Sunday, October 25, 2026

11:00 am	**Executive Board Meeting**	**Legacy Ballroom C**
12:00 pm	**Board of Directors Mtg & lunch**	**Legacy Ballroom C**
1:00 p.m.	**American Fidelity Golf Outing – Tee time**	

AMERICAN FIDELITY
a different opinion

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	**Sign-in/Registration** **Exhibitor Setup**	**Legacy Prefunction Hall**
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	**Every Day We Have Two Choices** **Dr. Ronnie McGehee**	**Legacy Ballrooms A & B**

Monday, October 26, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	**Sign-in / Registration** **Exhibits Open**	**Legacy Prefunction Hall**

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8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	**Opening Session**	**Legacy Ballrooms A & B**

Welcome
Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Executive Director
Chris Fleming, President & Senatobia School District Superintendent

Let's Build on our continued success to achieve our goals....
sharing with others how we got here

SOY panel
(Dr. John-Mark Cain, Dr. Ray Morgigno, Dr. Lundy Brantley, and Dr. Matt Dillon)

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Break & Visit Exhibitors**
Legacy & Heritage Prefunction Hallways

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions I

Beyond the Principal: The Leadership Work That Makes Improvement Possible
Presenters: Dr. Braxton Stowe and Dr. Paula Tharp, University of MS
Most schools have structures to improve teaching and learning: PLCs, classroom observations, data meetings, and student support processes. But are they making a difference in classrooms? What matters is the work within these structures, how it connects across the school, and whether teachers feel supported to examine their practice and hold high expectations for student learning.

Using practical examples and the principles of Internal Coherence, this interactive session explores how leaders can connect improvement efforts and strengthen instructional culture and climate. Participants will reflect on their leadership practices and identify strategies to build trust, strengthen collaboration and teacher ownership, and use evidence to develop the collective confidence and capacity to improve student learning.
B/O #1 – 1 of 4 **Legacy Ballroom C**

~~**The 3 AM Question**~~
~~**Presenter: Steve Biondi, FinalSite**~~
~~What AI Means for the Way Your District Talks to Families; The Promises and the Pitfalls~~
B/O #1 – 2 of 4 **CANCELLED** **Heritage Ballroom B**

Beyond the Budget Breaking Point: Plan Smarter. Finance Wisely. Build for the Future.
Jim Young, Warren Greenlee, and Bonnie Granger, Young Law Group
Stop scrambling from one budget year to the next. Discover how forward-thinking districts are planning years ahead, making strategic financial decisions, and positioning themselves for long-term success.

In this session, we'll explore how to approach borrowing the right way, evaluate financing options with confidence, and recognize hidden traps before they become costly problems. Walk away with practical insights to help protect your projects, your budget, and your community's trust.

Plan ahead. Borrow smarter. Avoid costly surprises.
B/O # 1 – 3 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom C**

From Regulation to Rigor™: Using the 5Rs Relational Framework™ to Move Schools from Dysregulation to Measurable Results
Presenter: MDonnell Tenner
This session introduces From Regulation to Rigor™, a superintendent-level leadership model using the 5Rs Relational Framework™: Relational, Real, Relevant, Rigorous, and Results. Participants will examine how student dysregulation, teacher stress, weak adult systems, and inconsistent expectations directly affect instruction, school climate, discipline, attendance, and academic performance. The session provides a practical framework for moving schools from crisis response to regulated adult culture, engaged students, rigorous instruction, and measurable outcomes. Leaders will leave with an actionable model to align relationships, behavior systems, instructional expectations, leadership cadence, and data-driven accountability.
B/O #1 – 4 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom D**

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Break & Visit Exhibitors**
Legacy & Heritage Prefunction Hallways

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions II

From Materials to Mastery: Using Pathways, HQIM, and Assessment Fidelity to Accelerate Student Achievement
Presenters: Chasedy Gilford & Roshonda Brandon-Lampley,Hinds County School District; Paul Shelly, Educational Materials Specialists
This session will explore how districts and schools can effectively implement Pathways alongside High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) while maintaining assessment fidelity. Participants will learn strategies for aligning instructional resources, assessments, and data-driven decision-making to create a cohesive instructional framework. The session will highlight practical approaches for using Pathways to support differentiation, intervention, and acceleration while ensuring that assessments accurately measure student learning and inform instructional next steps.
B/O #2 – 1 of 4 **Legacy Ballroom C**

