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New Hampshire Association of School Business Officials



2026 Current Trends in School Operations, Finance, & Business

September 29, 2026

Grappone Conference Center



Agenda



8:30am - 9:00am	Registration & Continental Breakfast	Main Hallway
9:00am - 9:10am	Welcome & Introductions - <i>Dr. Mark MacLean, Executive Director, NHSAA</i>	Salon A/B
9:10am - 10:10am	Keynote: What Would You Do When? How to Survive Life Emergencies & Unexpected Situations - <i>Michael Hingson, Chief Vision Officer, accessiBe</i> (see info. on pg. 2) Sponsored by 	Salon A/B
10:10am - 10:40am	General Session: New Laws Impacting District Budgets, Reporting, & Financial Operations - <i>Mark Manganiello, School Finance - Division of Education Analytics & Resources, NHED & Jamie Dow, Municipal Advisor, DRA</i> (see info. on pg. 2)	Salon A/B
10:40am - 11:00am	Refreshment Break Visit with Business Partners	Main Hallway & Salon A/B
11:00am - 11:50am	Concurrent Sessions (see info. on pg. 3)	Various
12:00pm - 1:05pm	Buffet Luncheon & Award Ceremony	Salon A/B
1:05pm - 1:55pm	School Safety: Planning, Partnerships & Preparedness for What's Next - <i>Robert Buxton, Director, New Hampshire's Homeland Security & Emergency Management</i> (see info. on pg. 2)	Salon A/B
2:00pm - 2:45pm	Keynote: Strong Roots. Steady Leadership. Preparing to Lead When It Matters Most - <i>Michele Wiberg, Founder, Mentor, Coach - Root. Rise. Lead.</i> (see info. on pg. 2)	Salon A/B

Don't forget to visit with ALL of our Business Partners! They will be raffling off some AMAZING prizes! They offer solutions within the business and facilities space, and are eager to work with you.

Keynotes & General Sessions

What Would You Do When...? How to Survive Life Emergencies & Unexpected Situations

Michael Hingson, Chief Vision Officer, accessiBe

Meet Michael Hingson and his eighth guide dog, Alamo. Alamo has been with Mike only seven years, but as Mike says, "Alamo has learned a lot from me about how to live and work through emergency situations in our lives." Mr. Hingson will tell the audience how he and his former guide dog, Roselle, worked in and survived escaping from the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. As Hingson says, "it was no accident nor luck that helped Roselle and me get out of the Twin Towers that day." Learn how Mr. Hingson used life skills to prepare for the most unexpected emergency imaginable. As Mike will explain, you can learn to control fear. You can develop a mindset that will help you handle emergency and unexpected situations as well as survive them.

New Laws Impacting District Budgets, Reporting, & Financial Operations

Mark Manganiello, School Finance - Division of Education Analytics & Resources, NHED & Jamie Dow, Municipal Advisor, Department of Revenue Administration

Jamie and Mark will discuss several of the new laws enacted this past legislative session changing a variety of processes dealing with district finances, including: SAU budget adoption, audit requirements, and district reporting requirements. Walk away with an understanding of the Audit requirement and consequences under SB586, start to understand the questions & challenges impacting SAUs with the changes in the SAU budget with HB564 and the new tax Cap law with HB1300, and learn about other laws passed during the 2026 session impacting school finance.

School Safety: Planning, Partnerships & Preparedness for What's Next

Robert Buxton, Director, New Hampshire's Homeland Security & Emergency Management

A Conversation with the NH Director of Homeland Security

School safety continues to evolve, and being prepared means looking beyond today's challenges. This conversation will explore what's next for school emergency operations plans and security assessments, how schools and local public safety can build stronger partnerships, and opportunities to better prepare leaders for the active threat environment. We'll also discuss how the School Safety Task Force can work more effectively with school communities and how state resources can support schools before, during, and after extreme weather events.

Strong Roots. Steady Leadership. Preparing to Lead When It Matters Most

Michele Wiberg, Founder, Mentor, Coach - Root. Rise. Lead.

The most resilient trees don't survive storms because they're lucky. They survive because of the work happening underground. Leadership works the same way. In school finance, leaders are often judged by what people can see - budgets, buildings, audits, decisions, and how they respond when challenges arise. But leadership isn't built during a crisis. It's revealed during one. This keynote explores the foundational work that prepares leaders to lead with confidence, clarity, authenticity, and integrity when the pressure is on. We'll examine how strong relationships, capable teams, sound policies, and intentional preparation create the stability leaders need before they're tested. Because steady leadership isn't about avoiding every storm. It's about building the strength to weather, learn, and become even stronger for the next one.

