

Sunday, March 1, 2026

11:00 am	Executive Board Meeting	Grand Ballroom C
12:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting & luncheon	Grand Ballroom C
2:00 p.m.	Golf Outing	

SPONSORED BY



2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Sign-in/Registration Exhibitor Setup	Grand Ballroom Hallway
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Legal Updates Jim Keith and John Hooks	Grand Ballrooms A & B
5:00 p.m.	Reception	Courtyard near Pool Access through Jr. Ballroom Hallway

SPONSORED BY



Monday, March 2, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

**Sign-in / Registration
Exhibits Open**

Grand Ballroom Hallway

BREAKFAST SPONSORED BY

AMERICAN FIDELITY 
a different opinion


AUDIO ENHANCEMENT

Curriculum Associates®


i-Ready

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Opening Session

Grand Ballrooms A & B

Welcome

Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Executive Director

Chris Fleming, President & Senatobia School District Superintendent

Helping Hands – Helping One Another

Kelly Riley, Executive Director

Mississippi Professional Educators

Legislative Update

Jim Keith and John Hooks

Adams and Reese, LLP

What would YOU do?

**Panel discussion with Superintendents, Principals
& Jim and John**

9:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

**Break & Visit Exhibitors
Grand Ballroom & Jr Ballroom Hallways**

9:50 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions I

Partnership for School Improvement Solutions: Supporting Students with Disabilities for Sustainable Improvement

Presenters: Dr. Morgan Abraham, Starkville Oktibbeha School District; Mary Ruth Wright, Kids First Education

This presentation aims to provide district and school leaders with a comprehensive, research-aligned model for improving outcomes for students with disabilities and exiting School Improvement identification. By combining targeted student reading tutorials with ongoing job-embedded teacher coaching, this partnership promotes sustainable, data-driven practices that enhance student achievement and strengthen instructional capacity.

B/O #1 – 1 of 5

Grand Ballroom C

From Paper to Proof: Making Board Policies Work When Employee Policy Violation Occurs

Presenter: Dr. David Braswell, Retired Supt., former Arizona State Senator, CEO, UpSlope Solutions LLC

This session presents research-based online tools for aligning board policies with daily administrative practice. Participants will examine misconduct definitions, apply “just and proper cause” standards, and learn how to build transparent, consistent, and defensible disciplinary documentation that protects due process and strengthens board authority.

B/O #1 – 2 of 5

Meeting Room B

The Superintendent as a Community Architect

Presenters: Dr. Titus Hines, Perry County School District; Matt Miller, FinalSite

The Superintendent as a Community Architect explores how visible leadership, intentional culture-building, and community-centered decision-making strengthen districts facing crisis and change. Drawing on Dr. Hines’s leadership in Perry County, this session examines how schools function as economic and social anchors in rural communities. Participants will learn how the district leveraged the federal Stronger Connections grant to invest in mental health supports and relationship-building rather than security hardware, reinforcing safety through trust. Attendees will leave with practical insights on leading beyond the office, aligning school health with community well-being, and designing resilient systems rooted in human connection.

B/O #1 – 3 of 5

Junior Ballroom B

Beyond Points and Prizes: Designing Culturally Responsive House Systems

Presenters: Lindsay White and Dr. Darla Lofton, Forest Municipal School District

Many schools implement house systems, but few design them to be culturally responsive, sustainable, and aligned to students' achievement. This session will guide school leaders through building a house system that strengthens belonging, supports behavior, and elevates academic outcomes - especially in diverse, high-need schools. Participants will learn how to create identity-affirming houses, integrate meaningful rituals, and connect culture to instructional goals. Attendees will leave with a practical blueprint they can implement immediately, regardless of school size or resources.

B/O # 1 – 4 of 5

Junior Ballroom C

Keeping Schools Safe

Presenter: Chief Cedric Brown, Yazoo City Municipal School District

This presentation offers a focused overview of essential school safety measures designed to promote a secure learning environment. Key topics include the implementation of approved clear backpacks to limit concealment of prohibited items, awareness of disguised or concealed drugs such as edibles, and the growing concern of vape usage among students. The session also highlights the importance of effective weapons detection procedures and their role in preventing potential threats. Additionally, participants will review CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) concepts and related safety trainings that strengthen readiness, reinforce staff awareness, and support consistent, proactive campus safety practices for all stakeholders.