Supporting a Culture of Accessibility, Safety, and Efficiency
Presenters: Dr. Sam Allison, Superintendent Lowndes County School District; Dr. Tori Holloway, Superintendent Vicksburg-Warren School District; Dr. Melanie Nelson, Superintendent Forest Municipal School District; Sonya Gates, Audio Enhancement
Join us for a round-table discussion to learn how tools like classroom audio, translation services, intercom and paging, and wearable safety devices are enhancing communication, supporting instruction, and strengthening school safety, while offering practical insights for building more inclusive and efficient learning environments.
B/O #2 – 2 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom B**

Practical AI use for K-12 School Administrators
Presenters: Dax Glover, Superintendent North Tippah School District
This session provides school and district leaders with practical, immediately applicable strategies for using artificial intelligence to improve efficiency, communication, and decision- making while maintaining ethical and legal standards. Participants will explore real-world examples of AI-assisted email writing, policy development, board communications, data analysis, meeting preparation, and strategic planning. The presentation also addresses responsible AI use, including FERPA considerations, accuracy verification, and best practices for implementation. Attendees will leave with actionable tools, prompts, and resources they can begin using immediately to save time and enhance leadership effectiveness.
B/O #2 – 3 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom C**

One District, One Direction: Aligning People, Practices, and Priorities for Student Success
Presenter: Dr. Monte' Ewing-Johnson, Columbus Municipal School District
Sustainable district improvement requires more than effective programs it requires alignment. High-performing districts are not defined by isolated programs but by coherent systems that turn shared priorities into consistent student experiences. CMSD administrators will reveal how collaborative leadership, instructional non-negotiables, strategic interventions, family engagement, resource alignment, and evidence-based monitoring unite schools around student success. Using authentic implementation examples, lessons learned, and an interactive alignment audit, presenters will demonstrate how CMSD moves priorities from district plans into daily practice while honoring each campus's unique needs. Participants will leave with replicable tools for evaluating initiatives, strengthening accountability, reducing fragmentation, and building collective ownership so every person, practice, and resource advances one vision of excellence.
B/O #2 – 4 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom D**

12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Break & Visit Exhibitors**
Legacy & Heritage Prefunction Hallways

12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Luncheon & Keynote**
Welcome & Comments **Chris Fleming, President**
Introduction of Speaker

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When Good People Need a Better System: The Oxford Story of Leadership, Culture, and Continuous Improvement

Bradley Roberson

Superintendent of the Year recognition

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Break and Visit with Exhibitors
Legacy & Heritage Prefunction Hallways

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions III

Continuous Improvement Isn't a Slogan. It's a System.

Presenters: Marni Herrington, Oxford School District; Bradley Roberson, Studer Education

Continuous improvement can easily become another catchphrase—or another initiative that leaves employees wondering what will come next. Oxford School District took a different approach. In partnership with Studer Education, we built systems that move improvement away from top-down initiatives and put the people closest to the work at the center of identifying what can be better. By focusing on small, actionable changes, using leading measures to monitor progress, and creating intentional processes for listening, learning, and adjusting, continuous improvement becomes more than something we talk about…it becomes how we work. This session will share our journey from initiative fatigue to a sustainable system of improvement, including the practical structures, lessons learned, and strategies that have helped meaningful change take hold.

B/O #3 – 1 of 4 **Legacy Ballroom C**

Growth of Each = Growth of All: Best Practices for Customized Elementary School Instruction

Presenters: TaNaya Cooks and RaMon Forbes, Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District; CC Bradberry, Bailey Education

Ensuring our students are able to gain customized instruction at the elementary school level is not only challenging, it can feel impossible. During this session, Starkville-Oktibbeha elementary administrators Ra'Mon Forbes and TaNaya Cooks share strategies and supports their team used to grow each student in English Language Arts. The team, along with CC Bradberry from Bailey Education Group, will share a clear plan to ensure reading growth and engagement which includes data to customized instruction, leadership strategies, teacher capacity, and student engagement.

