







2026 NDSBA ANNUAL CONVENTION

NDSBA
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 8-9, 2026
BISMARCK EVENT CENTER

Sponsored by Critical Response Group



NATHAN BERSETH
NDSBA PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2026

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONVENTION

GREETINGS FROM NDSBA'S BOARD PRESIDENT

This convention brings together school board members and education leaders from across North Dakota. We represent districts of different sizes and communities with different challenges, but we share a common responsibility: providing strong leadership for our schools and opportunities for our students.

Over the next few days, take the opportunity to step away from the regular board agenda and look at the bigger picture. Learn from our presenters, ask questions, visit with our vendors, and most importantly, talk with fellow board members. Often, the best idea we take home comes from a conversation with someone facing the same challenge in another district.

This year, NDSBA held regional meetings across the state for the first time in many years. These meetings allowed us to come to you, listen to what is happening in your districts, and better understand the issues facing boards throughout North Dakota. That communication is especially important as we enter a legislative year.

We know funding will be tight. Districts continue to face increasing costs, workforce challenges, facility needs, transportation expenses, and growing expectations. Legislators will also be balancing many priorities with limited resources. NDSBA will advocate for North Dakota's public schools, but our strongest voice is you – the locally elected board members who know your students, staff, taxpayers, and communities. Stay informed, communicate with your legislators, and tell the story of your local school.

Serving on a school board is a unique responsibility. We balance budgets, establish policies, support our superintendents, listen to our communities,



NDSBA Board of Directors: (L to R) Lynn Carlson, Nikkie Gullickson, Nathan Berseth, Patti Stedman, James Vannett, Michelle Orton, and Carrie Zachmann.

and make decisions that can affect our districts for years. Amid all those responsibilities, we cannot lose sight of why we are here: students.

Thirty years from now, today's kindergarten students probably won't remember that a bus route took an extra five minutes or that a sports co-op debated team colors. They will remember the teacher who believed in them, the coach who pushed them, the principal who knew their name, and the school that gave them an opportunity to succeed.

Our job as board members is to create an environment where those people—and those students—can succeed. We do that through good policy, responsible budgeting, strong leadership, and keeping students at the center of our decisions.

On behalf of the NDSBA Board of Directors and our outstanding staff, welcome to the 2026 Annual Convention. Thank you for the time you give to your schools and communities and for the leadership you provide to public education across North Dakota.

Have a great convention!



AMY DE KOK, NDSBA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WELCOME FROM NDSBA's EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year has been an exciting and busy one for NDSBA. As I look back on 2026, I am especially proud of the ways our Association has continued to grow, strengthen our services, and respond to the changing needs of North Dakota's school boards and public schools.

One of our largest undertakings has been the launch of the StudentsFirst Governance Program. NDSBA redesigned the former Be Legendary program to create a practical, North Dakota-focused approach to effective school board governance. Our first cohort launched this fall with 12 school districts. We have built a network of North Dakota coaches, incorporated new governance tools and technology, and developed a program focused on helping boards and superintendents establish clear student-focused goals and use those goals to guide their work to move the needle for students in their districts.

We also launched NDSBA's new Evaluator Service, providing districts with practical online tools for superintendent and business manager evaluations and school board self-assessments. This is another example of our ongoing effort to develop resources that make the important work of school boards more manageable and effective.

NDSBA's legal and policy services have also continued to grow. Through Legal Direct, policy services, and our ongoing legal education efforts, we are helping districts navigate increasingly complex issues involving personnel, special education, open records, governance, student matters, and many other areas of school law.

I have also appreciated the opportunity to travel across North Dakota for our regional meetings, where we have brought together board members, superintendents, legislators, state leaders, and community partners. Those conversations have been invaluable as we prepare for the 2027 Legislative Session and continue advocating for strong public schools and local school boards.

That advocacy also includes NDSBA's active participation in and support of North Dakotans for Public Schools (ND4PS). Through this coalition, NDSBA is working alongside other education organizations and partners, as well as parents and community leaders, to strengthen the collective voice supporting North Dakota's public schools and to help ensure that policymakers and the public understand the important role public education plays in communities across our state.

I am also very excited about the outstanding programming planned for this year's Annual Convention and related events. We have worked to provide timely, practical, and engaging sessions that address the issues school boards and district leadership teams are facing today. I strongly encourage board members, superintendents, business managers, and other members of your leadership teams to take full advantage of these valuable professional development opportunities. Just as importantly, the Convention provides a tremendous opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the state, exchange ideas, learn from one another, and build relationships that strengthen the work we all do.

I am grateful for the trust our members place in NDSBA and for the opportunity to work alongside school board members and education leaders across North Dakota. Our focus remains on providing practical support, strong advocacy, meaningful professional development, and the resources local boards need to serve their students and communities well.



StudentsFirst Governance Launch Institute in Bismarck, Sept. 22, 2026.

