



September 2016

Superintendent kills  
it as thriller writer



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# Energy from students helps to get priorities refocused



**Message from the Executive Director Dr. Brent Clark**

With Labor Day now in the rear-view mirror everyone should pretty much be into the rhythm of a new school year. I don't know about you, but when I was a superintendent I always felt a rush of adrenaline when I saw students back in the classrooms and hallways. Their energy and enthusiasm were contagious.

The adult problems like budget worries, new mandates and the ever-changing public education landscape remain. But watching students pour out of the school buses in the morning, walking through the cafeteria during lunch, and hearing the sounds of the marching band practicing for a Friday night performance always helped bring my focus back to the most important item: the students.

Speaking of the students, their safety and the safety of our staff and teachers is at the top of every superintendent's priority list. The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 certainly is a time to reflect on security issues, and I wanted to let you know that IASA has entered into a corporate partnership with NaviGate Prepared, school safety and crisis preparedness technology developed by the Ohio-based company Lauren Innovations. The NaviGate Prepared technology was given Safety Act Designation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in September of 2013 and has been aligned with the recommendations from the Illinois School Security and Standards Task Force.

Having seen a demonstration of the technology, we came away impressed by its capabilities with regard to organizing preparedness plans, connecting

first responders to a school district's safety information, helping districts comply with mandates and regulations, and connecting administrators, staff and teachers during a school safety drill or real-life event. As part of our corporate partnership, NaviGate Prepared is offering to provide any school district in Illinois its Safety Plan Wizard free of charge. The details are included in a story about NaviGate Prepared that begins on Page 10 of this issue of *Leadership Matters*.

## **IASA Region Presidents meet**

We recently had a statewide meeting of the IASA Region Presidents at our headquarters in Springfield to brief them on a number of topics, including an update on Vision 20/20 and the Evidence-Based Funding Model, along with additional unique partnerships IASA holds with supporters. We are trying to make a more concerted effort to provide our region presidents with information and guidance in an attempt to help set some shared agenda items for region meetings to make sure everyone is fully informed.

## **Super Region meetings planned for October**

We are finalizing details for Super Region meetings in late October. Be watching for the announcement regarding the details of meetings in our Northeastern, Northcentral and Southern Super Regions.

## **Not too late to register for IASA Conference**

It's not too late to register for the IASA Annual Conference scheduled for September 28-30 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield. We ran feature stories about our [dynamic lineup of general session speakers](#) in the August issue of *Leadership Matters* and we have another spread on the conference in this issue. To register for the conference, simply click [here](#).

“The adult problems like budget worries, new mandates and the ever-changing public education landscape remain. But watching students pour out of the school buses in the morning, walking through the cafeteria during lunch, and hearing the sounds of the marching band practicing for a Friday night performance always helped bring my focus back to the most important item: the students.”

*Brent*

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**Dr. Catherine Finger, superintendent of Grayslake Community HS 127, also is an award-winning author of faith-based thrillers.**

## Superintendent kills it as thriller writer

**By Michael Chamness**  
**IASA Director of Communications**

School superintendent by day, murder mystery writer by night. Actually, that doesn't accurately describe Dr. Catherine Finger's schedule. She is superintendent of Grayslake Community High School District 127 around the clock. She does her killing (in prose, of course) before school, shortly after the sun comes up. And the sun seemingly always comes up in her thriller novels.

"Hope in darkness," is how Finger describes the theme that runs through her books. "Love conquers all; community matters; faith matters. No matter how life smashes you, there is more, there is hope."

Look closely at the covers of her books and you will find a cross discreetly displayed. That's because she is dedicated to writing what she calls "faith-based Christian thrillers." That means no profanity. No gratuitous sex scenes. Not even much in the way of carnage, blood and gore. Just murder and mystery; Good vs. Evil.

In an interview with the Chicago Tribune, Finger said, "I went to a Christian fiction conference, and my tagline was 'Murder with a message.' People thought it was really disturbing! But I'm having a lot of fun with it.

"I don't like the super creepy stuff. I like action thrillers with unexpected twists and turns and getting lost in the romp," recently said Finger, whose first

book "Cleansed by Death" introduced her readers to Police Chief Josie Oliver, the heroine of the series, a strong woman in the male dominated field of law enforcement. The main character's first name comes from her grandmother Josephine and the last name Oliver is the maiden name of her other grandmother. "They were two strong women and so is Jo Oliver."

Breaking onto the murder mystery scene is not easy, but "Cleansed by Death" and Chief Jo Oliver were well-received by readers.

Said Joseph Sugarman, Chairman of the Blublocker Sunglass Corporation: "This Glock-toting, heel-wearing, justice-driven heroine...had me from the start. Unrelenting action and witty dialogue kept me loving this ride-along, until the very last page. A must-read."

Apparently even members of the clergy love a good Christian murder thriller.

"As a pastor I rarely see characters in books or on screen who wrestle with God in a way that feels like what I see every day," said Gary Ricci, Pastor of New Hope Christian Church in Round Lake, Illinois. " 'Cleansed by Death' is the rare exception, a world where spirituality is real but not easy, where the tragedies and triumphs of life work together to form a cohesive whole. I recommend it to anyone who has wrestled with God... and loves a good mystery!"

The second book in Finger's series, "Shattered by Death," was the Grand Prize winner in the national

Deep River Books contest in 2015. It even made an impression on fellow mystery writers such as Sandra Brannan, author of the Liv Bergen suspense series, who said: “A modern day ‘10 Little Indians’ by Agatha Christie, ‘Shattered by Death’ is a rollercoaster of twists and turns that will lead you to a heart-stopping end. Catherine Finger is proving to be an author to note as up and coming.”

The third book in the Jo Oliver series is titled “Bordered by Death” and is scheduled to be released in early 2017. Finger’s books are published by Hopesprings Books and are available on Amazon and other outlets as well as on her website [www.catherinefinger.com](http://www.catherinefinger.com).

That one day she might be an author should not surprise anyone who knew Finger when she was in grade school.

“I was that little girl who had a diary. I always had writing in my mind, heart and soul. When I was in fourth grade I had a teacher, Sister Evangeline, who thought my writing was good and she encouraged me,” recalled Finger. “I wrote a play that got published and produced as a ninth-grader. My whole life people told me I was a good story-teller. Fifty-some-odd years later, only now do I actually consider myself a writer. It’s like ‘Oh my gosh, I am a thriller writer!’ ”

She recently toured FBI headquarters in New York to meet agents and ask questions to help ensure her books are as authentic as possible. The ideas for killers come to Finger in a variety of ways and settings. She said one idea for a bad guy occurred to her while she was vacuuming. Interestingly, she said her friends and colleagues often will offer themselves up to be the serial killer character in a future book. Sometimes it makes for great dinner conversation.

“One of my favorite conversational questions is this little beauty: If you could kill someone and get away with it, how would you do it?” Finger wrote in a story for “The Big Thrill” magazine. “I’ve posed this



question to dinner companions, seatmates on planes, trains, and automobiles, and recently to a man I met on an ocean kayak tour. Once the initial shock wears off, you’d be surprised at the number of thoughtful answers I’ve received over the years!”

