



2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 1-3 | CHICAGO, IL



PROGRAM GUIDE

AN **nsba** EVENT



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2026 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, Sept. 30

3 – 6 p.m.	Early Registration	Water Tower
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Thursday, Oct. 1

7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Registration	Water Tower
7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	NSBA Member Lounge (Members Only)	Grand Horizon F
7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	NSBA Bookstore	Great Lakes Foyer
7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Sponsor Activation Stations	Great Lakes Foyer
8 – 11:30 a.m.	Experiential Site Visits <i>(Ticketed Events, At Capacity)</i> Innovation in Action: Exploring Rich Township's STEM Campus Building Strong Foundations: School Board Leadership in Early Learning	Transportation is provided. Please meet at the Main Lobby Entrance of the Marriott by 7:45 a.m. Buses will depart promptly at 8:15 a.m. <i>Transportation Sponsored by:</i>  KALEIDOSCOPE WELLNET AND EDUCATION GROUP LLC

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Thursday, Oct. 1

8:30 – 9 a.m.	CUBE First-Time Attendees Informational Session & Meet and Greet	Grand Horizon A
9 – 10:15 a.m.	Breakout Sessions	
	Building Community While Supporting Your Community	Grand Horizon A
	When Trust Is Tested: How Boards and Superintendents Navigate Conflict Together	Grand Horizon B
	Together We Rise: Student Outcomes Focused Collaboration Between Phoenix Districts	Grand Horizon E
10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Breakout Sessions	
	Equity Unleashed: Advancing STEAM Innovations for All Students	Grand Horizon A
	Urgency to Impact: How Philly Is Becoming One of America's Fastest-Improving Urban School Districts	Grand Horizon B
	Making Change Stick: Bridging Culture, Learning, and Design	Grand Horizon C
	Abundance Mindset: Rejecting Scarcity of Access To High-Quality Programs	Grand Horizon E

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Thursday, Oct. 1

Noon – 2 p.m. (Doors open at 11:45 a.m.)	The State of Urban Education Luncheon A Conversation on the Future of Urban Public Education Arne Duncan Former U.S. Secretary of Education, Managing Director, Emerson Collective Joel Rodriquez Chair, Council of Urban Boards of Education Board Member, School City of East Chicago (IN) <i>Sponsored by:</i> What's your HQIQ? Quality Counts	Great Lakes Ballroom
2:15 – 3:30 p.m.	Breakout Sessions	
	I Am Somebody! How to Connect the America 250 Commemoration to the Role of the School Board in Advancing Educational Equity	Grand Horizon A
	Reimagining Discipline Through Belonging: Using MTSS, Climate & SEL Data to Reduce Suspensions	Grand Horizon B
	The Courageous School Board Member: Leading with Critical Consciousness in Mind	Grand Horizon E
3:45 – 5 p.m.	Keynote Presentation Staying Power: How to Thrive, Not Just Survive, in Education Linda Cliatt-Wayman Author and Education Leader, Former Assistant Superintendent of High Schools & Former Principal	Great Lakes Ballroom

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, Oct. 2

7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Registration	Water Tower
7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	NSBA Member Lounge (Members Only)	Grand Horizon F
7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	NSBA Bookstore	Great Lakes Foyer
7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Sponsor Activation Stations	Great Lakes Foyer
9:30 – 10 a.m.	Brewing Better Boards: Coffee Networking Break	Great Lakes Foyer
10 – 11 a.m. (Doors open at 9:45 a.m.)	Transforming Public Education Plenary Culture Wars and Critical Thinking: Understanding the Narrative Battles of Our Time Tim Wise Educator and Author on Perspective, Power, and Institutional Culture <i>Sponsored by:</i> 	Great Lakes Ballroom

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, Oct. 2

	Breakout Sessions	
11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Data With a Soul: Governing for Equitable Student Outcomes in Urban Communities	Grand Horizon A
	Better Attendance, Stronger Outcomes, Smarter Investments: The School Board's Role in Healthy Schools & Indoor Air Quality	Grand Horizon B
	The Broader Picture: How Social and Generational Factors Shape Health Outcomes in Public Schools	Grand Horizon C
	From Practice to Policy Development: Scaling Student-Led IEPs for Impact and Excellence	Grand Horizon E
	Focus Group <i>INVITATION ONLY</i>	See Invitation For Location
12:30 – 2:30 p.m. (Doors open at 12:15 p.m.)	Champions of Urban Education Awards Luncheon and Keynote Presentation Leading with Purpose: Continuing the Conversation Q&A Session Colin Kaepernick Founder of Lumi, Legendary Quarterback, Philanthropist, and Entrepreneur	Great Lakes Ballroom

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, Oct. 2

2:45 – 4 p.m.	Breakout Sessions	
	Using Artificial Intelligence to Support Student Growth	Grand Horizon A
	Board President's High School Leadership Cohort	Grand Horizon B
	Ready to Learn: How Kansas City Public Schools Increased School Attendance and Student Achievement with a Connected Mobility Experience	Grand Horizon C
	Governing Beyond the Four Walls of the Board Room	Grand Horizon E
6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	CUBE Urban Night Out (UNO) Sponsored by:    	TAO Chicago 632 N Dearborn St Chicago, IL 60654

Saturday, Oct. 3

7:30 a.m. – Noon	Registration	Water Tower
10 a.m. – Noon (Doors open at 9:30 a.m.)	Keynote Presentation & Breakfast The Right to Read Is Board Work: Excellence as the Standard Kareem Weaver Co-Founder & Executive Director, FULCRUM	Great Lakes Ballroom

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Activation Stations

Take a moment to thank and learn more about what our valued sponsors can offer your districts. The Activation Stations will be in the Great Lakes Foyer on Thursday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

NSBA Member Lounge

Relax and network with other engaged members in Grand Horizon F on Thursday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. The lounge is exclusively for State Association Leaders, CUBE districts, and NSBA District Members.

NSBA Bookstore

Browse a curated selection of books and resources designed to empower and elevate your work in education. The bookstore will be open on Thursday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the Great Lakes Foyer.

CUBE Urban Night Out (UNO)

Join us Friday, Oct. 2, from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
for an evening of networking at the Tao Chicago.
Sponsored by:



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