NDSBA
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL 2026 CONVENTION *Agenda*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

7:00 a.m.
Registration – *Lobby*

Hot Breakfast – *Hall B*

Exhibits Open – *Hall B and Foyer*

8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
School Law Seminar – *Hall A*

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New Member Learning to Lead Workshop
Prairie Rose Rooms 103-105

Noon – 1:15 p.m.
Lunch, Networking, and Exhibitor Visits
Hall B and Foyer

1:15 – 1:30 p.m.
Business Manager Graduation – *Hall A*

3:00 p.m.
OPENING SESSION – *Hall A*

- **Welcome, Introductions, Announcements**
  Amy De Kok
- **National Anthem:** ***Mandan High School Choir Department*** *– under the direction of Keri Hess*

  Sophomores: *Taylor Sorrow, Hanley Roberts*

  Juniors: *Sophia McCann, KaeLynn Talley, Lily Bradford, Skylar Grinsteinner*

  Seniors: *Joey Voigt, Brynn Feist, Ella Patera, Payton Gray*

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION – *Hall A*

- **Presentation of Standing Resolutions**
  Michelle Orton, Governmental Affairs Committee Chair (see Governmental Affairs Committee Report QR code on page 14)
- **Nominating Committee Report**
  Katie Christensen Mineer, Chair
- **2026 Legacy of Service Awards**
- **BALLOT BOX OPENS**

3:30 p.m.
KEYNOTE – Hall A

THE CONFIDENCE HABIT: 7 Core Practices to Transform Self-Doubt into Self-Belief
Dr. Cindra Kamphoff



Discover the practical mental performance tools to strengthen your own confidence, respond effectively to adversity, and create a culture where people have the confidence to contribute, lead, and thrive.

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
"Class Dismissed!" Social & Celebration – *Hall B*

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Music by Mandan High School Jazz Bands – under the direction of Jon Baumann

2026 NDSBA Annual Convention *Sponsored by Critical Response Group*

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PLEASE VISIT OUR CONVENTION EXHIBITORS!
Get your "Hall Pass" filled out by **1:45 p.m. on Friday** for your chance to win a door prize!

NDSBA NEW MEMBER LEARNING TO LEAD WORKSHOP • OCT. 8

Bismarck Event Center
Prairie Rose Rooms 103-105

7:00 a.m. **Registration & Hot Breakfast**

8:00 a.m. **Welcome and Overview of the Day**
Amy De Kok, NDSBA Executive Director

8:10 a.m. **Foundations of School Board Service**
Amy De Kok, NDSBA Executive Director

9:00 a.m. **Open Records, Open Meetings and Executive Session**
Lexie Bergstrom, NDSBA Staff Attorney

9:45 a.m. **Break**

10:00 a.m. **Message from Deputy State Superintendent Amanda Peterson**

10:15 a.m. **School Board Powers & Roles and Responsibilities**
Amy De Kok, NDSBA Executive Director

11:00 a.m. **Public School Finance**
Dr. Paul Stremick, Retired Supt., Dakota Leadership Solutions

Noon **Lunch** – *Hall B*

1:00 p.m. **School Law 101**
Amy De Kok, NDSBA Executive Director

1:45 p.m. **NDSBA at Your Service – How we Support Your Board Work**
Amy De Kok, NDSBA Executive Director

2:00 p.m. **Experienced Board Member Q&A**
Board members will separate into subgroups by region and meet with NDSBA Board of Directors representatives

2:30 p.m. Adjourn

North Dakota state law requires that newly elected school board members attend this training (NDCC § 15.1-09-32). Participants who fail to be present for the full day will not meet the requirements of the training. A certificate of completion will be mailed to participants who complete the workshop.

Please take a few moments to fill out the 2026 New Member Learning to Lead Workshop Attendee Survey by scanning the QR code. Thank you!

NDSBA SCHOOL LAW SEMINAR • OCT. 8

Bismarck Event Center
Hall A

Sponsored by
NORTH DAKOTA NDIRF INSURANCE RESERVE FUND

7:00 a.m. **Registration & Hot Breakfast | Welcome**

8:00 a.m. **Special Education: Federal Case Law Updates**
Christian Shafer, Attorney – Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney, P.A., Minneapolis, MN

9:00 a.m. **Navigating Contract Nonrenewal and Discharge Hearings**
Seth Thompson and Quinn Askew, Attorneys – Vogel Law Firm, Bismarck, ND

10:00 a.m. **Break**

10:15 a.m. **Sponsor Message: North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund**
Keith Pic, NDIRF CEO

10:20 a.m. **Addressing Cyberfraud and Security in Schools**
Marcus Lewton, Superintendent and Stephanie Hunter, Business Manager – Dickinson Public Schools
Jonathan J. O'Konek, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of N.D.

11:00 a.m. **ND Department of Public Instruction: Keeping It Legal in 2026-2027**
Matthew S. Menge, Assistant Attorney General/ NDDPI Counsel and Amanda Peterson, Deputy Superintendent of NDDPI

Noon **Lunch** – *Hall B*

1:15 p.m. **Business Manager Graduation Ceremony** – *Hall A*
North Dakota School Business Managers Certification Program

1:30 p.m. **Open Records & Open Meetings Law for School Boards**
Stephen Hanson, Assistant Attorney General/ General Counsel Division

2:30 p.m. **Conclusion of Seminar**

Please take a few moments to fill out the 2026 School Law Seminar Attendee Survey by scanning the QR code. Thank you!