While having a school superintendent moonlighting as a murder mystery writer might be disconcerting to some, Finger said the reaction of her school community has been nothing short of



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**--Dr. Catherine Finger,  
Superintendent and author**

supportive.

“Thankfully, my board likes my writing,” said Finger, who has been an educator for 34 years and is in her 12th year as superintendent in the Grayslake High School District. “In the early days, I considered using a pen name, but my board said ‘You aren’t writing about a superintendent killing people, are you? Besides, we’re proud of you. Everyone would know it was you anyway.’”

Her district holds a writer’s week at each of the two high schools in the district, Grayslake Central and Grayslake North, where they bring authors in to spend a week with students. Finger was one of the featured authors last spring. Five years ago, she started a Student Fiction Writers Club in the district. Her books even have found their way into the curriculum, much to her surprise.

“One of the Advanced Placement classes used one of my books as a point of fact,” she said. “I thought ‘Not English AP, please!’ Dear God, that scared me to have my students reviewing my writing.”

Meeting the demands of her job as superintendent in a district with more than 3,000 students and prolifically churning out a series of thrillers can be a difficult juggling act. Also a physical fitness enthusiast, Finger’s workout sessions end up being a casualty some days.

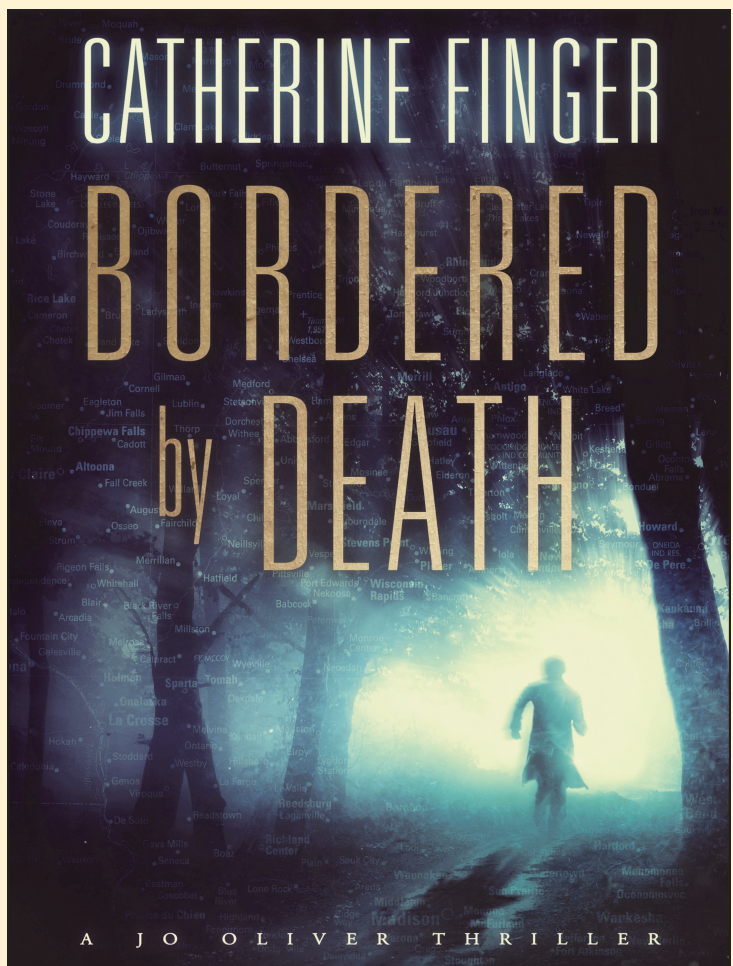
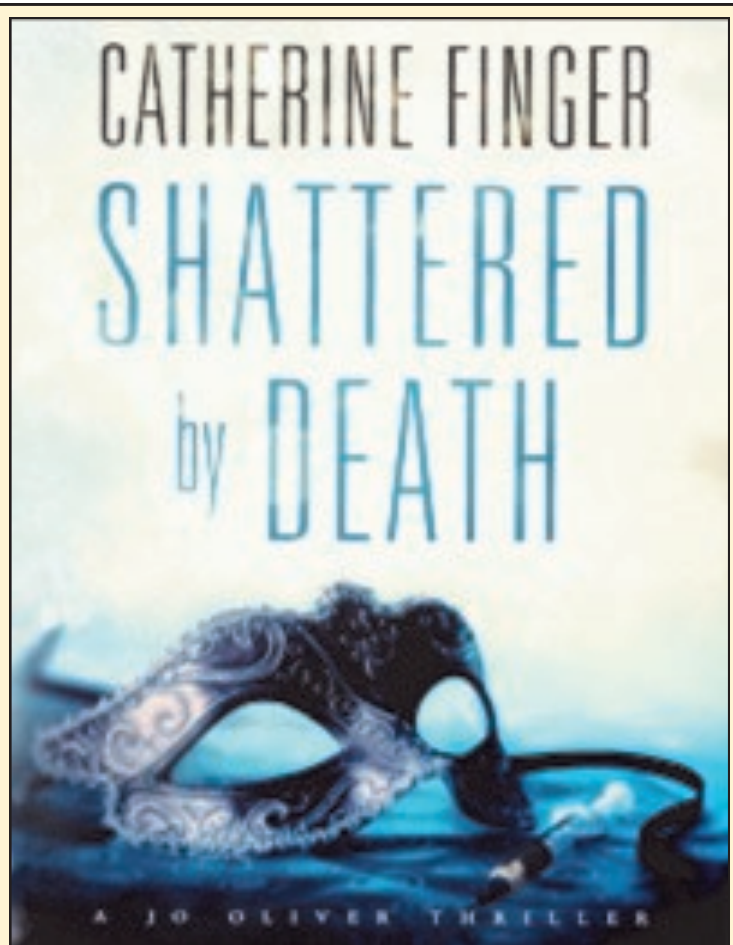
“I love my job and I am passionate about my job and my writing,” she said. “They bring me joy and that sort of feeds on itself. At the end of the day, it all works out together.”

But even heroines can have a bad day. Finger acknowledged she has drawn upon her own life experiences in shaping the Jo Oliver character.

“I love to say that my characters may be autobiographical, but my books are never my autobiography. We all have flaws and human frailty, but I believe deeply in the power of redemption and restoration,” Finger said.

In appearance and attitude, Finger is one of the last people you might suspect of dreaming up murder plots. But don’t let that fool you into thinking you can predict the outcome of her books.

“I love the idea of justice and that the good guys will conquer evil,” she said, adding with an unnerving smile “...Maybe.”





