legal Essentials: Navigating School District Legal Challenges

TUESDAY AT 2:15 PM • JR. BALLROOM C

TUESDAY AT 3:30 PM • JR. BALLROOM C

Gain a comprehensive understanding of the legal issues facing school districts today. This session, which covers key legal topics, including employment law, student rights, and compliance, will help you navigate complex legal matters with confidence.



**Jim Keith, Esq.**, a partner in the Adams and Reese Law Firm, LLP, serves as legal counsel for the MSBA and is the lead presenter at the MSBA Hot Topics Seminars. He is a widely regarded expert, both nationally and locally, on special education matters in public schools and represents school districts in state and federal courts on matters related to the Individuals with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. He was selected as a Mid-South Super Lawyer in 2019. He received the "Friend of Education" award from both MSBA and the Mississippi Association of School Administrators. Jim serves as board attorney for several school districts and as a resource for superintendents. He is an outspoken advocate for teachers and their dedication to their students.



**Elizabeth Lee Maron, Esq.**, a partner in the Adams and Reese Law Firm, LLP, advises clients in the areas of education law and employment law. Her primary focus is defending companies and public entities in lawsuits filed by current and former employees and in the case of education entities, by students and their families. She works throughout MS and the Southeast with school districts, community colleges, and universities on how to follow state and federal laws and how to do so professionally and with compassion, particularly with cases involving students and employees. Mrs. Maron was named as a 2024 "Lawyer of the Year" by the Best Lawyers in America organization.



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# Concurrent Sessions & Speakers

## Superintendent Evaluation: A Governance Tool for Student Success

TUESDAY AT 1:00 PM • GRAND BALLROOM

TUESDAY AT 1:00 PM FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

TUESDAY AT 3:30 PM • JR. BALLROOM AB

A well-structured superintendent evaluation is more than just an annual requirement—it is a powerful governance tool that strengthens district leadership and drives student achievement. In this session, a practical framework for aligning the evaluation process with key governance functions such as board agendas, policies, strategic planning, and district priorities will be presented.



**Dr. Tommye Henderson**, MSBA Superintendent Search Manager since 2017, served as the superintendent of the Clinton Public School District for nine years. During her tenure, the district was recognized as one of the top academically performing districts in the state. After retirement, she worked as Assistant Professor in the Teacher Education and Leadership Department at Mississippi College and as Coordinator of the Doctor of Educational Leadership Program in Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Henderson is a former president of the Mississippi Association of School Administrators and was selected as the 2008 Mississippi Superintendent of the Year. She has collected research on generational differences for several years.



**Dr. Denotris Jackson** was appointed as Executive Director of the Mississippi School Boards Association in 2020 after serving as Assistant Director and Director of Policy/Advocacy and Director of Board Development. She joined the MSBA staff in 2007 after being on the board of the Clinton Public School District for seven years and on the MSBA Board of Directors. She holds a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi, a bachelor's degree, and a master's degree in Early Childhood from Jackson State University. She is the creator of the Prospective Superintendent Leadership Academy (PSLA), the MSBA Online Policy program, and OAgendas.

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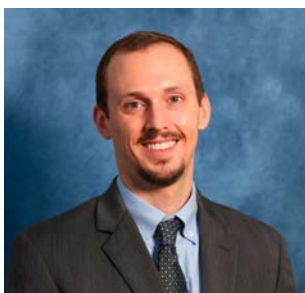
## Let Policy Govern Your Decisions

TUESDAY AT 2:15 PM • MEETING ROOM A

TUESDAY AT 3:30 PM • MEETING ROOM A

TUESDAY AT 3:30 PM FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

Strong governance begins with policy-driven decision-making. School boards and superintendents must ensure that every action aligns with district policies, legal requirements, and best practices to maintain transparency, accountability, and effective leadership. Attendees will gain insight into the critical role of policy in school governance.



**Austin Gilbert, Esq.** has served as the MSBA Policy and Legislative Manager since 2018. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and the Mississippi College School of Law, he was a staff attorney for the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services in both the policy and termination of parental rights division. To keep board members and superintendent up-to-date on legislative happenings, Austin tracks bills filed during the session and attends Legislative Committee meetings. He sends weekly legislative updates to school districts and converts the laws passed into policy after the close of the session.