B/O #1 – 5 of 5

Junior Ballroom D

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Break & Visit Exhibitors
Grand Ballroom & Jr Ballroom Hallways**

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions II

Pathways to Proficiency: Leveraging Data for Instructional Impact

Presenters: Amanda Samples, Kristy Dunning, and Jennifer Stripling, Desoto County Schools; Educational Materials Specialists

Desoto County Schools uses Pathways to track district assessment data aligned to High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIMs), ensuring accuracy and consistency from the district level to the classroom. Benchmark data from Pathways drives instructional decisions through purposeful data meetings that engage leaders, teachers, and students in understanding progress and planning next steps for all learners. District assessments, benchmarks, Steppingstones, and Power Checks are utilized in Pathways to provide real-time feedback and empower teachers to adjust instruction and keep students on track toward proficiency.

B/O #2 – 1 of 4

Grand Ballroom C

“School Culture & Accountability – The Balancing Act”

Presenters: Alan Lumpkin, Scott County School District

“School Culture & Accountability – The Balancing Act” is a practical and engaging presentation designed for school leaders seeking to create thriving schools where people love to work and students excel. Leaders will explore best practices for fostering a positive, supportive environment that motivates teachers and staff daily. At the same time, the session will highlight strategies for setting and maintaining high expectations that drive continuous improvement. Participants will learn how strong relationships, clear communication, and consistent follow-through can elevate performance without sacrificing morale. This presentation equips leaders with actionable tools to balance encouragement and accountability, ensuring success for both staff and students.

B/O #2 – 2 of 4

Junior Ballroom B

Professional Learning for Superintendents through the MS Superintendents Institute with a focus on Preparing Leaders to Leading School Districts

Presenters: Dr. John Mark Cain, Lauderdale County Schools; Dr. Earl Watkins, Yazoo City School District; Dr. Cory Murphy, MDE Associate State Superintendent Office of Teach and Leading; Rhyne Thompson, Attala County School District; Megan Garner, Nettleton School District; Dr. Susan Rucker and Dr. Cederick Ellis, NCEE

The MS Superintendents Institute is a new institute created in partnership between the MDE and NCEE. The Phil Hardin Foundation funded a NCEE submitted grant for new superintendents with 2 years or less experience and a cohort for veteran superintendents with a focus on three distinct courses: Discover your Leadership Core Design a High Performing Education System Deliver a Transformed Schooling Experience.

B/O #2 – 3 of 4

Junior Ballroom C

Integrating AI and Beacon in Measuring Student Learning

Presenters: Dr. Jason Harris, Columbia School District, Dr. J.P. Beaudoin, Advanced Instructional Management (AIM)

Columbia School District is poised to elevate student tracking by integrating AI-driven metrics and Mississippi’s Beacon adaptive assessment into our existing formative measurement system. This initiative creates a robust, multi-dimensional approach to monitoring student growth. To bridge the gap between technology and pedagogy, we will execute a targeted professional development phase in Spring of 2026. This training will equip school leaders and teachers with the skills necessary to leverage these advanced diagnostics for personalized instruction.

B/O #2 – 4 of 4

Junior Ballroom D

12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Break & Visit Exhibitors
Grand Ballroom & Jr Ballroom Hallways**

12:15 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.
Welcome & Comments
Introduction of Speaker

Luncheon & Keynote
Chris Fleming, President

LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY



FINALSITE

Kollin R. Napier, Ph.D.
Director, Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network
(MAIN)

1:55 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

Break and Visit with Exhibitors
Grand Ballroom & Jr Ballroom Hallways

2:10 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions III

Hot Topics in School Business and Finance

Presenters: Jim Young, Warren Greenlee, and Bonnie Granger, Young Law Group

Managing district finances and meeting district needs requires an understanding of State funding, PERS, ad valorem taxes, and borrowing options. Join Young Law Group's Jim Young, Warren Greenlee, and Bonnie Granger to discuss these issues and other hot topics on school funding and long-range financial planning.

B/O #3 – 1 of 4

Grand Ballroom C

Literacy with Intention: Our Shift from Skeptical to Sold on HQIM

Presenters: Dr. Sam Allison and Casey Glusenkamp, Lowndes County School District

If you're committed to strengthening instruction and boosting student outcomes, this is a session you do not want to miss. Implementing a high-quality instructional material (HQIM) isn't just another initiative—it's a direct investment in student success with real, measurable results. The Mississippi Department of Education has confirmed that DRC aligns statewide assessment items with the specific content included in HQIMs. In other words, the knowledge and vocabulary built through these materials are *exactly* what students will be tested on starting this year.