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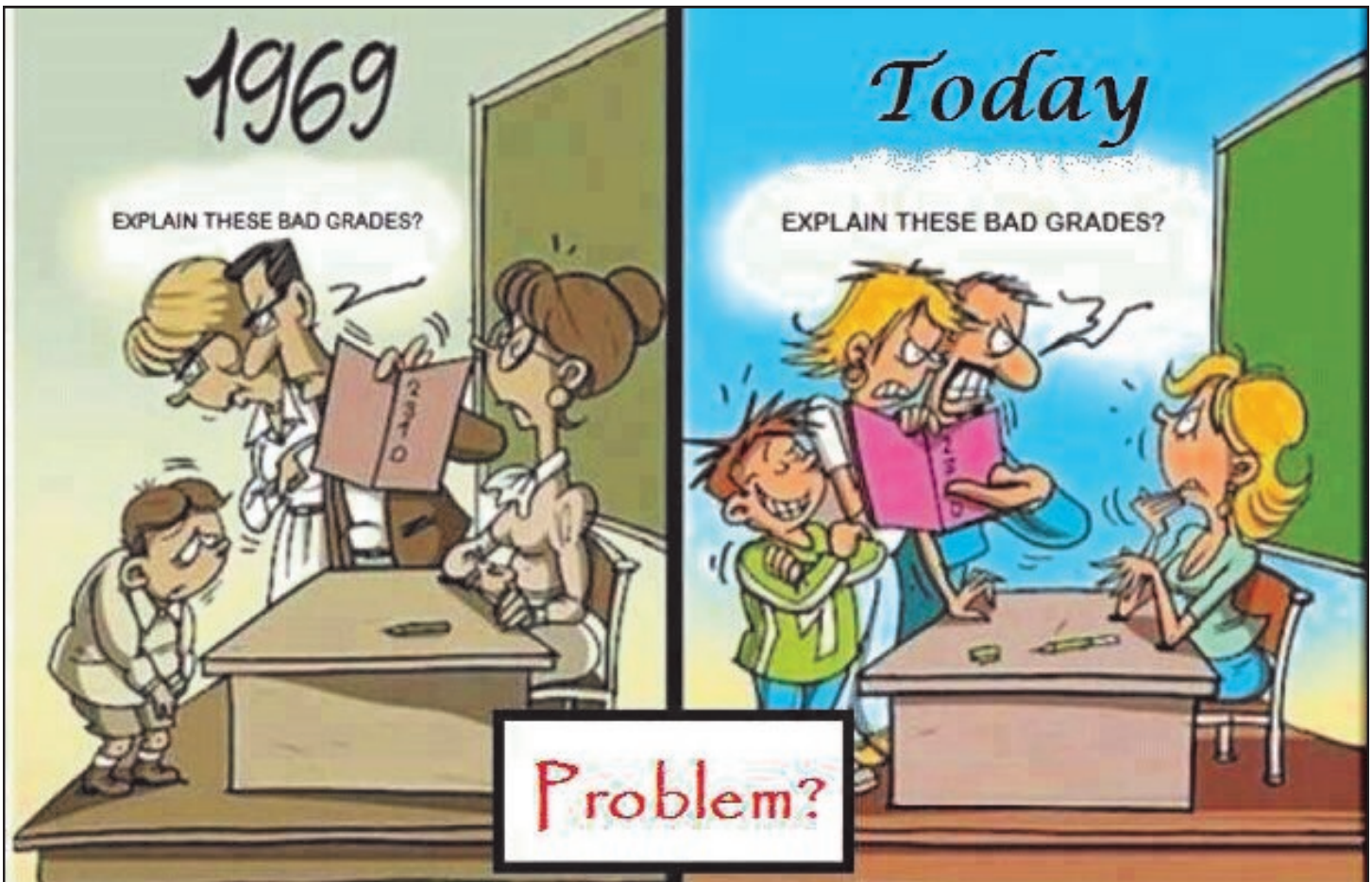
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# NaviGate Prepared offers free ‘Wizard’ to help Illinois schools build safety plan

By Michael Chamness  
IASA Director of Communications

As part of its new corporate partnership with IASA, NaviGate Prepared is offering its Safety Plan Wizard free of charge to all K-12 schools in Illinois. The Safety Plan Wizard streamlines the creation of a school safety plan by breaking it into a series of questions, then using the answers to build the plan. The software uses the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) model for school emergency operations plans and has been customized to align with Illinois school safety guidelines.

IASA Executive Director Dr. Brent Clark said he was glad to see that the NaviGate Prepared program incorporated the school safety recommendations recently released from the Illinois School Security and Standards Task Force.

“We were very impressed with NaviGate Prepared’s school safety products, and especially pleased that the Safety Plan Wizard was designed with the state’s new recommendations in mind,” said Clark, noting that the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) and the Illinois Principals Association (IPA) also are partners with NaviGate Prepared. “School safety is a top priority for all three organizations and we appreciate the extent to which NaviGate Prepared is helping schools accomplish their objectives when it comes to emergency preparedness.”

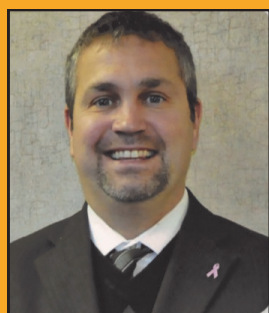
Districts wishing to request their free Safety Plan Wizard can do so by clicking [here](#).

“School safety is critical and needs focus. Administrators shouldn’t have to spend their time deciphering compliance jargon or reinventing the wheel,” said NaviGate Prepared General Manager Thom Jones. “Our Safety Plan Wizard takes the

information administrators already know and guides them through the development of a sound plan based on school safety best practices. We want to make it as easy as possible for schools to implement the recommendations of the Illinois School Security and Standards Task Force.”

In addition to the Safety Plan Wizard, NaviGate Prepared has an array of products and services that include the storing of school safety plans, call lists, building maps, and 360-degree photography of key building areas in a secure cloud environment that offers authorized users and first responders instant access to this important information around the clock.

NaviGate Prepared is being used by hundreds of school districts across the nation, already including several in Illinois.



“School safety is critical and needs focus. Administrators shouldn’t have to spend their time deciphering compliance jargon or reinventing the wheel. Our Safety Plan Wizard takes the

information administrators already know and guides them through the development of a sound plan based on school safety best practices. We want to make it as easy as possible for schools to implement the recommendations of the Illinois School Security and Standards Task Force.”

**--Thom Jones, General Manager,  
NaviGate Prepared**

Aaron Hopper, superintendent of the Panhandle School District 2 in central Illinois, said his district was one of the first in Illinois to use the NaviGate Prepared technology and he is very pleased with the results.

“NaviGate Prepared has helped to streamline our security and safety measures across the district. The online format of NaviGate Prepared has allowed the most up-to-date safety information to be readily available to our staff and the first responders in our various communities,” said Hopper, noting that his rural district has two campuses about 13 miles apart. “Our fire departments,

police, and even our county 911 staff have been very complimentary of NaviGate Prepared and the way it provides secure access to our camera system, emergency plans, and evacuation procedures within our district.

