

# Southeastern Association of School Business Officials

2025-2026 Expert Exchange Series



## Online Professional Development Series



- Members may purchase individual sessions at \$50 each or the entire series for \$200.
- Earn up to 12 CPE units (1 hour for each session)
- For more details and to register, visit resources at [www.sasbo.org](http://www.sasbo.org)
- Live Presentations are at 2:00 p.m. Eastern / 1:00 p.m. Central

All sessions are recorded for future viewing.

### July 10, 2025 - "Tips on Preventing Fraud"

*Diane Allison, Retired Director of Local Government Services, Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

Internal controls are the combination of people, policies, and procedures so that we can know that (1) our schools and districts are operating effectively and efficiently, (2) our financial information is accurate, and (3) that we comply with laws, regulations, and contracts. In this session we'll explore ways to strengthen internal controls, take them to the next level and close loopholes to reduce the risk of fraud and errors and gain efficiencies.

### August 14, 2025 - "Trust, Change, and the Work Between"

*Tamara Mitchell, Chief Financial Officer, Evanston/Skokie School District 65, Evanston, Illinois*

Trust is the foundation for meaningful change. This session offers practical strategies for navigating the space between planning and action—when emotions run high and communities need steady leadership. Explore how to build trust, communicate with care, and guide school communities through transition with clarity and compassion.

### September 11, 2025 - "Automate the Plate: Effective Artificial Intelligence Use in the Life of a School Business Official"

*Danielle Bosanec, Director of Professional Development, Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials, Pewaukee, Wisconsin*

Join us to explore how school business offices can integrate AI tools in the school business office and their district strategically and ethically. This session introduces a practical blueprint for defining effectiveness using AI, setting actionable goals, and leveraging AI to streamline operations, enhance financial management, and improve communication.

**October 9, 2025 - “You Had Me at Overtime: Paying Nonexempt Employees Correctly”**

*Susan Barkley, CPA, Chief Financial Officer, Shelby County Schools, Shelbyville, Kentucky*

In this session you will learn how to determine which employees are exempt from the requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act. We will discuss what is included in “time worked” and how to properly apply overtime pay. This session is appropriate for finance directors, payroll staff, and supervisors.

**November 13, 2025 - “Strategic Stewardship: Managing School Activity Funds Effectively”**

*Kelsey Bailey, Chief Deputy Finance and Operations Officer, Little Rock School District, Little Rock, Arkansas*

This webinar will address what a school business official needs to know to manage Activity Funds. Participants in this webinar will be given information on: Cash Handling and Revenue Collection Procedures, Allowable Expenditures, Fundraising Best Practices, Booster Club/PTO Guidelines, Internal Controls, Common Audit Findings.

**December 11, 2025 - “Understanding and Dissecting Maintenance of Effort”**

*Amy Rowell, Director of Financial Review and Grants Accounting, Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta, Georgia*

Review of the requirements for calculation Maintenance of Effort for both ESSA and IDEA Federal grants. Will also discuss monitoring expenditures throughout the year, and the process for requesting a waiver when effort is not met.

**January 8, 2026 - “Federal Legal Updates & Changes: Implications for School Districts”**

*Cory Kirby, Partner, Pereira, Kirby, Kinsinger & Nguyen, LLP, Georgia*

This session covers recent federal laws and administrative changes—and what they mean for your district’s personnel policies and operational procedures. Attorney Cory Kirby will walk attendees through the key developments and provide practical guidance on how to prepare for and implement these changes effectively.

**February 12, 2026 - “Preparing for a Natural Disaster”**

*Liz Domite, Chief Financial Officer, Rapides Parish Schools, Alexandria, Louisiana*

Join us for an informational session focused on essential preparations before an event and the necessary follow-up steps afterward. The session will cover compliance with FEMA guidelines and state agency requirements, including reporting procedures.

### **March 5, 2026 - “Federal Funds Management”**

*Luke Sheldon, Fiscal Compliance Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Education and Elizabeth Younis, Fiscal Compliance Coordinator, West Virginia Department of Education*

This presentation offers a comprehensive overview of the key components involved in effectively managing federal education funds. Participants will explore front-end processes such as budgeting, application development, and planning, as well as critical midstream functions like time and effort reporting, document management, and time management strategies. The session also addresses back-end responsibilities, including fiscal compliance and programmatic monitoring to ensure funds are used appropriately and in alignment with federal guidelines. This training equips attendees with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate the full lifecycle of federal fund management with confidence and accuracy.

### **April 9, 2026 - “Engaging Communities in School Finance: A Proactive Approach to Transparency and Advocacy”**

*Channa Byerly, Superintendent, Duncan Public Schools, Duncan, Oklahoma*

Clear understanding of school finance builds trust, transparency, and advocacy. This session shares how our district created a four-part series to engage the community on key topics: revenue sources, the state funding formula, legislative impacts, and budgeting. Learn how we simplified complex financial concepts, encouraged open dialogue, and empowered stakeholders to become advocates for public education. We'll share tools, strategies, and lessons learned to help you launch or strengthen your own community engagement efforts around finance.

### **May 14, 2026 - “Empowering Collaboration: Finance and HR Working Together for Budget Success”**

*Joe Snyder, Budget Director, Knox County Schools, Knoxville, Tennessee*

Organizations often struggle to establish effective methods of effective cross-team collaboration. More specifically, finance and human resource divisions sometimes experience inherent conflicts due to differing priorities and perspectives. Left unaddressed, these conflicts may hamper the organization's ability to reach the goals and objectives outlined in its strategic plan. This presentation provides specific steps and strategies designed to foster a collaborative-rich environment.

### **June 11, 2026 - “Five Star Customer Service in Public Schools”**

*Damon Donnell, Executive Director of Student Services, Springdale Public Schools, Springdale, Arkansas*

Customer service is no longer just a business concept. It is now a vital component of public education. In an era where families have more choices than ever, outstanding customer service can be the deciding factor in whether students and families choose or not choose your district. This session will explore innovative and practical strategies to elevate customer service across all areas of a school district. Join us to discover how delivering Five Star Customer Service can build trust, strengthen relationships and make a lasting, positive impact.

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