B/O #3 – 2 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom B**

Building Career Pathways Through Industry Partnerships
Presenter: Susan McClelland, DTE Director, Lowndes County School District; Melinda Lowe, FORGE Executive Director; Haylie Quatrevingt, Burns Dirt, Recruiting and Outreach Director; Bill Whittle, JBHM Architecture
This session explores how schools, employers, workforce organizations, and design professionals can collaborate to strengthen career and technical education. FORGE will discuss connecting students, schools, employers, and training providers. Burns Dirt will share industry priorities and the skills employers value. The School District will offer a district perspective on developing effective CTE programs. JBHM Architecture will address how thoughtful planning and adaptable facilities can support hands-on learning, evolving technology, industry engagement, and long-term community needs. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for aligning partnerships, programs, and spaces with local workforce opportunities.
B/O #3 – 3 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom C**

DAWG Nation: A University-School-Community Partnership Designed to Support Students and Prepare Educators
Presenters: Dr. Alisha Milan, Dr. Rosalind Operton, Dr. Kaleb Smith, MSU – Meridian Division of Education
Mississippi State University-Meridian Division of Education entered into a partnership with MPSD and community organizations where MPSD students were mentored by university graduate students in the alternate route teacher preparation program and the school leader preparation program. The presentation will consist of how school-community partnerships can benefit all stakeholders, the barriers encountered along the way and solutions, and the successes/improvements made by the partnership for all involved.
B/O #3 – 4 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom D**

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Break and Visit with Exhibitors
Legacy & Heritage Prefunction Hallways

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions IV

From Screening to Action: Building a Districtwide System for Struggling Readers
Presenter: Leta Palmiter, Illuminations Literacy Solutions

Mississippi's literacy gains show what is possible when strong leadership, evidence-based instruction, and purposeful data use align. However, many districts still struggle to translate screening results into specific instructional actions, especially beyond the primary grades. This session offers a practical framework for turning reading data into coordinated action across core instruction, intervention, and progress monitoring. Presenters will explain how to identify skill gaps, group students for targeted support, align resources, and build feedback loops that guide instructional adjustments. A district example will highlight key leadership decisions and data routines needed to move from isolated programs to a coherent system of support. Participants will leave with tools and next steps to strengthen reading outcomes.

B/O #4 – 1 of 4 **Legacy Ballroom C**

Beyond Discipline: Stop Reacting, Start Reaching
Presenters: Coke Magee and Shauna Bostick, Lee County School District; Kelly Richards, Thriveway

Too often, behavior and attendance challenges get handled one incident at a time—reacting to problems after they surface. This session shows how to shift from reacting to reaching: pairing prevention education with peer support to get to the root of those challenges and position your students as the greatest untapped resource for climate, safety, and connection. When students are equipped to support one another, schools reach kids who feel disconnected and strengthen culture, without adding one more program to manage. You'll leave with a practical, research-informed framework for meeting students where their needs are.

B/O #4 – 2 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom B**

Apprenticeship Degrees as a Scalable Solution for Teacher Recruitment and Retention
Presenters: Dr. Matt Dillon, Petal School District; Dr. Heath Grimes, Reach University

School systems across the country are rethinking how they attract, prepare, and retain high-quality educators in an increasingly competitive labor market. This session highlights how Reach University's Apprenticeship Degree program provides a scalable, workforce-aligned solution that removes traditional barriers while strengthening long-term retention and only costs $75 a month after grants and scholarships.
Through an Apprenticeship Degree approach, school systems can build sustainable educator pipelines by combining paid, on-the-job learning with high-quality coursework, mentorship, and leadership development. This model not only expands access to the profession but also supports paraprofessionals and community members in advancing their careers without leaving the workforce.

B/O #4 – 3 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom C**

Leading From Where You Are: A District-Wide Approach to Leadership Development
Presenters: Dr. Germain McConnell and Dr. Hunter Taylor, Oxford School District
Leadership exists throughout a school district, but emerging leaders are often overlooked when leadership development is reserved for those with formal titles. This session shares how Oxford School District created the Charger Institute to intentionally identify, connect, and develop employees across schools, departments, and roles. Presenters will share the program's design, selection process, lessons learned, and evidence of impact from its first two years. Participants will leave with practical principles for building a district-wide leadership development model that strengthens organizational culture, develops talent from within, and empowers employees to lead from where they are.
B/O #4 – 4 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom D**

Reception – 5:00 -7:00 pm Rooftop Bar

Reception Co-Sponsors

YOUNG LAW GROUP PLLC

#1 KIDS FIRST EDUCATION

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

7:00 a.m.
Sign-in / Registration — **Legacy & Heritage Ballrooms Hallways**
Exhibits Open

7:15 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. — **Legacy Ballroom A & B**

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8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. — **Legacy Ballroom A & B**

MASA Business Meeting – announce new Secretary, give financial report, swear in new board.