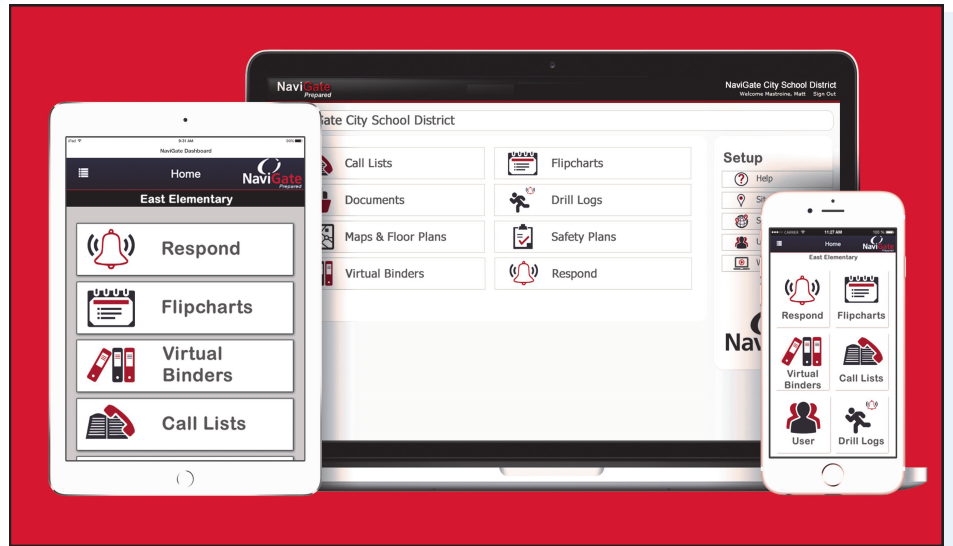
“NaviGate Prepared has provided a platform for the district and emergency responders to work together to share our safety plans, participate in remote training operations using practice intruder

drills with the direct involvement of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and the County 911 Office through the use of NaviGate Prepared. It allows staff to access our district's emergency procedures anywhere in the world through the NaviGate Flipcharts app. NaviGate Prepared has helped the Panhandle School District provide improved coordination with our first responders and a more complete platform of protection district wide."

Josh Quick, Superintendent of Robinson District 2 in east-central Illinois, echoed those comments.

"We are starting our third year with NaviGate Prepared. Having this system in place provides some extra peace of mind to me a school leader," Quick said. "When we were initially looking at the product, we invited our police chief, fire chief, school resource officer and local ambulance service to view a demonstration. All encouraged us to move forward with obtaining the product."

Quick said the Safety Plan Wizard was of great help in developing a comprehensive safety plan and



that the user-friendly platform has proven to be extremely useful for planning and documenting the four school emergency drills that are mandated by state law.

"Thankfully, at this point, we have not had to use the product in an active emergency situation, but I am confident that our response will be more effective and informed with NaviGate," Quick said. "I know that we have information right at our fingertips that will assist emergency personnel responding to our schools."



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**--Aaron Hopper, Panhandle 2 Superintendent**



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ambulance service to view a demonstration. All encouraged us to move forward with obtaining the product.

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**--Josh Quick, Robinson 2, Superintendent**

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## Recommendation

Implement School Safety Drill Act

### Solution

Set with Illinois Safety Drill requirements, administrators can schedule, log and monitor drills across the district. [Watch this video to learn more!](#)

## Recommendation

Adopt the “Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operation Plans” created by FEMA.

### Solution

[Request the FREE Safety Plan Wizard](#) from NaviGate Prepared today. Based on the FEMA template, the Safety Plan Wizard removes the jargon and gets right to the point. Simply answer a series of questions and your plan is ready! And it's FREE!

## Recommendation

Involve First Responders

### Solution

Interactive floor plans give first responders critical information for training as well as actual emergencies. [Watch this video](#) to see how your first responders benefit from NaviGate Prepared.

Request your  
**FREE** Safety Plan  
Wizard today!



Call 866-861-7400 today!

# 52nd Annual Conference



President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Prairie Capital Convention Center • Springfield, IL

September 28 - 30, 2016

## IASA Annual Conference General Sessions



**Josh Sundquist**, a Paralympian, motivational speaker and best-selling author of “Just Don’t Fall.” He not only survived bone cancer that resulted in having his left leg amputated, but he bounced back to become the only person ever to be named to both the U.S. Paralympic Ski team and the U.S. Amputee Soccer team. [Click here](#) to read a feature on Sundquist.



**Jennie Magiera**, the Chief Technology Officer with Des Plaines CCSD #62 and author of the technology education blog “Teaching Like It’s 2999,” and the book “Courageous Edventures.” [Click here](#) to read a feature on Magiera.

**Byron V. Garrett**, author of “The ABCs of Life,” national leader of the 4-H program, CEO of the 5-million member national PTA and named one of the 100 most influential African-Americans under 45 by The Root magazine. [Click here](#) to read a feature on Garrett.

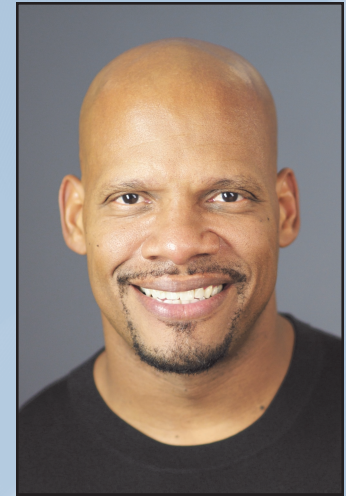
**Ignite IASA Session.** We will be utilizing the fast-paced Ignite format for one of our general sessions. It will include a series of speakers giving 5-minute presentations on a variety of topics using 20 slides that are on the screen for only 15 seconds each. The slogan for Ignite presentations is “Enlighten us, but make it quick!” [Click here](#) to read a feature on Ignite.



## FCA national spokesperson, former NFL player to deliver devotional at Annual Conference Fellowship Breakfast

Former NFL player Steve Fitzhugh, currently a national spokesperson for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), will speak at the second annual Fellowship Breakfast on Friday, September 30 at the IASA Annual Conference. The non-denominational faith-based breakfast is organized and hosted by interested school superintendents from around the state and will be held from 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. in Room B2 of the Prairie Capital Convention Center. Conference attendees are invited to attend.

Fitzhugh played two seasons with the Denver Broncos before a shoulder injury sidelined his professional football career. He was a football and track star at Walsh Jesuit High School in Akron, Ohio – being ranked among the nation's top five hurdlers -- and is a member of the school's Hall of Fame. He went on to captain both the track and football teams at Miami University of Ohio, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration.



After his NFL career ended, Fitzhugh began his Master of Divinity graduate studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C. After Divinity School, he went to Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in Belcourt, N.D., where he began drug and alcohol prevention education throughout the public and private school systems.

Upon returning to Washington, D.C., he launched PowerMoves, where he is the executive director, leading young and old into success and significance. He also co-founded "The House," three renovated former crack houses now used as an after-school teen drop-in center. The House serves as a safe place for the students of Southeast D.C. to learn life skills and discover their purpose. He is also the national spokesperson for the FCA's "One Way 2 Play - Drug Free" program.

## Other highlights: FBI presentation, Admin Academies & new superintendents strand

In addition to the dynamic and diverse lineup of general session speakers and events, the IASA 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference also offers a wide variety of breakout sessions and other highlights such as a special session on school safety presented by the FBI, some Administrator Academy opportunities and even a special strand for new superintendents.