# Concurrent Sessions & Speakers

## Future-Ready Education: Integrating AI into the Classroom

WEDNESDAY AT 10:30 AM • JR. BALLROOM C

Learn how to harness the power of artificial intelligence to enhance learning experiences in the classroom. This session covers the latest AI tools and technologies by providing practical tips for integration into the curriculum to prepare students for the future.



**Chris Chism** has dedicated more than 27 years of his life to public school education, beginning with his time as a classroom teacher and coach. He was appointed as the superintendent of Pearl Public School District in 2022, after serving as principal of Pearl High School for seven years. He was selected as a 2020 Practitioner of Distinction by the School of Education at the University of Mississippi. His personal interest in the area of AI has evolved into educating others about the many facets of AI, which can be used to make duties and responsibilities more efficient. He is in demand as an AI presenter across the nation.

## Building Future Innovators: How Grenada School District Leverages Project Lead the Way for STEM Success

WEDNESDAY AT 10:30 AM • MEETING ROOM B

As technology reshapes the job market, schools must prepare students for high-tech careers. Dr. David Daigneault, Superintendent of Grenada School District, will share how his district successfully implements Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a nationally recognized STEM program that builds critical skills in science, technology, engineering, and math while fostering problem-solving and creativity.



**Dr. David Daigneault**, has served as Superintendent of the Grenada School District since 2006, leading with innovation, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to student success. With 47 years in public education, he has dedicated his career to advancing academic excellence. In recognition of his impact, he received the 2024-2025 Golden Lamp Award and was named the 2013 Mississippi Superintendent of the Year by MASA.

## Be THE Leadership Standard

WEDNESDAY AT 10:30 AM • JR. BALLROOM D

Strong school board leadership relies on clear, transparent communication. This session equips board members and superintendents with strategies to enhance trust, navigate tough conversations, and strengthen board-superintendent collaboration. Learn best practices for effective communication in meetings, public forums, and stakeholder engagement to foster informed decision-making and community confidence.



**Cory Uselton** began serving as Superintendent for the DeSoto County School District in January 2016. During his tenure, he has consistently led the district to an "A" rating. As a high school principal, Mr. Uselton was recognized as the 2013 Administrator of the Year for the First Congressional District and was named the 2015 High School Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. As superintendent of the largest school district in Mississippi with 35,003 students, Mr. Uselton has addressed communication challenges, both internal and external to the district, and has developed solid strategies for knowing who to inform, when to inform, and how to inform.





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# Concurrent Sessions & Speakers

## The Future of Leadership: Strategies for Meaningful Impact

WEDNESDAY AT 10:30 AM • JR. BALLROOM AB

By embracing presence, clarity, and intentionality, leaders can align their actions with their values, inspire their teams, and create lasting impact. This session will provide practical strategies for school superintendents and board members to lead with greater awareness, foster a culture of collaboration, and navigate the challenges of governance, leadership, and literacy with a focus on meaningful and sustainable change.



**James Pond** has over 20 years of nonprofit leadership experience. As President of Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (GELF), he develops strategies to strengthen early literacy in Tennessee, collaborating with partners to expand programs statewide. His leadership unites the GELF team, 700+ volunteers, corporate partners, and government entities. A native of Antioch, CA, he previously led Veteran's PATH, supporting combat veterans, and spent 12 years fighting sex trafficking in Southeast Asia. After eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps, he worked in corporate America before transitioning to the nonprofit sector.

## Avoiding Liability Through Effective Policy Implementation

WEDNESDAY AT 10:30 AM FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDEES ONLY

Learn how well-crafted policies can protect your school district from legal risks. This session will cover best practices for developing, implementing, and enforcing policies that ensure compliance, minimize liability, and create a culture of accountability.



**Anissa Young, CSRM**, joined MSBA in 2005, and currently serves as Insurance Program Manager. She has a bachelor's degree from Northeast Louisiana University and a master's degree from Mississippi State University. Anissa has a background in health and safety compliance gained from her time spent working for International Paper Company. Currently, she is serving as secretary of the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission Advisory Council and represents the MSBA Workers' Compensation Trust on the Board of the Mississippi Association of Self-Insurers.



**Austin Gilbert, Esq.** has served as the MSBA Policy and Legislative Manager since 2018. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and the Mississippi College School of Law, he was a staff attorney for the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services in both the policy and termination of parental rights division. To keep board members and superintendent up-to-date on legislative happenings, Austin tracks bills filed during the session and attends Legislative Committee meetings. He sends weekly legislative updates to school districts and converts the laws passed into policy after the close of the session.