NDSBA
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL 2026 CONVENTION *Agenda*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

7:15 a.m.
Registration – *Lobby*

Hot Breakfast – *Hall B*

Exhibits Open – *Hall B and Foyer*

Music by Mandan High School Marching Braves – under the direction of Jon Baumann

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Welcome and Announcements – *Hall A*

KEYNOTE – *Hall A*

ONE STATE, ONE TEAM
State Superintendent
Levi Bachmeier



Learn how NDDPI is using viewpoints of North Dakota citizens to ensure we lead the nation with America's best schools.

9:15 - 11:00 a.m.
Clinic Sessions – *Prairie Rose Rooms*

10:00 a.m. – Noon
Business Manager Sessions
Prairie Rose Room 105

Please take a few moments to fill out the **2026 NDSBA Annual Convention Attendee Survey** by scanning the QR code.

THANK YOU!

11:15 a.m.
BALLOT BOX CLOSES

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION & DELEGATE ASSEMBLY – *Hall A*
Delegates must check in and be seated at the front of the room

- **Credentials Committee Report**
- **Action on Resolutions**
  Nathan Berseth, NDSBA Board President
- **Unfinished Business**
- **New Business**
- **Service Awards and Barb Norby Scholarship Presentations**

12:15 – 1:45 p.m.
Lunch, Networking, and Exhibitor Visits
Hall B and Foyer

1:45 – 2:30 p.m.
Regional Meetings – *Prairie Rose Rooms*

2:45 – 3:30 p.m.
Clinic Sessions – *Prairie Rose Rooms*

3:45 – 4:30 p.m.
- **Legislative Panel Discussion** – *Hall A*
  Moderated by Nathan Berseth, NDSBA Board President
  Senator Don Schaible – District 31, Mott
  Representative Scott Louser – District 5, Minot
  Representative Dave Richter – District 1, Williston
  Representative Anna Novak – District 33, Hazen
- **Election Results**
- **Door Prizes** *(must be present to win)*
- **Close**





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Josh Longenecker
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SCHOLARSHIPS

CLINIC SESSIONS SCHEDULE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

7:15 a.m.
- Registration, Hot Breakfast, Exhibits Open

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
HALL A
- Welcome, Announcements, and Keynote

9:15 – 10:00 a.m.
PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 101
- Parliamentary Procedure: Robert's Rules of Order

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 102
- Investing in the Future: The Roadmap to Net-Zero Schools

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 103
- Recruitment & Retention Through Personalized Learning for Teachers

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 104
- Same Students, Same Teachers, Better Results: Using Data and Relationships to Improve Outcomes

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 105
- Software Unlimited, Inc. – School Accounting System User Forum

HALL A
- Sustaining the Magic: Retaining the Educators We Have

10:00 a.m. – Noon
PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 105
- Business Manager Session

10:15 – 11:00 a.m.
PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 101
- Lessons Learned From Columbine

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 102
- The Culture Cure: School Board and Superintendent Teamwork

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 103
- Driving Effective Partnerships Between Your Local Schools, Local Employers, and Local Students

HALL A
- Child-Centered, Family-Focused, Shared Accountability – The Work of the North Dakota Children's Cabinet

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
HALL A
- Second Business Session and Delegate Assembly

12:15 – 1:45 p.m.
HALL B AND FOYER
- Lunch, Networking, and Exhibitor Visits

1:45 – 2:30 p.m.
PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 101
- Northwest Regional Meeting

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 102
- Southwest Regional Meeting

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 103
- Northeast Regional Meeting

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 104
- Southeast Regional Meeting

2:45 – 3:30 p.m.
PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 101
- Leading From the Board Table: Governance That Improves Student Outcomes

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 102
- North Dakota High School Activities Association: The Top 10

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 105
- Welcoming New Educators to TFFR: A Coordinated Approach to New Member Education

HALL A
- Public Schools on the Ballot: Know Your Legislators, Know Your Impact

3:45 – 4:30 p.m.
PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 101
- CREA Annual Meeting

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 102
- North Dakota Small Organized Schools Annual Meeting

3:45 – 4:30 p.m.
Legislative Panel Discussion
Election Results
Door Prizes
Close

CLINIC SESSIONS

9:15 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. CLINIC SESSIONS

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 101

Parliamentary Procedure: Robert's Rules of Order

AnnMarie Campbell – Chief Communications Officer, Fargo Public Schools

This session provides an overview of the history, purpose, and fundamental principles of Robert's Rules of Order. Participants will learn why parliamentary procedure is an effective tool for conducting efficient, orderly, and transparent board meetings. The session will also explore how Robert's Rules intersects with state law and local school board policy, helping board members navigate meeting procedures with confidence.

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 102

Investing in the Future: The Roadmap to Net-Zero Schools

Mike Laverdure – Principal Architect, DSGW Architecture
Katherine Gerzina – Associate Senior Architect, DSGW Architecture
David Vig – Principal Mechanical Engineer, CMTA
Jeff Olson – Supt., Four Winds Community School

Transitioning to zero-energy design is often viewed as a luxury, but the long-term reality is a matter of fiscal responsibility. This panel explores how high-performance school buildings serve as a hedge against rising utility costs while creating healthier, more resilient spaces for students. Join a multidisciplinary team to discuss the "business case" for sustainability, including financing strategies, operational savings, and the ways a commitment to net-zero carbon can enhance a district's long-term budget stability and strengthen community trust.