The Early Bird Administrator Academies will be held from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. on that Wednesday and will include:

- ◆ Basic Collective Bargaining
- ◆ Developing a Communications Plan
- ◆ Moving from Vision to Action: Learn How to Become an Essentialist

The strand for new superintendents includes the Basic Collective Bargaining Administrator Academy and a mentoring meeting with the IASA Field Services Directors on Wednesday, and a New Superintendents Roundtable and a one-hour session titled Reflections from Freshman Superintendents: How to Survive your First Year! on Thursday.

**A complete list of breakout sessions and other conference information can be viewed by clicking [here](#).**

# Still time to register!

## Conference Schedule

### Wednesday, September 28, 2016

- 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. **Early Bird Academies**
- 10 a.m.–7 p.m. **Registration Open**
- Noon-2 p.m. **School Safety Session (Federal Bureau of Investigation)**
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. **New Superintendent Mentoring Meetings**
- 4:30–5:45 p.m. **Opening Ceremony/First General Session - Keynote Speaker: Jennie Magiera - Chief Technology Officer for Des Plaines CCSD #62**
- 6–7:30 p.m. **IASA Welcoming Reception  
Exhibit Hall Open  
Social Media Lounge Open**

- 1:45–2:45 p.m.
- 3–4 p.m.
- 4–5 p.m.
- 4:30–6 p.m.
- 5-7 p.m.
- 6 p.m.
- 9-11 p.m.

### Breakout Sessions

- Third General Session**  
**Keynote Speaker: Byron V. Garrett**, author of the *The ABC's of Life and There's Greatness on the Inside*
- Breakout Sessions**
- High School District Organization Meeting (HSDO)**
- IASA School for Advanced Leadership Alumni Reception**
- Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools Meeting (AIRSS)**
- Southern Illinois University Reception**
- Hospitality Suites Open**
- President's Reception**

### Thursday, September 29, 2016

- 6:45 a.m. **IASA 4th Annual 'Super' 5K Fun Run/Walk**
- 7–9 a.m. **Continental Breakfast for all Conference Attendees**
- 7 a.m.–3 p.m. **Exhibit Hall Open  
Social Media Lounge Open**
- 7 a.m.–5 p.m. **Registration Open**
- 8–9 a.m. **New Superintendents' Roundtable  
Breakout Sessions**
- 9:15–11 a.m. **Second General Session - Ignite!**
- 11 a.m.– 2:30 p.m. **Lunch available inside the Exhibit Hall for all conference attendees**
- 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. **Knowledge Exchange Theater Transformation Train: Are you on track to transform your district?**
- 12:30–1:30 p.m. **Reflections from Freshman superintendents - How to Survive your First Year!  
EdCamp  
Knowledge Exchange Theater-Keep Calm and STEM On**

### Friday, September 30, 2016

- 7–11:30 a.m. **Registration Open**
- 7:30-8:30 a.m. **Fellowship Breakfast** (coffee & rolls)
- 8:30–9:30 a.m. **Breakout Sessions**
- IASA Past Presidents Meeting**
- 9:30-11:45 a.m. **Closing General Session Brunch and IASA Annual Meeting - Keynote Speaker: Josh Sundquist**, a Paralympian, motivational speaker and best-selling author of *Just Don't Fall*
- 11:45 a.m. **Adjournment**

A more detailed schedule can be found [here](#).



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SVP Sales and Engagement

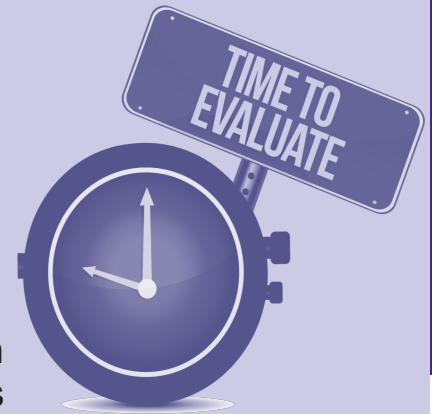
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## 2016-2017 Senate Bill 7 Performance Rankings Tool software available for purchase



All Illinois School Districts are working to comply with the requirements of education reforms. IASA has worked to provide support via the Senate Bill 7 Performance Rankings File. This program gives districts a method of managing district positions aligned to local qualifications, teacher's credentials, and performance ratings. The program compiles this local data and creates reports needed to comply with Senate Bill 7. The 2016-2017 file has been enhanced with several updates in response to user ideas. The new enhancements include:

- Four new podcasts - [overview](#), transition data, sorting data, and optional merge letter process.
- New method to filter teachers on or off the evaluation cycle.
- Expanded license endorsements and content specific endorsements.
- Ability for users to add license endorsements and content specific endorsements.
- Ability to sort lists of data within the program.
- Ability for districts to add data fields that can be used for inclusion in a merge process and/or for exporting data.
- New report for creating your own merged letters or exporting data for other purposes.
- Only one notification letter per teacher (rather than one for current and more for other eligible positions).
- 

The 2016-2017 IASA Senate Bill 7 Performance Rankings File is ready for you to purchase and download. The access request form can be completed by visiting <http://www.iasasurveys.org>. The cost of using this software did not increase. As such, the annual licensing fee will be \$275 for members and \$550 for non-members.

**Please note that previous versions of the IASA Senate Bill 7 Performance Rankings File are no longer supported. Also, the service method for the 2016-2017 software is via email only.**



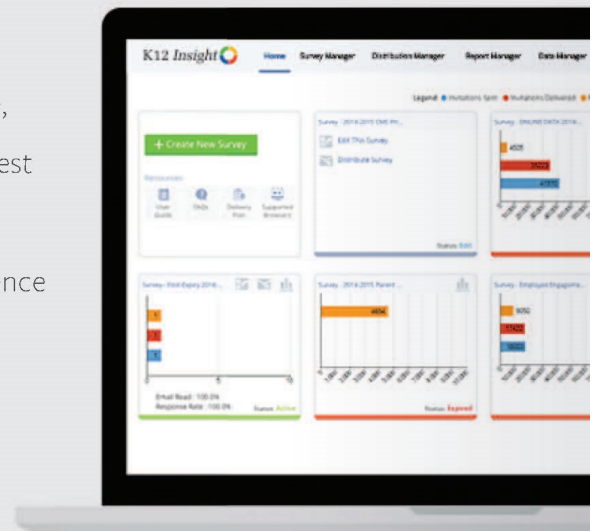
K12 *Insight* helps us move past the anecdotes and distractions. My goal is to ensure each and every stakeholder that their voice counts.”