Welcome & Comments — **Charles Breland, President**
Introduction of Speaker

Jim Keith & John Hooks
Adams & Reese

Updates on Legal Matters
Pitfalls of What Employees Will Try to do

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Break & Visit with Exhibitors**
Legacy & Heritage Prefunction Hallways

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions V**

Don't Just Take a Seat…Take the Lead!
What Every Agency Representative Needs to Know
Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Boykin, Clinton School District
An effective IEP team begins with strong leadership. This session examines the legal and practical responsibilities of the agency representative and highlights how administrators can develop teachers into confident, capable leaders of the IEP process. Participants will explore best practices for facilitating meetings, making educationally sound decisions, managing difficult conversations, and maintaining compliance while keeping students at the center of every discussion. Attendees will leave with practical strategies they can immediately implement to strengthen IEP teams across their schools and districts
B/O #5 – 1 of 4 **Legacy Ballroom C**

Driving Continuous Improvement through the Statewide Assessment and Accountability Systems
Presenters: Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Allen Burrow
B/O #5 – 2 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom B**

Students are more than test and accountability scores. They are the doorway to community change.
Presenter: Montgomery Hinton
Seeing how structured support is built for ACT, Workkeys, PSAT (and its untapped accountability impact as well as untapped student scholarships), NOCTI, and SAT will enlighten you to undiscovered opportunities. Leave empowered. Know there are solutions. Hear a model built for the second largest school district in Mississippi that has helped continued attainment of an A level. Leave empowered. You will see student-level boot camps and staff-level professional development that have been refined by continual immersion in the most recent versions of the changed tests and accountability model.
B/O #5 – 3 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom C**

Breaking Through Resistance: A Practical Framework for Responding to Pushback and Avoidance
Presenter: Becca Silver, Founder and CEO, The Whole Educator
School leaders are often encouraged to manage resistance, overcome pushback, or get educators to "buy in". But these approaches can miss the real issue. Resistance is not simply an attitude or compliance problem. It is often information about an unmet need.

In this interactive session, participants will learn a practical framework for diagnosing the beliefs beneath common forms of pushback and avoidance. Becca Silver will introduce the five Catalyst Mindsets™: Value, Belonging, Growth, Success, and Ownership. Each mindset offers leaders a different lens for understanding why an educator may feel stuck, hesitant, disconnected, doubtful, or powerless during change.

Using realistic school-based scenarios, participants will practice identifying the unsupported mindset beneath resistance and selecting a leadership response that addresses the root cause rather than repeatedly reacting to symptoms. Leaders will leave equipped to move from judgment and "shoulds" toward curiosity, compassion, accountability, and targeted support.

B/O #5 – 4 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom D**

11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Break & Visit with Exhibitors**
Legacy & Heritage Prefunction Hallways

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions VI

Don't Just Take a Seat...Take the Lead!
What Every Agency Representative Needs to Know
Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Boykin, Clinton School District
An effective IEP team begins with strong leadership. This session examines the legal and practical responsibilities of the agency representative and highlights how administrators can develop teachers into confident, capable leaders of the IEP process. Participants will explore best practices for facilitating meetings, making educationally sound decisions, managing difficult conversations, and maintaining compliance while keeping students at the center of every discussion. Attendees will leave with practical strategies they can immediately implement to strengthen IEP teams across their schools and districts

B/O #6 – 1 of 4 **Legacy Ballroom C**

Driving Continuous Improvement through the Statewide Assessment and Accountability Systems
Presenters: Dr. Paula Vanderford and Dr. Allen Burrow
B/O #6 – 2 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom B**

Students are more than test and accountability scores. They are the doorway to community change.
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B/O #6 – 3 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom C**

The Acknowledgment Challenge: Embracing the Risk Required to Lead a Culture of Belonging
Presenter: Nason Lollar, Madison County and Lewis Bradford, Rankin County School District
Acknowledgment is one of the simplest tools school leaders have for strengthening relationships, shaping culture and climate, and creating a workplace where good people want to come to work and stay. So why don't we do it more often—and why do we sometimes avoid the more difficult forms of acknowledgment that could strengthen our schools? This interactive session looks at nine different forms of acknowledgment that are crucial to school leadership, ranging from recognition and appreciation to feedback, correction, apology, and forgiveness. Participants will explore how vulnerability and interpersonal risk often make acknowledging others difficult, while indifference and neglect carry an even greater cost. Most importantly, attendees will learn how to overcome these barriers with a practical framework and actionable strategies they can use immediately to meet the challenge inherent in acknowledging people properly and strengthening the culture of their schools.
B/O #6 – 4 of 4 **Heritage Ballroom D**

1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Legacy Ballrooms A & B**

Welcome Mr. Charles Breland, President

Introduction of Speaker

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