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 103

Recruitment & Retention Through Personalized Learning for Teachers

Darcy Bakkegard, Co-Founder & Director, The Educators' Lab

Professional Development (PD) is one of the best ways to support teachers. When done right, it's an opportunity to reinvigorate staff and create better learning experiences for students. But when budgets and time are tight, PD often becomes an extra burden rather than an exciting opportunity. Explore and discuss strategies to create meaningful, in-house professional learning opportunities that foster community collaboration and authentic learning experiences for students while reinvigorating educators. Reduce burnout, increase retention, and accelerate real-world learning experiences with personalized PD.

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 104

Same Students, Same Teachers, Better Results: Using Data and Relationships to Improve Outcomes

Dr. Cory Steiner – Supt., Fargo Public Schools
Dr. Chris Larson – Supt., Milnor Public Schools
Josh Omang – Associate Director of Engagement, BARR Center

As school boards and administrators work together to ensure that students and educators feel known, supported, and on a path for success, streamlined and effective systems help to accomplish these goals. Learn how one such system, the Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) model, has helped improve outcomes in many North Dakota school districts, including Fargo Public Schools and Milnor Public Schools, using data and relationships.

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 105

Software Unlimited, Inc. – School Accounting System User Forum

Corey Atkinson – Partner/Chief Business Officer, Software Unlimited, Inc.

Join us for a discussion focused on the future of your School Accounting System. We'll walk through important features and share a preview of what's coming next – a modern, streamlined user experience. This is also an opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback, and connect with other users as we discuss how the system continues to evolve to better support your district's needs.

HALL A

Sustaining the Magic: Retaining the Educators We Have

Frannie Tunseth – 2026 ND Teacher of the Year, May-Port School District

Educators make a life-altering difference every day. Drawing on her Ph.D. research in teacher retention, 2026 North Dakota Teacher of the Year Frannie Tunseth shares a message focused on the urgent need to wrap our arms around the incredible teachers already in our schools, honor their wisdom, lift each other up, and build supportive communities to sustain passion and protect the heart of the profession.

10:15 – 11:00 A.M. CLINIC SESSIONS

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 101

Lessons Learned From Columbine

Don Moseman – Emergency Response Consultant, North Dakota Safety Council

Join us for a powerful and deeply personal presentation from a first responder who was on the scene during the Columbine High School attack on April 20, 1999, in Littleton, Colorado. Drawing from firsthand experience, Don Moseman will share the lasting emotional and psychological impact from the tragedy – not only on the victims and community, but on the first responders who rushed in that day. This session promises to be a life-changing experience for people involved in education, as Don takes you behind the curtain of one of the worst days in U.S. education history.

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 102

The Culture Cure: School Board and Superintendent Teamwork

Janelle Helm – Supt., Carrington Public Schools
Joel Lemer – School Board President, Carrington

School culture starts at the top. The way a board and superintendent work together sets the tone for principals, teachers, staff, students, and the entire community. When leadership is aligned, roles are respected, and decisions are made with students at the center – schools are better equipped to handle whatever comes their way.

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 103

Driving Effective Partnerships Between your Local Schools, Local Employers, and Local Students

Patrick Mineer – CEO & Founder, Golden Path Solutions

As education continues to evolve, stronger partnerships between schools, employers, and communities are becoming essential to student success. This session explores innovative strategies for connecting classroom learning with real-world experiences through initiatives such as educator externships, job shadows, work-based learning opportunities, and dual-credit or early-entry programs. Participants will learn how effective school-industry partnerships can enhance student career readiness, strengthen local workforce development, and create meaningful benefits for students, schools, and employers alike.

HALL A

Child-Centered, Family-Focused, Shared Accountability – The Work of the North Dakota Children's Cabinet

North Dakota Lt. Governor Michelle Strinden
Maria Neset – Chief of Staff to Lt. Governor Strinden
Russ Riehl, Principal – Simle Middle School
Chelsea Flory – Children & Family Services Director

The North Dakota Children's Cabinet is establishing itself as credible partner in solving complex issues while also elevating best practices happening across our great state.

This session will highlight the Cabinet's year in review, the importance of cross-system partnerships, how we are working to align state and local efforts, all focused around initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for youth and families. Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of how the Cabinet's efforts intersect with schools and your local communities.

10:00 A.M. - NOON

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 105

Business Manager Session

11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

HALL A

Delegate Assembly

12:15 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

HALL B

Lunch, Networking, and Exhibitor Visits

1:45 P.M. -2:30 P.M. CLINIC SESSIONS

NDSBA Regional Meetings

Districts will join their NDSBA regional directors to discuss current topics, ask questions, and network with other board members. Come prepared with questions about NDSBA and local and statewide issues. Lead by NDSBA board members.

Clinic Sessions continued...



North Dakota Gov. Kelly Armstrong celebrates with Central Valley students. The district was one of two ND schools to finish in the top 10th percentile for elementary and high school accountability metrics.