DR. DANA BEDDEN,  
SUPERINTENDENT,  
RICHMOND PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS, VIRGINIA

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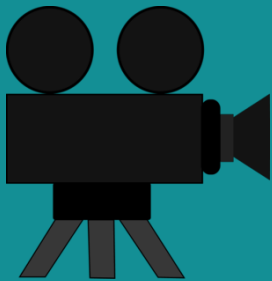
LEARN MORE 703.542.9600 [www.k12insight.com](http://www.k12insight.com)  
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# Videos from the Districts



**Prototype Classrooms  
Fremont School District 79  
Dr. Jill Gildea, Supt.**

**Royal Way Assembly  
Red Bud 132  
Jonathan Tallman, Supt.**



**Send your school videos to [mbuch@iasaedu.org](mailto:mbuch@iasaedu.org). We want to highlight what's going on in your school districts.**

**ASSEMBLE YOUR DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM  
AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**



Join us in Springfield next February for  
the **ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

A jointly sponsored event designed for district leadership  
teams: the superintendent, school board members,  
business officials, and building principals.



**IASA IASB IASBO IPA**  
**ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**  
**FEBRUARY 21-22, 2017**

- Hear from educational experts and political analysts ✓
- Discuss educational leadership issues ✓
- Engage in the legislative process ✓



Ideally, district representatives would include the superintendent, one board member, one principal, and one business official but any combination is welcome. District superintendents will be responsible for registering the team.

**Look for a registration email this fall.**

LEADING OUR SCHOOLS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

# ISBE to begin ESSA second round of ‘listening tours’

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will be conducting its second set of “listening tours” to collect input and feedback from education stakeholders around the state regarding the implementation of ESSA and the State’s first Draft Plan that was recently released. The State’s Draft Plan and supporting material can be found [here](#). Earlier in September, ISBE posted a readers guide to the State’s Draft Plan, which can be found [here](#).

The focus of this listening tour will be for direct feedback on the State’s ESSA Draft Plan. This includes but is not limited to the State’s plan for implementing ESSA in the areas of assessment, accountability and systems of support, as well as providing educational and financial support to educators and students.

**Note: All meetings will take place from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. with the exception of the September 28 event, which will start at 5 p.m. Meetings will also include a one hour meeting for area legislators prior to each event.**

Date	District	Location
Thursday September 15	Mundelein HSD 120	Mundelein High School 1350 W. Hawley St., Mundelein
Monday September 19	Carbondale Community HSD 165	Carbondale Community High School 330 S. Giant City Rd. Carbondale
Tuesday September 20	Effingham CUSD 40	Effingham High School 1301 W. Grove Ave. Effingham
Wednesday September 21	Quincy Public SD 172	Baldwin Intermediate School 3000 Maine St. Quincy
Thursday September 22	Peoria SD 150	Woodruff Career and Tech Center 1800 NE Perry Peoria
Monday September 26	Lockport THSD 205	Lockport East High School 1333 E. 7th St. Lockport
Tuesday September 27	East St. Louis SD 189	East St. Louis High School 4901 State St. East St. Louis
Tuesday September 27	Chicago Public SD 299	Simeon Career Academy 8147 S. Vincennes Ave. Chicago
Wednesday September 28	School District U 46	Streamwood High School 701 W. Schaumburg Rd. Streamwood
Wednesday October 5	DeKalb County Farm Bureau	Farm Bureau Theatre 1350 W. Prairie Dr. Sycamore



# Why should I give to IPAC?

funds to legislators and candidates who will stand up for public education. Our strength comes from providing legislators with timely and accurate information on legislative matters affecting public education. Victories and successes do not happen overnight but after years of laying the foundation for political change, and a strong IPAC helps us get a seat at the table. We must be proactive rather than reactive and one way to do this is membership in IPAC. Membership in IPAC is a long-term investment that helps lay the foundation for continued change in the legislative process.

## IPAC Annual Membership Dues

Our goal is to have every IASA member become a member of IPAC as well. IPAC membership dues are \$100 and 100% of that goes to support the members of the General Assembly that support us.

## Personal checks (made out to IPAC) or personal credit cards only

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer:\* \_\_\_\_\_

Home Email Address:\* \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation:\* \_\_\_\_\_  
*For IPAC updates (both financial and informational)*

Home Address : \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
*\*State law requires this information.*

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ payable to "IPAC" (**Personal Check only**)

### **Personal Credit Card only:**

Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Discover Card (**check one**)

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Verification No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address of cardholder, if different than above (no PO Box numbers please)

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form along with your IPAC membership dues to: IPAC, 2648 Beechler Court, Springfield, IL 62703-7305

## What is IPAC?

IPAC is a statewide, non-partisan Political Action Committee (PAC) organized by members of the Illinois Association of School Administrators to benefit school leaders in the pursuit of educational excellence through continued school improvement.

## What is the money used for?

All IPAC membership monies are used for IPAC endeavors, which include, but are not limited to, contributions to the four legislative leaders in the General Assembly and fundraisers for individual legislators who support our educational mission.

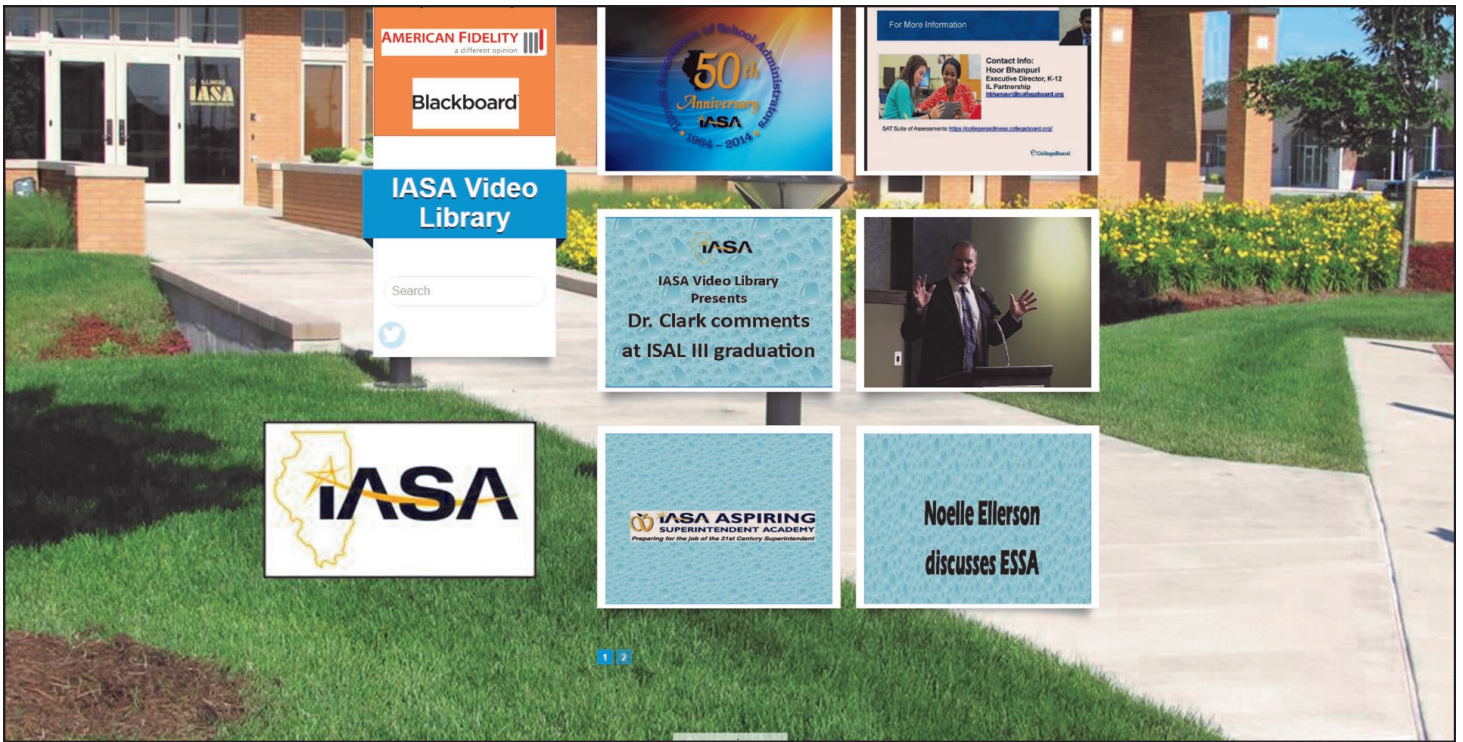
## Why should I join?

