

COURSE OUTLINE

NIGHT ONE **A FIRM FOUNDATION**

On night one, we lay a firm foundation with philosophical, spiritual, and practical training on effective school board service. Amanda Banks, Senior Vice President at Family Policy Alliance Foundation opens with an introduction to the School Board Academy and an overview of statesmanship—what it means and how to apply statesman principles to school board service.

SESSION 1: Worldview Training

An overview of the significance of worldviews, the Biblical Worldview, and the major worldview issues impacting America. Includes salient applications for public servants and educators. Taught by **Josh Hershberger**, General Counsel, Indiana Family Institute.

SESSION 2: Parliamentary Procedure

A mini-course on Robert's Rules of Order and fundamentals of parliamentary procedure applied to school board meetings. Taught by **Dr. Bill Gillmeister**, president of Call to Order.

SESSION 3: Preparing for Success

A practical discussion on jurisdiction of school boards, how to manage responsibilities, relationships, and best practices for effective school board service. Panelists include school board vice president, **Dawn Lang**; former school board president and interim superintendent, **Aaron Salt**; and president and founder of OSBCC, **Jeremiah Sawyer**.

NIGHT TWO **CURRICULUM MATTERS**

On our second night of training, we'll explore the critical—and often controversial—curriculum decisions faced by school boards. Participants will learn from national leaders on the topics of sociopolitical education, age-appropriate standards, sex education, parental rights, and more. Model policies and strategies for success will be offered in each session.

SESSION 4: Sociopolitical Education & CRT

Taught by **Jonathan Butcher**, Will Skillman Fellow in Education, Center for Education Policy, The Heritage Foundation

SESSION 5: Age-Appropriate Standards in Curriculum & Library Materials

Taught by **Jeremy Samek**, Senior Counsel, Alliance Defending Freedom

SESSION 6: Sex Education & Social Emotional Learning

Taught by **Lori Kuykendall**, President, Beacon Health Education Resources

SESSION 7: Curriculum Transparency & Parental Rights

Taught by **Matt Sharp**, Senior Counsel, Alliance Defending Freedom



OCTOBER 20-22, 2026

6:30-9:00 p.m. ET

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NIGHT THREE *ISSUE SPECIFIC*

Night three of the School Board Academy will include a “deep dive” into the hot topics of sex and gender, religious liberty, and freedom of speech in public education. Legal experts will unpack each issue area and share model policies and resources for protecting children and affirming parental rights. We’ll close with a look ahead to future training, additional resources, and networking available through the School Board Exchange for graduates of the Academy.

SESSION 8: Sex & Gender Issues

Taught by **Logan Spena**, Legal Counsel for the Center for Free Speech, Alliance Defending Freedom

SESSION 9: Religious Liberty & Freedom of Speech

Taught by **Moriah O'Hare**, Associate Counsel, First Liberty Institute

SESSION 10: Model Policies, State Partners, & The School Board Exchange

Taught by **Lauren Gruel**, Associate Counsel, Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty; **David Hoyt**, Executive Director of School Boards for Academic Excellence; and **Amanda Banks**, Senior Vice President, Family Policy Alliance Foundation



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