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# Lighthouse School Leader AWARDS

## LIGHTHOUSE AWARD CRITERIA

**Beacon Award:** "A" rated district, all schools "C" or higher, good standing with MDE Accreditation.

**Lantern Award:** "B" rated district, all schools "C" or higher, good standing with MDE Accreditation.

**Torch Award:** "C" or higher district, all schools "C" or higher, at least one "B" or above school, 90% Free/Reduced Lunch, good standing with MDE Accreditation.

## BEACON AWARDS

<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>BOARD PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SUPERINTENDENT</u>
Alcorn School District	Judd Chapman	Brandon Quinn
Amory School District	Jimmy Ann Ray	Brian Jones
Attala County School District	Janice Dees	Kyle Hammond
Bay St. Louis-Waveland School District	Casey Favre	Dr. Sandra Reed
Biloxi Public School District	Swayze Collier	Marcus Boudreaux
Chickasaw County School District	James Earp	John Ellison
Choctaw County School District	Michael Thomas	Glen Beard
Clinton Public School District	Paula DeYoung	Dr. Andy Schoggin
Enterprise School District	Ernie Culbreth	Marlon Brannan
Forrest County Agricultural High School	Jamie Walker	Adam Stone
George County School District	Christopher Hilburn	Wade Whitney
Greene County School District	Dorothy Clark	Charles Breland
Grenada School District	Haley Bidy	Dr. David Daigneault
Gulfport School District	Randy Richardson	Glen East
Hancock County School District	Dr. Jennifer Seal	Rhett Ladner
Harrison County School District	David Ladner	William Bentz
Hattiesburg Public School District	Dr. Delores McNair	Dr. Robert Williams
Itawamba County School District	Philip Blackmon	Austin Alexander
Jackson County School District	J. Keith Lee	David Baggett
Jones County School District	Jerry Terry Jr.	Dr. Billy Ray Jones
Kosciusko School District	Allison Schuler	Dr. Zachary Bost
Lafayette County School District	Dr. Jamie Anderson	Jay Foster
Lamar County School District	Jennie Hensarling	Dr. Steven Hampton
Lauderdale County School District	Kelvin Jackson	Dr. John-Mark Cain
Lincoln County School District	Michael "Joe" Portrey	David Martin
Long Beach School District	Timothy Pierce	Dr. Talia Lock
Lowndes County School District	Jane Kilgore	Dr. Sam Allison
Madison County School District	Ken McCoy	Ted Poore

Monroe County School District	Linda Bickerstaff	Dr. Chad O'Brian
Neshoba County School District	Wyatt Waddell	Josh Perkins
New Albany Public School District	Barbara Washington	Tony Cook
Newton County School District	Josh Sanders	Brooke Sibley
North Pike School District	Chris Richardson	Dr. Jay Smith
Ocean Springs School District	Dr. Vicki Tiblier	Michael Lindsey
Oxford School District	Denny Tosh	Bradley Roberson
Pascagoula Gautier School District	Tracy Jackson-Wilson	Billy Ellzey
Pass Christian Public School District	Margaret Jean Kalif	Dr. Carla Evers
Pearl Public School District	Sondra Odom	Chris Chism
Pearl River County School District	Eli Ouder	John Shows
Petal School District	Jerry DeFatta	Dr. Matt Dillon
Pontotoc City School District	Phyllis High	Phil Webb
Poplarville Separate School District	Jill Smith	Jonathan Will
Prentiss County School District	Ronald Kesler	Nickey Marshall
Rankin County School District	David Farmer	Dr. Scott Rimes
South Tippah School District	Tim Clark	Tony Elliott
Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District	Dr. Debra Prince	Dr. Tony McGee
Stone County School District	Dr. Mohamad Schuman	Boyd West
Tupelo Public School District	Hope Huey	Dr. Rob Picou
Union County School District	William "Mickey" Basil	Windy Faulkner
Union Public School District	Dr. Nicole Harrison	Dr. Tyler Hansford
Webster County School District	Rana Mitchell	James Mason