School administrators need a strong PAC to provide



Click [here](#) to make an online payment





## IASA introduces a new face for the Video Library

The Illinois Association of School Administrators is pleased to provide you with access to a Video Library as a benefit of your membership in IASA. The IASA Video Library is a virtual resource that contains video recordings by experts in education. Best practices for educational instruction and curriculum will be highlighted. Sponsored by American Fidelity and Blackboard, the IASA Video Library is available 24 hours a day! You can access the video library from under the Professional Development tab on the IASA website or click [here](#).





# MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

FY-2017



## MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

By being a member of IASA, you join forces with other educational leaders throughout the state to stand up for public education. Being an IASA member also makes available to you a whole spectrum of services to assist you in meeting the challenges of being a superintendent or school administrator.



**Maximum Educational Success for All Students**





## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN IASA TODAY!

You can do so by filling out and returning the enclosed form with your dues payment. For more information or to join or renew online, go to the IASA website at [www.iasaedu.org](http://www.iasaedu.org) and click on the Membership Tab at the top of the page.

If you have any questions, please contact  
**Misti Murphy at 217/753-2213**

# MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

IASA's professional development director offers timely academies, workshops and blogs that provide helpful instruction to deal with emerging issues facing school leaders.

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

IASA's governmental relations director tracks legislation that affects public education, lobbies on behalf of IASA's positions and keeps members informed with *Capitol Watch* updates and analysis.

## COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

IASA's communications director assists superintendents in the development of talking points, media statements or letters to parents regarding issues that arise in a school district.

## LEGAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

IASA's in-house attorney provides legal counsel regarding superintendent contracts and legal assistance in job-related legal actions or proceedings.

## MENTORING

Whether it is through one-on-one contact with the IASA Executive Director or through one of the Field Services Directors, members have quick access to experienced school administrators.

## CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

IASA's Annual Conference in the fall and the Alliance Leadership Summit (held every other year) in the spring offer members the opportunity to hear from nationally known speakers and to network with colleagues from throughout the state.

## RETURN OF DUES PROGRAM

A payment proportionate to the amount of dues paid during the past 10 consecutive years is made to a member's beneficiary upon an active member's death.



## IASA News in Brief



### In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we let you know that David Root, superintendent at Williamsville CU 15 passed away on September 7, 2016. Root had previously served as an administrator in both the Greenview Unit 200 and Athens CUSD 213 school districts.

### IPA requests stories to honor principals across the state

October has been designated as National Principals Month to honor and recognize the contributions of principals to the success of students in schools across the United States. Illinois has designated the week of October 16 -22 as Principal Appreciation Week, culminating with Principal Appreciation Day on October 21.



The Illinois Principals Association (IPA) is asking for testimonials of one to three paragraphs, pictures and videos regarding the work your principals do on a daily basis. Over the course of National Principals Month, IPA will share those stories to honor principals across the state. Please send written testimonials, pictures or videos to Drew Thomason, Communications and Marketing Director at IPA, at [drew@ilprincipals.org](mailto:drew@ilprincipals.org).

### Southern Illinois Law and Leadership Conference scheduled for March 29, 2017

The SIU Law and Labor Conference has combined with the Educational Leadership Conference to bring you one fabulous conference for the spring. The theme will be:

***Eclipsing the Past: Charting the Future of Public Education on All Levels***

Get ready for some new topics, new perspectives, and updates on issues affecting Illinois schools.

Our complete program and registration will be available soon at [conferenceservices.siu.edu](http://conferenceservices.siu.edu) or call 618-536-7751 for more information.

### ISDLAF+ August 2016 Monthly Update



Click [here](#) to view the August 2016 ISDLAF+ rates, economic indicators and general economic news brief. To obtain additional information regarding this IASA sponsored service, contact Donald E. Weber, Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations/ISDLAF+ at 630.657.6435. To check daily rates, visit the ISDLAF+ website at [www.isdlafplus.com](http://www.isdlafplus.com).

### AASA National Conference on Education

The 2017 AASA National Conference on Education will be held in New Orleans on March 2-4, 2017.

Registration and housing opened July 12, 2016. The preferred hotel for the Illinois delegation is the Westin New Orleans Canal Place. Go to <http://nce.aasa.org/> for additional information.

### Superintendent of the Year Reception

A reception for the 2017 Illinois Superintendent of the Year is planned for Friday, March 3, 2017 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Riverbend Terrace at The Westin New Orleans Canal Place.



## IASA News in Brief




**Applications being accepted now for ISAL IV**

ISAL is looking for 25 Illinois superintendents who share the vision of "Maximum Educational Success for All Students" to become members of IASA's premier professional development opportunity known as the IASA School for Advanced Leadership IV.

The ISAL IV Cohort was designed to challenge experienced superintendents in positive ways to make a significant difference in their districts, ultimately resulting in becoming an ISAL Fellow. It will be a rigorous two-year cohort training that will focus on a superintendent's role through five leadership lenses, including facilitator of shared moral purpose, change agent, relationship/culture promoter, capacity builder; and coherence maker.

We welcome your application to participate in the most elite professional growth experience for Illinois school superintendents. **ISAL IV will officially launch in January, 2017. The deadline to apply for the cohort is Friday, September 30, 2016.** [Click here for the ISAL IV application and additional information.](#)

**Prairie Grove 46 awarded Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award**



Prairie Grove 46 was recently named a recipient of the 2016 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The school district was one of 15 employers across the country, and one of only two school districts ever to receive the prestigious award, the Nation's highest honor given to employers for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees. Superintendent Dr. Philip Bender and Lt. Col. Patricia Klop were recognized in August at the Pentagon. Additional details can be viewed [here](#).

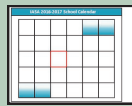
**Presidential Spirit of Community Awards program open for applications**

Sponsored by Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, this awards program has honored over 100,000 middle level and high school student volunteers since 1995. The program is looking for young people who have made meaningful contributions to their communities through volunteer service over the past year. Participating in this program is a great way to reward and call attention to students in your schools who have distinguished themselves through volunteer activities. Deadline to apply is November 8. Additional information can be found [here](#).