CLINIC SESSIONS

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 101

Northwest Regional Meeting

James Vannett, Nedrose – NDSBA NW Director

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 102

Southwest Regional Meeting

Carrie Zachmann, Beach – NDSBA SW Director

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 103

Northeast Regional Meeting

Lynn Carlson, Finley-Sharon – NDSBA NE Director
Patti Stedman, West Fargo – NDSBA Past President

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 104

Southeast Regional Meeting

Nathan Berseth, Richland 44 – NDSBA Board President
Nikkie Gullickson, Fargo – NDSBA SE Director

2:45 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. CLINIC SESSIONS

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 101

Leading From the Board Table: Governance That Improves Student Outcomes

Amy De Kok – NDSBA Executive Director
Martin Bratrud – StudentsFirst Governance Lead Coach

School boards play a critical role in shaping the conditions that support student success, but meaningful impact requires more than setting policy and approving budgets. This session will explore how boards can use governance-level goals, monitoring, and superintendent alignment to keep student achievement at the center of their work, and how NDSBA's StudentsFirst Governance Program provides a practical framework to help boards put those practices into action.

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 102

NDHSAA: The Top 10

Matt Fetsch – Executive Director, North Dakota High School Activities Association

Curious about the most common concerns school boards raise regarding athletics and activities? North Dakota High School Activities Association Executive Director Matt Fetsch breaks down the top 10 questions NDHSAA receives from school board members. From eligibility and governance to emerging issues facing student activities, this session will provide practical answers, helpful insights, and a better understanding of the NDHSAA's role in supporting schools across North Dakota.

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 105

Welcoming New Educators to TFFR: A Coordinated Approach to New Member Education

Denise Weeks – Retirement Program Mgr. NDRIO-TFFR
Jayme Heick – Retirement Program Specialist NDRIO-TFFR
Tami Volkert – Business Partner Officer, NDRIO-TFFR

A strong start can help educators make informed retirement decisions throughout their careers. This session introduces the Teachers' Fund for Retirement (TFFR) redesigned new member education rollout: a new member presentation for district onboarding, a structured email series sent directly to new members in their first year, and a dedicated new member webpage. The session will highlight how districts and TFFR can work together to ensure new hires receive the information and support they need to confidently navigate their retirement benefits.

HALL A

Know Before You Vote: A Public Education Perspective

Erin Oban, North Dakotans for Public Schools

Do you know your state legislators? Do you know how they do (or don't) support the hard work you do as a school board member?

North Dakota's public schools – our students, their families, and the educators who come through their doors each day – are directly impacted by those who show up to vote in elections and the individuals elected at the ballot box. No matter what party or candidate you choose, ND4PS encourages you and every North Dakotan to ask questions, be informed, and vote for individuals who will stand up for public schools and champion public education in their votes, words, and actions.



Erin Oban, ND4PS

In this session, ND4PS will share ways that the coalition is working to strengthen, protect, and celebrate our public schools through civic engagement, including highlighting the coalition's legislative voter guide, which provides information about where the candidates and incumbents on the ballot this November stand on issues important to public education.

3:45 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. CLINIC SESSIONS

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 101

CREA Annual Meeting

Luke Schaefer – CEO,
Central Regional Education Association

Connect with Central Regional Education Association's leadership to learn about CREA's governance framework and receive key insights on agency strategies for strengthening support for member schools. This session is open to members and non-member school representatives.

PRAIRIE ROSE ROOM 102

North Dakota Small Organized Schools Annual Meeting

Mike Bitz – Executive Director,
North Dakota Small Organized Schools

NDSOS member schools are invited to attend this session that will include the Annual Meeting and Election of Board members. It will also include a brief summary of the programs and activities of the NDSOS over the past year and a discussion about the upcoming legislative session.

3:45 P.M.

HALL A

LEGISLATIVE PANEL DISCUSSION

Wrap up the convention with one of the most important conversations of the year. As policymakers begin shaping priorities for the 2027 legislative session, this panel discussion will examine key education issues on the horizon and their potential impact on North Dakota's public schools. The session offers you a unique opportunity to hear directly from lawmakers, share local perspectives, and gain insight into the policy discussions that will help define the future of public education. Stay for this session and leave informed, prepared, and ready for the legislative year ahead!

Moderated by Nathan Berseth – NDSBA Board President

Panelists:
Senator Don Schaible – District 31, Mott
Representative Scott Louser – District 5, Minot
Representative Dave Richter – District 1, Williston
Representative Anna Novak – District 33, Hazen

4:30 P.M.

HALL A
Election Results • Door Prizes • Close





State Supt. Levi Bachmeier visits Roosevelt Elementary School in Carson.



Carrington students celebrate reading in March – "Reading Knocks Our Socks Off!"

2026 RESOLUTIONS REPORT

RESOLUTIONS

Scan here to read the recommendations of the 2026 Governmental Affairs Committee. Copies are also available at the registration table.

PROPOSING A RESOLUTION

If your board has voted to bring a resolution to the convention floor for consideration by the Delegate Assembly, follow this procedure:

1. Have 400 copies of your resolution ready to distribute at the close of the first business session on Thursday.
2. At the second business session on Friday, the chair will ask if any resolutions were distributed on Thursday. At that time, a delegate from your board must go to the microphone and move the resolution. A delegate from a different board must make the second.
3. Once a motion and second have been made, your resolution will be discussed and voted on by the Delegate Assembly.

NDSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Nathan Berseth, Richland 44

VICE PRESIDENT
Michelle Orton, Dickinson

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Patti Stedman, West Fargo

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James Vannett, Nedrose

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KrisAnn Norby-Jahner,
NDSBA General Counsel

RECORDER
Lexie Bergstrom,
NDSBA Staff Attorney

SCAN HERE to see the 2026 Candidate Brochure.

ANNUAL REPORTS

SCAN HERE to read the 2026 Annual Report.

Pick up the 2026 Annual Report, 2025-26 Balance Sheets, and 2026-27 NDSBA Approved Budget at the registration table.

SCAN HERE to read the minutes of the 2025 Delegate Assembly.

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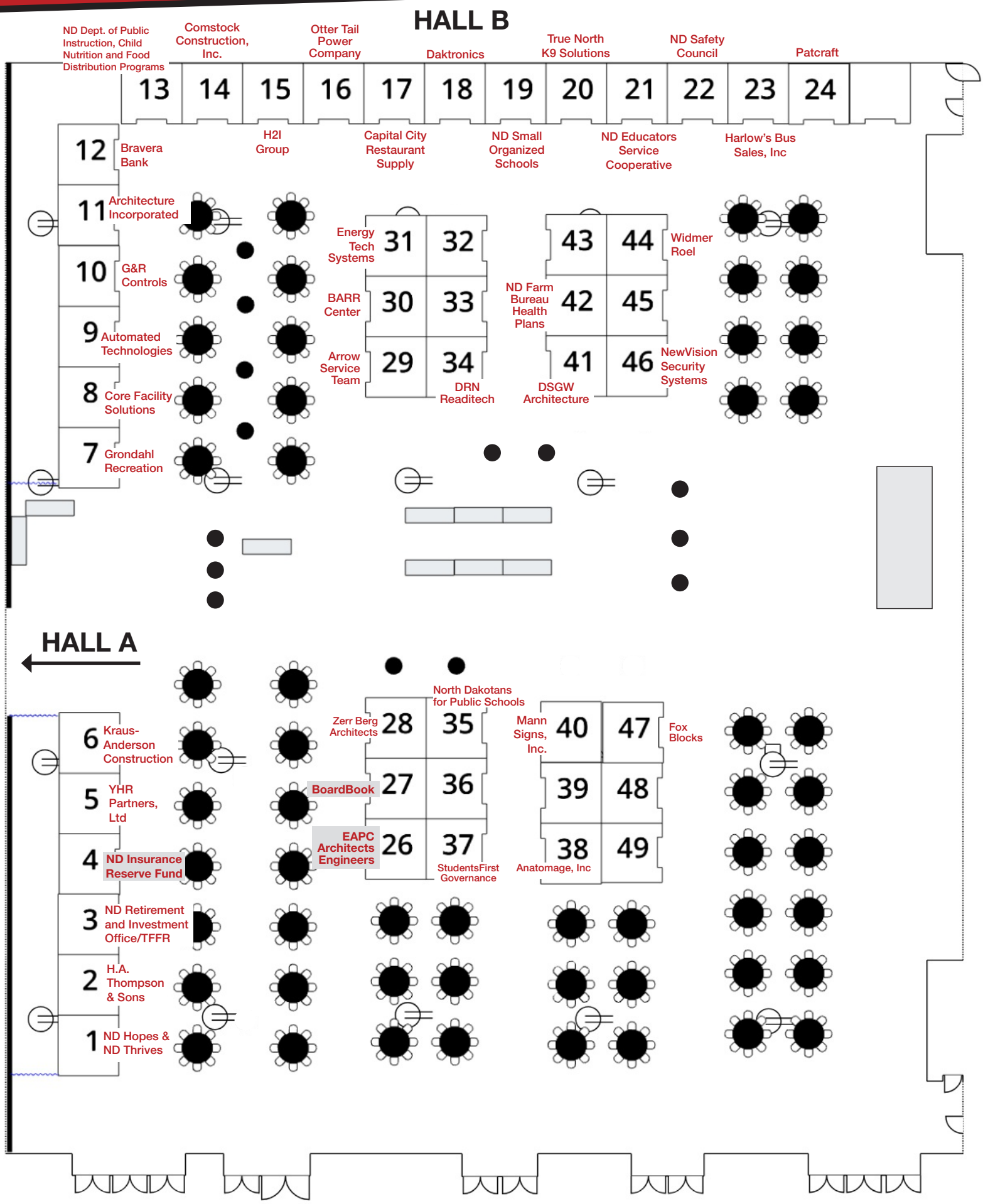
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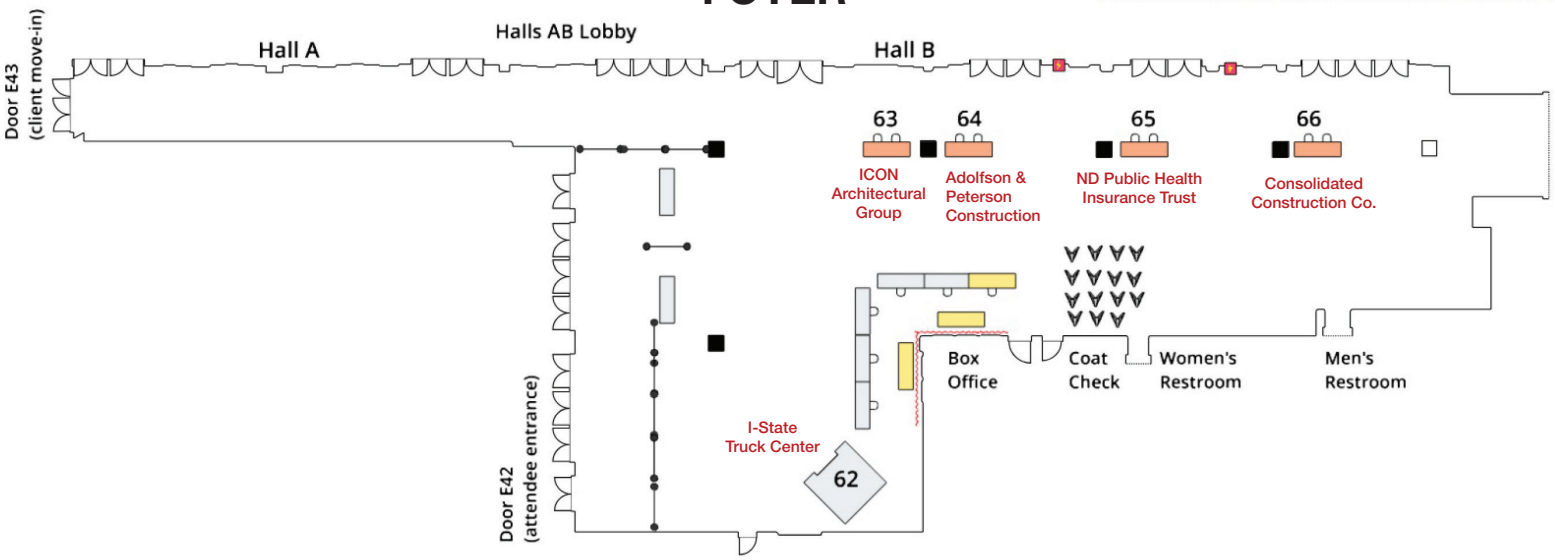
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See Exhibitor Map on pages 18-19.