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## LANTERN AWARDS

<b>SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	<b>BOARD PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SUPERINTENDENT</b>
Baldwyn School District	Brian Hogue	Raymond Craven
Booneville School District	Dr. Catherine Mincy	Dr. Todd English
Calhoun County School District	Don Hardin	Dr. Lisa Langford
Coffeeville School District	Inetra Polk	Dexter Green
Columbia School District	Eric Lucas	Dr. Jason Harris
Leake County School District	Samuel Hoye	Dr. Joe Nelson
Marshall County School District	Kerry Hale	Dr. Carrie Skelton
Newton Municipal School District	Raymond Boutwell	Dr. Glenda Nickson
North Tippah School District	Larry Devore	Dr. Dax Glover
Philadelphia Public School District	Harold Coburn	Dr. Shannon Whitehead
Picayune School District	Jake Smith	Dean Shaw
Pontotoc County School District	Danny Robbins	Dr. Brock Puckett
Richton School District	Laecon Knight	Clay Anglin
Senatobia Municipal School District	Dr. Brant Kairit	Chris Fleming
Smith County School District	Robert Hicks	John King

South Panola School District	Sandra Darby	Dr. Del Phillips
South Pike School District	Tanya Brumfield	Dr. Angela Lowery
Water Valley School District	Kathryn York	Drew Pitcock
West Point Consolidated School District	Henry Brown	Dr. Jermaine Taylor
Winona-Montgomery Consolidated School District	Nora Dunn	Dr. Howard Savage
Yazoo County School District	Gregory Moseley	Dr. Ken Barron

## TORCH AWARDS

<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT / GRADE</u>	<u>BOARD PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SUPERINTENDENT</u>
Gulfport School District / A	Randy Richardson	Glen East
Union Public School District / A	Dr. Nicole Harrison	Dr. Tyler Hansford
Coffeeville School District / B	Inetra Polk	Dexter Green
Leake County School District / B	Samuel Hoyer	Dr. Joe Nelson
Marshall County School District / B	Kerry Hale	Dr. Carrie Skelton
Philadelphia Public School District / B	Harold Coburn	Dr. Shannon Whitehead
Pontotoc County School District / B	Danny Robbins	Dr. Brock Puckett
South Pike School District / B	Tanya Brumfield	Dr. Angela Lowery
Winona-Montgomery Consolidated School District / B	Nora Dunn	Dr. Howard Savage
Yazoo County School District / B	Gregory Moseley	Dr. Ken Barron
Amite County School District / C	Cindy Newman	Don Cuevas
Leland School District / C	Brandon Taylor	Jessie King

## Upcoming CBD Training

### Future-Focused Leadership: Are You Ready for the Next Generation?

March 3, 2025 • Southwest Mississippi Community College, Summit, MS

March 8, 2025 • Gulfport School District Central Office, Gulfport, MS

April 12, 2025 • Delta State University, Cleveland, MS

May 3, 2025 • Hancock Leadership Center, Tupelo, MS

### From Policy to Performance: Who is Telling Your Story?

March 4, 2025 • Southwest Mississippi Community College, Summit, MS

March 8, 2025 • Gulfport School District Central Office, Gulfport, MS

April 12, 2025 • Delta State University, Cleveland, MS

May 3, 2025 • Hancock Leadership Center, Tupelo, MS

*To register, visit [msbaonline.org](http://msbaonline.org).*



# CBD HONORS PROGRAM AWARDS

The Mississippi School Boards Association (MSBA) presents awards to school boards, board members, and superintendents for their diligence in earning school governance training hours during the school year. The Center for Board Development (CBD) Honors Program is designed to recognize school board members who obtain additional continuing education credit hours over and beyond the six (6) hours required by the State of Mississippi. Superintendents are commended for their efforts in taking a team approach to training by attending MSBA training with their board members.