**ISBE opens nominations for Thomas Lay Burroughs Award**


The Illinois State Board of Education invites school districts to nominate their school board president for the Thomas Lay Burroughs award for the State's Outstanding School Board President. Additional information and nominating form can be viewed [here](#). **Nominations must be submitted to ISBE by October 7, 2016.**

**The 2016-2017 IASA School Year Calendar has been updated and can be viewed [here](#).**



**Collinsville school receives the National award**

Keitner Elementary School in the Collinsville 10 School District recently earned the National PTA School of Excellence Award. The school's PTA found ways to increase parent involvement in the school, and did so by having a school talent show last year, pictured, and having a translator at school events. Parent participation in the PTA has tripled since. Read the full story [here](#).



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*It is our **responsibility** as educators to reflect upon the current state of education in **Illinois** and take action to create an education system that meets the needs of all **students**.*



<http://illinoisvision2020.org>

 @ILVision2020



**VISION 20/20**  
*Fulfilling the Promise of Public Education*

# FROM VISION

As public educators, we believe public education works. We reject the premise Equitably delivered to all student populations and that there are opportunities



## HIGHLY EFFECTIVE EDUCATORS

The quality of teachers and school leaders is the greatest predictor of student achievement schools can influence. By attracting, developing, and retaining our state's best educators, we can have a profound impact on student learning.

*Priorities*

- Recruit and Retain High-Impact Educators
- Provide Relevant Professional Development



## 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

For success in life, students need more than knowledge of math and reading. It is time to expand the definition of student learning, commit to the development of the "whole child," and invest in policies proven to link all schools to 21st century learning tools.

*Priorities*

- Develop the "Whole Child"
- Preserve Instructional Time
- Invest in Early Childhood Education
- Link Students to College and Careers
- Expand Equity in Technology Access

# TO ACTION!

that education in Illinois has failed, but recognize its impact has not been for continuous improvement. Now is the time to act. Our vision forward is clear.



## SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY

A quality education for all Illinois students cannot be ensured without the collaboration, compromise, and hard work of both educators and legislators. With that in mind, it is necessary to expand educator responsibility in the legislative process, create a shared accountability model, and restructure mandates to allow more local district flexibility.

*Priorities*

- Expand Educator Role and Responsibility in State Governance
- Implement a Differentiated Accountability System
- Restructure Mandates



## EQUITABLE & ADEQUATE FUNDING

All students in Illinois are entitled to a quality education. It is our duty to ensure our students have access to all necessary resources by improving equity in the funding model, appropriating adequate dollars for education, and allowing local school districts the autonomy needed to increase efficiency.

*Priorities*

- Fund Education Based on Local Need
- Stabilize State Funding for Education
- Enhance District Flexibility to Increase Financial Efficiency



*Brent Clark*

**Brent Clark, Ph.D.**  
Executive Director

*Michael A. Jacoby*

**Michael A. Jacoby, Ed.D.**  
Executive Director

*Jason Leahy*

**Jason Leahy**  
Executive Director

**TOGETHER, WE ARE COMMITTED TO  
SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING THE  
PRIORITIES OF THIS VISION.**



Follow us @ILVision2020



**Jeff Vose**  
President



*Roger L. Eddy*

**Roger L. Eddy**  
Executive Director



*Creg Williams*

**Creg Williams, Ed.D.**  
President



In collaboration with ECRA Group Inc.





## Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) Uses Website to Connect Employers with Job Seekers.

Whether you are seeking qualified applicants to fill permanent, interim, part or full-time vacancies, the Illinois Education Job Bank<sup>sm</sup> makes posting jobs and finding candidates as easy as **1-2-3!**

With over **1,000** Illinois school districts and other educational institutions subscribing to the Illinois Education Job Bank<sup>sm</sup>, the proof is in the numbers. Since 1999, the Job Bank has provided the opportunity for more than **107,000** vacancies and **112,000** profiles to be posted online.

### FOR EMPLOYERS...

You can post vacancies and find candidates with ease and security.

- Quick and easy account setup
- Maintain complete control of job posting information, posting date and duration
- When you post an opening on the IASA Job Bank, the opening is also included on the school district's website without the school district reposting the information simply by setting up the RSS Feed
- Maintain low costs with minimal yearly fee
- Add customized questions to online applications
- Search for candidate features such as languages, skills and more
- Set up and maintain multiple profiles and users
- Save favorite candidates from job applications

### FOR JOB SEEKERS...

You can search, save resumes and apply online for **free**.

- Search from hundreds of openings throughout the state
- Create and maintain profiles and resumes in our secure online Job Search Portal
- Save and update your profile information including education, certification/license, employment, references, skills and more
- Set up convenient e-mail job alerts and notifications
- Save job listings, searches and applications
- Set up your employment preferences to help employers find your resume when they search the Resume Bank.

[www.illinoiseducationjobbank.org](http://www.illinoiseducationjobbank.org)

# September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Corn Belt Region Mtg	2	3
4	5	6 Shawnee, Starved Rock Region Mtg	7 Cook West , Northwest Region Mtg	8 Region Presidents  Cook South Region Mtg	9 Cook North, Kaskaskia and Lake & Western Region Mtg	10
11	12 Blackhawk Region Mtg  Professional Development	13 Abe Lincoln, Two Rivers Region Mtg	14 DuPage, Illini Region Mtg  Governmental Relations & Advocacy		16	17
18	19	20 Three Rivers Region Mtg	21  Egyptian Region Mtg	22	23	24
25	26	27 IASA Board of Directors	28  <b>IASA Annual Conference</b>	29	30	

Click on a color-coded date to open a link for more information about the event.

**IASA  
Event**

**Professional  
Development  
Event**

**Legislative  
Event**

**Region  
Meeting  
(Contact your  
Region President  
for details)**

# October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Shawnee Region Mtg	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 DuPage/ Illini Region Mtg	13 CIV Region Mtg	14 Southwestern Region Mtg	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Egyptian Region Mtg	27	28	29
30	31					

Click on a color-coded date to open a link for more information about the event.

**IASA  
Event**

**Professional  
Development  
Event**

**Legislative  
Event**

**Region  
Meeting  
(Contact your  
Region President  
for details)**

# Developing a Communications Plan

**8 hours of Administrator  
Academy credit (AA #1568)!**

IASA Director of Communications Michael Chamness presents a course designed to offer tips on how to develop messages for your community and the media, how to handle crisis communications, how to spread the good news that is happening in your school district and how to develop a communications plan. The course includes:



- ♦ 3 hours in-person training, with video examples of best and worst practices and participation in mock press conferences involving real-world school issues
- ♦ 5 hours of homework, the end result being a written communications plan for your school district -- a project that can be undertaken as a team of administrators from a school district

**Contact Mary Ellen Buch at 217.753.2213  
or [mbuch@iasaedu.org](mailto:mbuch@iasaedu.org)  
to schedule an Academy  
in your area**