Concurrent Sessions



Service Contracts: Do's and Don'ts - *Demetrio Aspiras, Attorney, Drummond Woodsum*

This session will build participants' understanding of basic contract principles and provide practical guidance for identifying essential terms in service contracts. Participants will also learn to recognize unnecessary or problematic provisions that may increase risk and potential liability for their districts.

Capital

A Shared Responsibility: The Superintendent & Business Administrator Partnership

Christine Landwehrle, Superintendent, SAU #82 & Amy Facey, Business Administrator, SAU #39

Superintendents are ultimately accountable for district finances, yet many receive limited preparation for overseeing the business and financial functions of a school district. At the same time, effective financial management depends on a strong partnership between the superintendent and business administrator. This session walks participants through the business administrator's responsibilities across the fiscal year, highlighting critical checkpoints where communication, decision-making, and oversight matter most. Participants will learn practical strategies to reduce risk, identify potential issues early, and strengthen the superintendent and business administrator partnership.

Concord

AI & CyberSecurity in Schools - *Craig Taylor, CEO & Founder, CyberHoot & SAU #18*

DESCRIPTION COMING SOON!

Merrimack

Legal Implications of AI in School Districts - *Gavin Gray, Attorney, Wadleigh, Starr, & Peters*

This session will discuss the legal liability implications of the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools by school districts and their employees. In particular, this seminar will discuss how the use of AI tools may create liability concerns under federal and state laws concerning anti-discrimination, privacy, and student safety.

Pierce

Adequacy Funding Formula - *Mark Manganiello, School Finance, Division of Education Analytics & Resources, NHED*

The Division of Education Analytics & Resources oversees distribution of adequate state education funding which includes data collection used for and calculation of the state funding formula. Mark will provide an overview of the state adequacy formula, including changes impacts for FY28 and beyond. Leave with an understanding of the adequacy formula, understand future trends negatively impacting adequacy, and learn about the recent developments in school funding as it impacts the law and public policy. Mark will be available to answer general state education funding and data questions.

Salon C

School Finance Data Trends - *Brian Eaton, Administrator & Sandy Johnson, Division of Education Analytics & Resources, NHED*

Brian and Sandy will present on observed trends in the datasets collected by the state and discuss insights or questions posed by the data trends. Walk away understanding some of the driving demographic changes impacting district schools, learn about the roadblocks and opportunities associated with consolidation efforts, and learn more about the type of data NHED is collecting and the possibilities and limitations with NHED data.

Webster

Keynote Presenters Biographies



Michael Hingson, Chief Vision Officer, accessiBe

Michael Hingson, blind since birth, was raised with a can-do attitude. Michael rode a bike and learned to do advanced math in his head! He moved to California and attended college receiving a master's degree in Physics and a secondary teaching credential.

Michael worked for high-tech companies in management roles until September 11, 2001 when he and his guide dog, Roselle, escaped from the WTC. They were then thrust into the international limelight where Michael began to share lessons of trust, courage, and teamwork as a public speaker.

Mike is the author of the #1 NY Times Bestseller: "Thunder dog: the true story of a blind man, his guide dog and the triumph of trust at Ground Zero" – selling over 2.5 million copies. In 2014 he published his 2nd book "Running with Roselle", A story for our youth. His third book, "Live Like A Guide Dog" was published in August of 2024. You can learn more about it [here](#).

In June, 2024 Mike was inducted as an alumni member of Phi Beta Kappa at UC Irvine. Mike has Spoken to the world's elite including George Bush, and Larry King. He has appeared on hundreds of TV and Radio programs. Now he is hired by major organizations Speaking on perseverance, the importance of Teamwork and Trust, Moving from Diversity to Inclusion, and offering Adaptive Technology Training.

Mike also hosts "The Unstoppable Mindset podcast: where inclusion, diversity and the unexpected meet."



Michele Wiberg, Founder, Mentor, Coach - Root. Rise. Lead.

For more than three decades, Michele Wiberg has been a trusted financial and strategic advisor to school districts across the country, helping leaders navigate complex financial, operational, and organizational challenges.

During her career in financial services, Michele has learned that strong leadership is about far more than performance metrics and financial results. It is about building sound foundations, developing people, establishing trust, and making thoughtful decisions before, and especially when, circumstances become difficult. She has helped leaders and organizations navigate complex situations, often under the scrutiny that comes with making difficult decisions in the public eye.

Michele is a former member of the senior leadership team at PTMA Financial Solutions, which serves as Program Administrator for the NH Public Deposit Investment Pool (PDIP). Today, Michele brings that experience to her work as a leadership coach, helping leaders build the strong foundations needed for steady leadership when it matters most.