## Mortar Board Honor Award

*Minimum 24 hours for MSBA core modules; no board member with fewer than 12 hours; adoption of MSBA governance standards*

<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>BOARD PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SUPERINTENDENT</u>
Tate County School District	211.50	Terri Reeves	Alee' Dixon

## Gavel Circle Honor Award

*Minimum 12 hours for MSBA core modules; no board member with fewer than 12 hours; adoption of MSBA governance standards*

<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>BOARD PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SUPERINTENDENT</u>
Tate County School District	211.50	Terri Reeves	Alee' Dixon

## Diploma Circle Honor Awards

*Minimum 120 hours for board-as-a-whole; no board member with fewer than 24 hours; if there are more than five board members, the members with the lowest hours are dropped from calculations*

<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>BOARD PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SUPERINTENDENT</u>
Tate County School District	211.50	Terri Reeves	Alee' Dixon
Newton Municipal School District	174.25	Raymond Boutwell	Dr. Glenda Nickson

## Red Apple Attendance Award

*This board attendance award is based only on total hours for the whole board and is presented to the school board with the highest number of MSBA-approved board training hours earned during the school year*

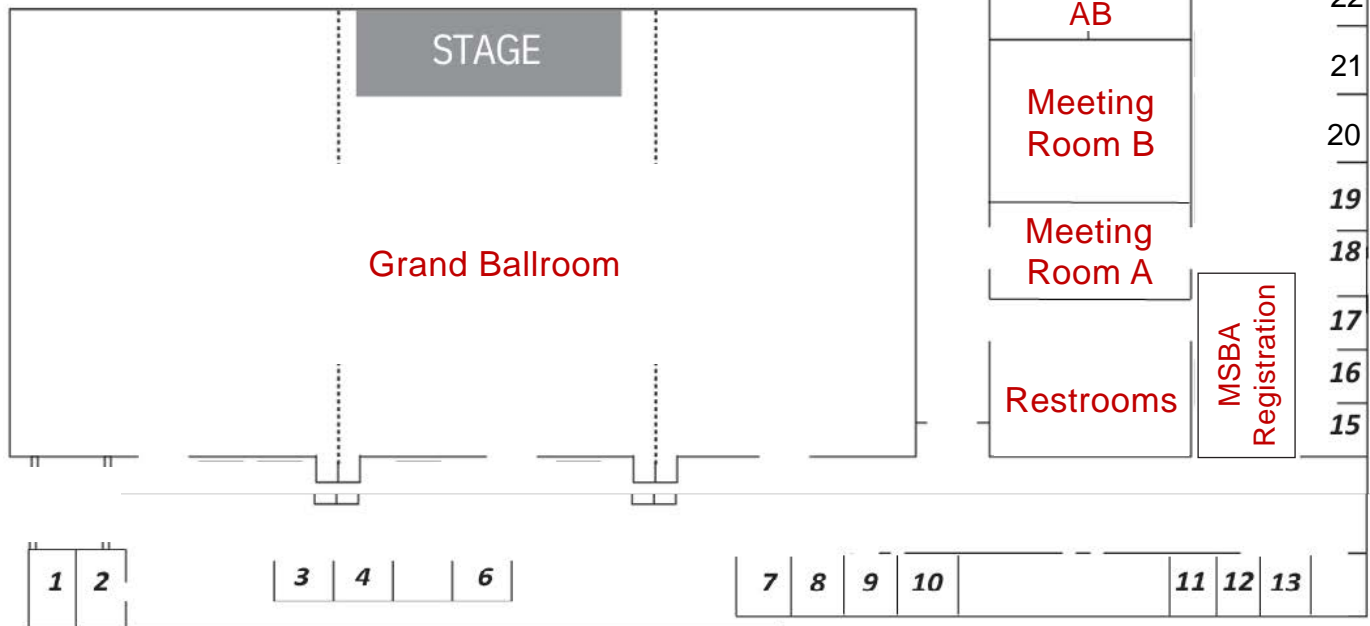
<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>BOARD PRESIDENT</u>	<u>SUPERINTENDENT</u>
Tate County School District	211.50	Terri Reeves	Alee' Dixon



# Exhibitors & Map

## BOOTH # / EXHIBITOR

1-2 Chartwells K12	12 Dale Bailey Architects
3 Capturing Kids' Hearts	13 Bailey Education Group, LLC
4 The Kirkland Group	15 Industrial Training Solutions
6 Scholastic	16 Kids First Education
7 American Fidelity Assurance Company	17 JBHM Architecture
8 Pelican Playgrounds, LLC	18 Upchurch Services
9 Mississippi Power Company	19 William Carey University
10 Curriculum Associates	20 PryorMorrow
11 CMTA, Inc.	21 Simbli eBOARD Solutions
	22 ACE Sports



*\*As of February 17, 2025; Subject to change.*



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Dr. Denotris R. Jackson, Executive Director

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