This session will show how intentional, knowledge-building instruction pays off. When students have the background knowledge and vocabulary they need, comprehension skyrockets. You'll see how even our youngest learners—like first graders exploring the human body, the solar system, and the American Revolution—can master essential ELA skills such as main idea, inferencing, and text evidence because they're learning through meaningful, connected content.

B/O #3 – 2 of 4

Junior Ballroom B

Scaling Excellence: Jackson Public Schools' Model for Teacher Leadership and High-Quality Instruction

Presenter: Reem Ahmed

With literacy achievement lagging behind pre-2019 levels and persistent staffing challenges, districts nationwide are seeking integrated strategies that accelerate student learning while expanding sustainable career pathways for educators. This session highlights a pilot underway in Jackson Public Schools, where leaders are combining two research-backed approaches: supporting teachers to effectively use high-quality instructional materials aligned with the science of reading, and redesigning schools into small, collaborative teams led by proven, high-growth teacher-leaders. Initially focused on K-2 literacy, the model is designed for districtwide scalability across grades and subjects. Project leaders from the Opportunity Culture® initiative and Jackson Public Schools will discuss how this comprehensive pilot is paving the way for addressing chronic vacancies, improving access to high-quality instruction, and creating meaningful advancement opportunities that help retain excellent educators. Participants will gain insight into early implementation lessons, system conditions for success, and how this dual-pillar strategy can serve as a blueprint for large-scale instructional and talent transformation.

B/O #3 – 3 of 4

Junior Ballroom C

Moving From Idea to Impact: How a continuous improvement framework drives immediate, meaningful growth in teaching practices.

Presenters: Marni Herrington, Patches Calhoun, and Keri Jo Sapp, Oxford School District

This session introduces a practical Continuous Improvement Learning Framework designed to move teaching practice forward immediately. Participants will explore how short-cycle goals, visible data, student voice, and PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) cycles work together to support daily instructional improvement. Using classroom-based examples, the presentation demonstrates how teachers track progress, gather student feedback, and adapt instruction in real time. Attendees will leave with clear entry points they can implement the next day, including actionable routines for goal setting, student rounding, and data reflection aligned to schoolwide priorities.

B/O #3 – 4 of 4

Junior Ballroom D

3:10 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Break and Visit with Exhibitors
Grand Ballroom & Jr Ballroom Hallways

Break Refreshments Sponsored by



3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions IV

Building Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Pathways: Authentic Assessment Strategies from K-12
Presenter: Stefanie Jones, Lowndes County School District; Tiyi Smith, Renaissance National Academic Advisor

Join a Mississippi district leader and Renaissance experts as they share how authentic Spanish assessments can uncover early language assets, accelerate biliteracy growth, and inform instruction for diverse learners. Participants will gain practical strategies for assessing newcomers and students with interrupted formal education, while preparing students for required high-stakes biliteracy assessments in grades 9–12.

B/O #4 – 1 of 3

Grand Ballroom C

Hear It. Understand It. Learn It.

Presenters: Dr. Melanie Nelson, Dr. Marcus Holbert, and Dr. Ebony Donelson-Crosby, Forest Municipal School District; Sonya Gates, Audio Enhancement

Did you know that approximately 75% of classroom learning activities involve listening? If students cannot clearly hear instruction, learning is immediately impacted. Are your students hearing everything that is being said? Are you still searching for effective ways to support and accommodate English Learners? Join Forest Municipal School District for an engaging discussion on how intentional use of classroom audio can transform teaching and learning. District leaders will share their experience using Audio Enhancement's classroom audio solution. Stick around and experience how the CLEAR Connect translation service can impact learning for all students.

B/O #4 – 2 of 3

Junior Ballroom B

If It Can Happen There: Leadership Decisions in the Face of a Cybersecurity Threat
Presenter: Dr. Amanda Harris, Rankin County School District and Gavin Guynes,
Madison County School District

This will be a roundtable Q&A session to discuss real-world examples of recent cybersecurity attacks and how you can better prepare your districts now.

B/O #3 – 3 of 4

Junior Ballroom C

Best Practices: Implementing a Culture of Building Capacity

Presenters: Lewis Bradford and Dr. Cody Killen, Rankin County School District

This presentation focuses on best practices for building capacity in people by creating a culture that empowers staff and strengthens schools. The session highlights intentionally turning challenges into opportunities, leading people back to what is going well, and balancing strong relationships with high expectations. Participants will explore effective approaches to facilities, behavior, communication between staff and administration, and thoughtful practices that promote inclusion while avoiding unnecessary burdens. The presentation will also emphasize leveraging district resources, such as curriculum teams, to foster shared ownership, collective efficacy, and sustainable growth.