2026 EXHIBITOR MAP



FOYER





NDSBA Southwest Regional meeting in Dickinson.



Gov. Kelly Armstrong celebrates with students at Central Valley.



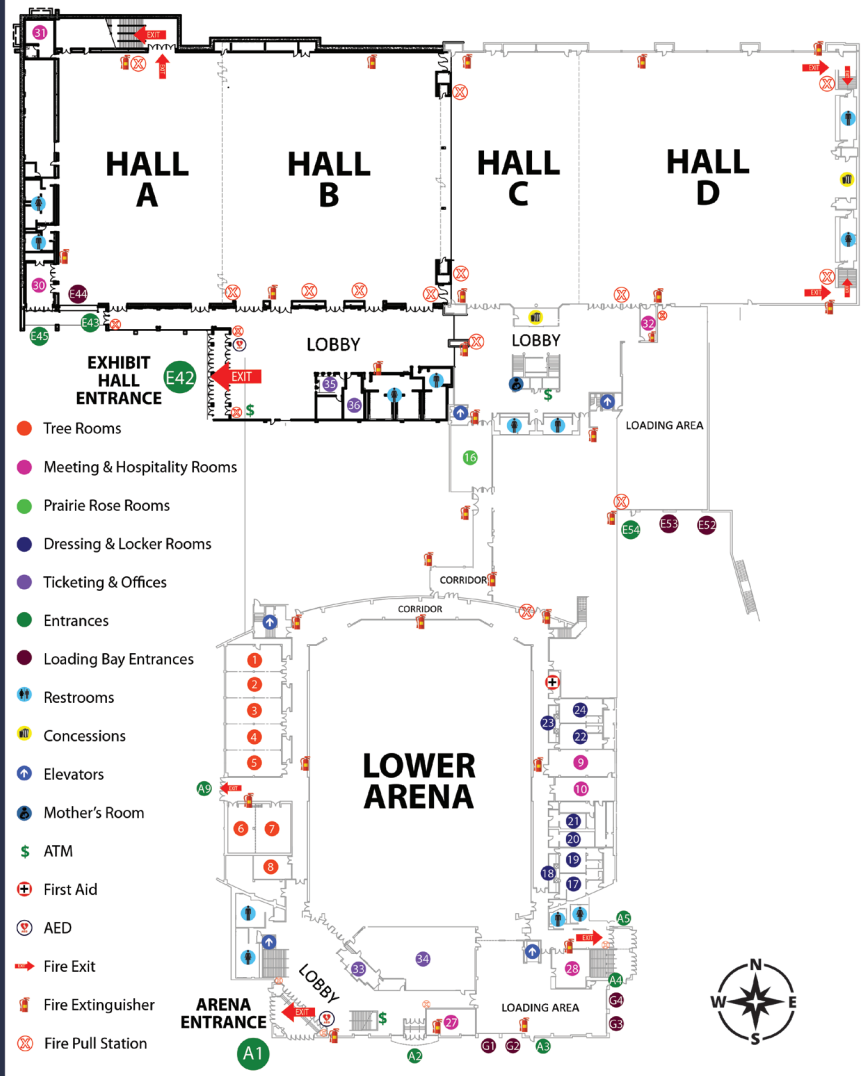
Divide County 4th graders learn about energy and electricity!

