

Wednesday Morning Workshops

9 a.m.—Noon • December 5, 2018

Career Education in Arkansas: Real Students. Real Stories. Real Impact.

Dr. Charisse Childers, Director, Arkansas Department of Career Education

Salon C, Marriott Ballroom

The Arkansas Department of Career Education's mission is to prepare a job-ready, career-bound workforce to meet the needs of Arkansas employers through four distinct divisions (Career and Technical Education, Adult Education, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, and the Office of Skills Development). These divisions provide a comprehensive system of education and workforce programs and services to accomplish the following:

- to provide both youth and adults the necessary academic and technical skills for meaningful jobs;
- to work with business and industry to identify and provide grants for workforce training needs;
- to offer Arkansans of all ages the options to pursue a wide range of career choices;
- to ensure that workers have the foundation for lifelong learning that will allow them to enhance their existing skills and also to learn new skills in response to the current and future demands of a rapidly changing workplace;
- to assist individuals with disabilities in becoming productive citizens and workers; and
- to supply employers with validation of skills through national certifications and licenses.

During this interactive workshop you will hear from students and facilitators, and learn about programs 'in and out of school' that are impacting students today. Join us and learn how your district might expand its own Career and Technical Programs.



Managing & Safeguarding Your District's Fiscal Fitness: What Boards Need to Know

Dr. Mark Gotcher, Superintendent, Russellville School District

Manning, Marriott Hotel (located beside Ballroom)

When making important and/or difficult decisions about how to allocate resources for your school district, on what information should you rely? What information should you ask of your superintendent? How do you know if your district is fiscally sound or if you are heading for trouble? This session will focus on the board's financial stewardship role and fiscal oversight responsibilities, including planning and budget development. Participants will learn how to assess and promote fiscal fitness in their districts and how to protect the district's resources. Insight into financial management and accounting practices that promote fiscal fitness will be covered, including understanding the purpose of cash flow projection and how mismanagement of fund balances and reserve funds can have an impact on your district.

See what information your board should receive regularly, in what form and from whom. You will leave knowing how to identify elements of financial reports that warrant special attention to ensure the district's financial health, including key indicators of a financially stressed district.

Session attendees are encouraged to bring a copy of their district's most recent audit report in order to better understand their own district's financial position.



Practical & Legal Frameworks for Effective Board Meetings

Cody Kees, Partner, Bequette, Billingsley & Kees, PA.

Jeremy Lasiter, Director of Human Resources and Legal Affairs, Bryant School District

Hoffman, Marriott Hotel (located beside Ballroom)

Arkansas Code § 6-13-619 defines the rules and parameters for school boards and how school board members are to hold and participate responsibly in their board meetings. Since legally convened school board meetings are the only venue where elected school boards can carry out their work, it is critical that they are student-focused and held in a legal, orderly, and professional way. Such meetings require more of you than knowledge of the law and parliamentary procedure. To ensure this, some of the topics you will learn about and discuss in this session are:

- Practical & legal frameworks for effective board meetings
- Open meetings law and its specific challenges
- FOIA vs confidentiality
- Calling meetings, quorums, onsite and away participation
- Setting the agenda for a board meeting
- Public participation at board meetings: good idea or not?
- Conducting the public's business: meeting procedures, operating principles, and rules of order
- Executive sessions
- Consent agendas, voting
- Meeting Minutes