B/O #4 – 4 of 4

Junior Ballroom D

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

7:00 a.m.

**Sign-in / Registration
Exhibits Open**

**Grand Ballroom Hallway
& Jr Ballroom Hallway**

7:15 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Grand Ballroom A & B

BREAKFAST SPONSORED BY



8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Grand Ballroom A & B

**Welcome & Comments
Introduction of Speaker**

Chris Fleming, President

**Dr. David Lee,
Professor of Educational Leadership
University of Southern Mississippi**

Leadership From The Trenches---The Leadership Lessons You Didn't See Coming

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

***Break & Visit with Exhibitors*
Grand Ballroom & Jr Ballroom Hallways**

From Compliance Keeper to Instructional Leader: Navigating the Ever-Changing Role of the Special Education Director**Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Boykin, Director of Special Services Clinton Public School District**

The role of the Special Education Director is constantly changing. In years past, the Special Education Director was mostly consumed by fiscal support and maintenance of compliance within local programs. While these activities are still critical to programmatic success, the Special Education Director often possesses unique skills to support instruction for diverse learners. Therefore, it is important that Directors begin to embrace the role of instructional leaders. This session will explore ways that the Special Education Director can support teachers and school leaders in the design and implementation of instruction that supports positive learning outcomes for all students.

B/O #5 – 1 of 4**Grand Ballroom C****Accountability Questions going into the spring, we have answers****Presenters: Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Allen Burrow****B/O #5 – 2 of 4****Junior Ballroom B****School District Leadership****Presenter: Dr. Ronnie McGehee**

Bring your specific questions regarding any part of School District Leadership and be part of the conversation.

B/O #5 – 3 of 4**Junior Ballroom C****Retirement Questions? Looking for options and answers?****Attend this breakout to assist you in deciding your options for your retirement success.****Presenter: Ron Kyzar**

- **Partial Lump Sum:** *Once in a lifetime opportunity to withdraw/rollover a large amount from PERS and still receive a lifetime income stream as well as an ongoing 13th check.*
- **PERS Income and Survivor Benefits:** *An in depth look at Maximum Benefit vs Option 2, Option 4a and Option 4b(20) and 13th check attributable for each.*

B/O #5 – 4 of 4**Junior Ballroom D****11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.*****Break & Visit with Exhibitors
Grand Ballroom & Jr Ballroom Hallways***

From Compliance Keeper to Instructional Leader: Navigating the Ever-Changing Role of the Special Education Director**Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Boykin, Director of Special Services Clinton Public School District**

The role of the Special Education Director is constantly changing. In years past, the Special Education Director was mostly consumed by fiscal support and maintenance of compliance within local programs. While these activities are still critical to programmatic success, the Special Education Director often possesses unique skills to support instruction for diverse learners. Therefore, it is important that Directors begin to embrace the role of instructional leaders. This session will explore ways that the Special Education Director can support teachers and school leaders in the design and implementation of instruction that supports positive learning outcomes for all students.

B/O #6 – 1 of 4**Grand Ballroom C****Accountability Questions going into the spring, we have answers****Presenters: Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Allen Burrow****B/O #6 – 2 of 4****Junior Ballroom B****School District Leadership****Presenter: Dr. Ronnie McGehee**

Bring your specific questions regarding any part of School District Leadership and be part of the conversation.

B/O #6 – 3 of 4**Junior Ballroom C****Retirement Questions? Looking for options and answers?****Attend this breakout to assist you in deciding your options for your retirement success.****Presenter: Ron Kyzar**

- **Partial Lump Sum:** *Once in a lifetime opportunity to withdraw/rollover a large amount from PERS and still receive a lifetime income stream as well as an ongoing 13th check.*
- **PERS Income and Survivor Benefits:** *An in depth look at Maximum Benefit vs Option 2, Option 4a and Option 4b(20) and 13th check attributable for each.*

B/O #6 – 4 of 4**Junior Ballroom D**

1:05 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.
Welcome
Introduction of Speaker

Grand Ballrooms A & B
Mr. Chris Fleming, President

LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY



Lance Evans, Mississippi Superintendent of Education