COVER: ***Cover photos by Avery Nelson, West Fargo Public Schools Marketing & Communications Specialist***

Pictured: West Fargo's Westside Elementary School was selected to be the North Dakota School to host the History Rocks tour!

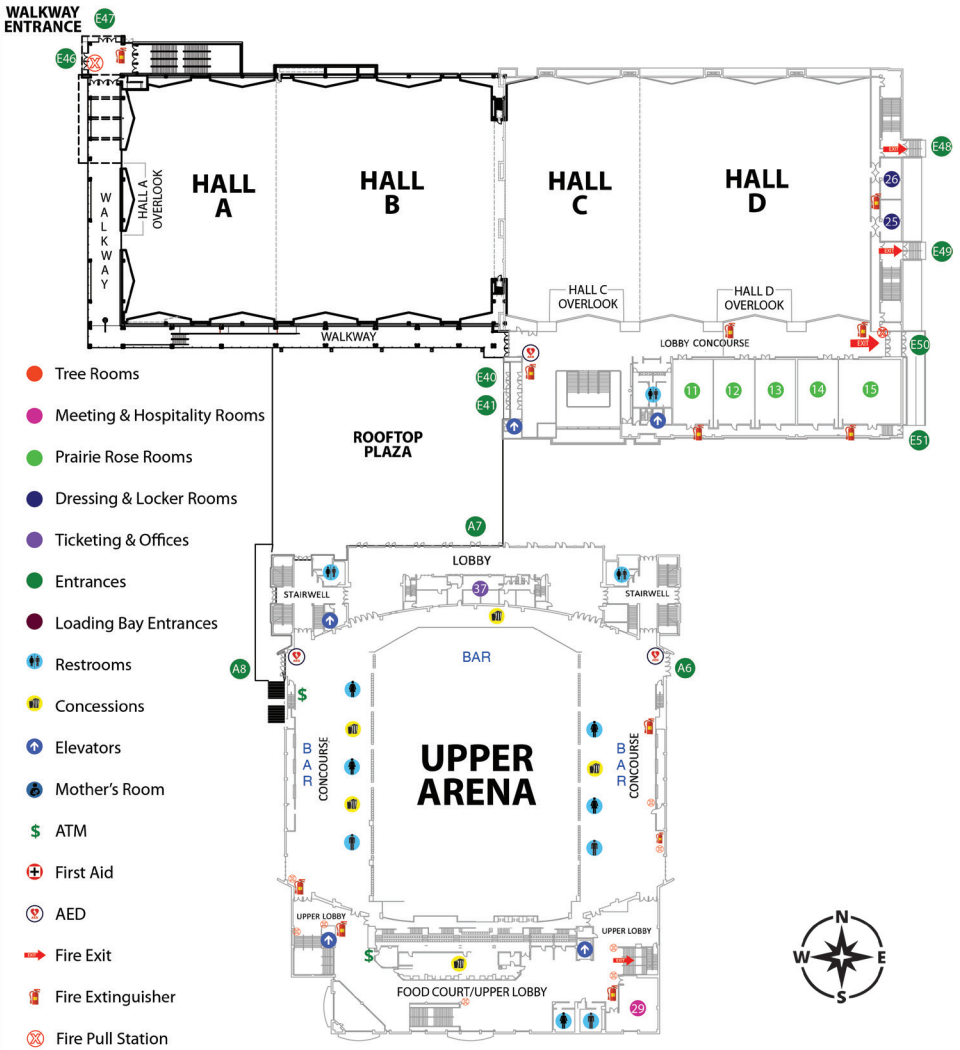
Pictured: West Fargo Legacy Elementary students in the immersive reality room at the Ag Education Center

LOWER LEVEL MAP



1. Spruce Room
2. Pine Room
3. Oak Room
4. Maple Room
5. Linden Room
6. Cottonwood Room
7. Birch Room
8. Aspen Room
9. Murdoch Room
10. Karlgaard Room
17. Locker Room #1
18. Red Room
19. Locker Room #2
20. Dressing Room
21. Dressing Room
22. Locker Room #3
23. Purple Room
24. Locker Room #4
27. Mayor's Conference Room
28. Arena Hospitality Room
30. Exhibit Hall Hospitality Room
31. Exhibit Hall VIP Room
32. Show Manager Office
33. Main Ticket Office
34. Administrative Offices
35. Exhibit Hall Ticket Office
36. Coat Check

UPPER LEVEL MAP



11. Prairie Rose 101
12. Prairie Rose 102
13. Prairie Rose 103
14. Prairie Rose 104
15. Prairie Rose 105
16. Prairie Rose 106
25. Dressing Room
26. Dressing Room
29. BEK Fiber Club
37. Administrative Offices