She is a graduate of Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she earned a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration, specializing in Finance, and a Masters of Business Administration. She holds multiple FINRA securities licenses including the Series 7, 24, 50, 54, and 63.

Outside of work, Michele is a certified yoga instructor, fitness enthusiast, and podcast junkie.

K General Session Presenters Biographies



Robert M. Buxton, Director, New Hampshire Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Robert M. Buxton serves as Director of the New Hampshire Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and as the state's Homeland Security Advisor. He oversees statewide disaster response, emergency preparedness, and homeland security coordination, working with federal, state, local, and private-sector partners to strengthen readiness and resilience. Director Buxton previously served as Hudson Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director and brings more than three decades of municipal fire service experience. He holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of New Hampshire and a bachelor's degree in Fire Science Administration from Salem State College.



Jamie Dow, Municipal Advisor, Department of Revenue Administration

Jamie Dow is a Municipal Auditor with the NH Department of Revenue Administration, where she has been employed for over 27 years. Jamie is a DRA liaison to the NSASBO, NHMA, NHTCA, and the NHGFOA which she is also a member of the Education Committee and Training Committee.



Mark Manganiello, Bureau Administrator, Division of Education Analytics & Resources Federal Compliance Bureau, NH Department of Education

Mark has been the Bureau Administrator for the Bureau of School Finance within NHED since January 2021. The Bureau oversees the collection, reporting, and analyzing of school finance data within NHED and implements the Adequacy formula. Prior to working for the Department, Mark was a performance auditor for seven years with the NH Legislative Budget Assistant (LBA). In addition to conducting program evaluations of State agencies for the Legislature, Mark assisted the Legislature during the 2019 Budget Session in analyzing multiple school funding proposals. Mark has a Bachelor's degree from Keene State College and a Master of Public Administration from the University of New Hampshire.

Concurrent Sessions | Presenter Biographies



Demetrio F. Aspiras, III, Attorney, Drummond Woodsum

Demetrio Aspiras is a litigator who represents clients in high-stakes disputes involving education, municipal, corporate, real estate, Right to Know, and contract matters. He has extensive experience in state and federal courts at both the trial and appellate levels and uses that experience to help clients manage legal risk and achieve their goals. A graduate of Michigan State University College of Law, magna cum laude, Demetrio is also expanding his practice to include mediation services.



Brian Eaton, Administrator, Division of Education Analytics & Resources, NHED

Brian joined the New Hampshire Department of Education in 2022, first with the Bureau of Education Statistics and later with the Bureau of School Finance. Previously, he spent four years with the Department of Safety's Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, where he focused on data management and analysis supporting finance, logistics, and the state's COVID-19 response. Brian brings extensive experience in data analytics and tool development and is passionate about using data to support NH educators and students.



Amy Facey, Business Administrator, SAU #39

Amy Facey is Business Administrator for SAU 39, serving the Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan school districts. She oversees budget development, financial operations, contracts, transportation, food service, and risk management. A former member and chair of the Amherst and SAU school boards, Facey brings both governance and administrative experience to her leadership role. With more than 20 years in finance, operations, and administration across the public and private sectors, she advises school boards and district leaders on educational and financial matters while promoting transparency, compliance, and effective fiscal management.

Concurrent Sessions | Presenter Biographies



Gavin Gray, Attorney, Wadleigh, Starr, & Peters

Gavin joined the firm in 2024. Before joining the firm, he was a summer associate at a Boston based law firm, and a summer associate at Wadleigh in 2023. Gavin graduated summa cum laude from the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law as a Daniel Webster Scholar in May 2024. Prior to law school he was a social studies teachers



Sandra Johnson, Ph.D., Education Freedom Accounts Administrator, Bureau of Education Opportunities, NHED

Sandra Johnson holds a PhD in Sociology from Florida State University with a concentration in Demography. Before joining the NH Department of Education, she spent over a decade at the U.S. Census Bureau, where she managed the birth and death inputs used in the nation's official population estimates and oversaw the population projections program. She has been with the Department of Education for a little over a year, primarily serving as the Education Freedom Accounts Administrator.



Christine Landwehrle, Superintendent, SAU #82

Christine Landwehrle is Superintendent of SAU 82 and an education leader with more than two decades of experience in curriculum, instruction, professional learning, and district leadership. Prior to her current role, she served as Assistant Superintendent and Director of Curriculum and Professional Development in SAU 39, where she led initiatives focused on student achievement, mastery-based learning, professional development, data-informed decision-making, and continuous improvement. Christine has served on several statewide committees and advisory groups related to assessment and accountability and brings a practical district leadership perspective to her work.

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