

Educational Session Descriptions

Fund Members' Conference includes over 20 educational sessions led by TASB staff and other experts. The sessions cover a variety of topics, including risk pooling fundamentals, Fund coverage basics, emerging risk trends, and effective risk management strategies.

Monday, April 27

10-11 a.m.

Risk Pooling, Risk Financing and Underwriting 101

Texas public schools have options when securing coverage: self-insure, purchase a traditional insurance policy, or collectively self-insure by joining a risk pool such as the Fund. Attendees will leave with tools for making smart, compliant, budget-aware decisions their board and community will support.

Rosa Brown, Director of Marketing and Strategic Partnerships; **Katherine Care**, Director of Underwriting and Program Administration, TASB Risk Management Services

Addressing Employee Misconduct

Preventing employee misconduct, including inappropriate relationships with students, requires more than just policy. Everyone in a school community has an essential role in protecting children from abuse. New rigorous screening and reporting requirements and potential exposure to criminal and civil liability raise the stakes for every school official. Attendees will learn about the new legal requirements, how to help staff comply, and how to make the school environment safer for students.

Joy Baskin, Education Counsel/Associate Executive Director, TASB Policy & Legal Services

Benefits of Fund Membership: No-Cost Online Training

Employees can be among every school's strongest defense against risk, but training can be costly and time-consuming. Fund members benefit from a suite of online, interactive employee training courses through the PublicSchoolWORKS learning management system (LMS). Get acquainted with your new LMS and see how it can help streamline training, track completion, and ensure compliance.

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Ben Brooks, Director of Business Development; **Carrie Mockler**, Vice President of Operations, PublicSchoolWORKS

Breach Response: You're Only as Good as Your Last Tabletop

State law requires schools to maintain a cybersecurity plan. Practice transforms plans from words on a page into confident staff who know exactly what to do when a breach happens. Participants will walk through a realistic breach and practice developing key messages, communicating with the media, and making critical decisions under pressure.

Tim Tillman, Owner, Allied Cyber Academy

11-15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Workers' Compensation Made Simple

Workers' compensation is a heavily regulated coverage including important responsibilities for employers. This session shares strategies for complying with state requirements, returning injured employees to productive work, and harnessing the collective expertise of TASB staff and health care providers to resolve claims efficiently and cost-effectively.

Jennifer Ruedas, Claims Manager; **Adriana Talbot**, Workers' Compensation Program Consultant, TASB Risk Management Services

Partnering with First Responders for Safer Schools

Strong emergency response plans thrive on meaningful partnerships between schools and law enforcement, fire departments, and EMS. Participants will learn how to develop joint training plans and communication protocols, ensuring stakeholders are prepared and aligned. The session will also highlight ways to leverage shared resources and coordinate a unified response.

Farrah Jernigan, Chief Financial Officer, Bay City ISD; **Saul Rangel**, Lieutenant, Hallettsville, Texas Police Department



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Insider Tips for Managing Unemployment Claims

Unemployment claims can have a significant financial impact if not managed effectively. This session equips attendees to navigate the unemployment eligibility and claims process confidently. Participants will learn best practices for documentation and communication to support claim decisions and discover proactive strategies to reduce costs.

James Ezell, Unemployment Compensation Attorney, TASB Risk Management Services

How Hawley Leverages Technology to Protect Every Rider

This session highlights the Fund Excellence Award recipient Hawley ISD's implementation of digital tools to track bus rosters, monitor ridership in real time, and optimize routes for accuracy and accountability. Attendees will gain practical insights into improving communication, ensuring student security, and streamlining transportation operations through smart data use.

Miranda Cox, Business Manager and **Cassidy McBrayer**, Superintendent, Hawley ISD

12:30-1:45 p.m.

Managing Risk in an Evolving Regulatory Environment

Legal and compliance professionals will explore the evolving landscape of education laws and regulations affecting Texas K–12 schools and community colleges. From new mandates on cell phone use and reporting abuse to curriculum changes and school governance, this session will help district leaders prioritize strategies to address potential compliance pitfalls.

Joy Baskin, Education Counsel/Associate Executive Director, TASB Policy & Legal Services; and **Jonathan Brush**, Partner, Rogers, Morris, & Grover, L.L.P.



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2-3 p.m.

Property Resilience: Protecting School Facilities from Extreme Weather Events

Burst pipes, flooded gym floors, and hail-hammered roofs have the power to compromise school budgets and disrupt education. Discover practical strategies for safeguarding school facilities against severe weather. This session will explore facility design considerations, preventive maintenance programs, and coverage coordination to help control downtime and repair costs.

Tad Mora, Auto, Liability, & Property Claims Director; **Kim Shelly**, Property Claims Adjuster, TASB Risk Management Services

Beeville ISD's Journey from Compliance to Readiness

Fund Excellence Award recipient Beeville ISD redefined emergency preparedness by evolving compliance into a culture of realistic training. This session explores the district's journey toward communitywide, full-scale, active attacker exercises. Attendees will leave with strategies for transforming drills into life-saving actions.

Arturo Gamez, Chief of Police, Beeville ISD

Insider Tips for Managing Unemployment Claims

Unemployment claims can have a significant financial impact if not managed effectively. This session equips attendees to navigate the unemployment eligibility and claims process confidently. Participants will learn best practices for documentation and communication to support claim decisions and discover proactive strategies to reduce costs. **Repeat session**

James Ezell, Unemployment Compensation Attorney, TASB Risk Management Services



Turning Your Claims Data into Actionable Insights

When it comes to managing risk, what gets measured gets done. But which claims metrics matter? And how do you manage all that data without drowning in spreadsheets? Join your peers and glean insights for leveraging data to drive strategic risk management decisions.

Charles Hueter, Risk Solutions Consultant; **Guillermo Pallares**, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Operations, TASB Risk Management Services

3:15-3:45 p.m.

Introduction to Enterprise Risk Management

School custodial teams face different risks than teachers. The same goes for maintenance staff and bus drivers. Enterprise risk management (ERM) breaks down silos among departments and replaces them with a collaborative approach to managing risk across the organization. Join this session and learn the fundamentals of ERM and how to integrate it into strategic planning.

Kendra Estes, Risk Solutions Assistant Director; **Janina Flores**, Director of Risk Solutions, TASB Risk Management Services

Cybercriminals Attacked. Now What?

When cybercriminals attack schools, a swift response is critical to controlling the impact. This session provides a simple checklist for the first 48 hours after an incident. Topics include evidence preservation, legal and insurance notifications, vendor coordination, and clear communication with staff and families. Attendees will leave with a plain-language playbook for returning to normal operations quickly and cost-effectively.

Allison Clark, Attorney, BakerHostetler

Inside Irving ISD's Reimagined Loss Control Committee

A loss control committee can serve as a strategic risk management driver for schools. Learn how Fund Excellence Award recipient Irving ISD reimagined its committee by broadening membership, maintaining safety meeting momentum, and streamlining processes to reduce confusion and improve responsiveness.

Ashley Witek, Director of Benefits, Irving ISD

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Prosper ISD's Blueprint for a Safer Driving Culture

Fund Excellence Award recipient Prosper ISD learned safety improves when drivers feel supported, not just corrected. Presenters will demonstrate how trend-focused safety meetings, behind-the-wheel coaching, targeted retraining, and clear expectations promote shared ownership of safety and help reduce accidents.

Teri Mapengo, Director of Transportation, Prosper ISD

4-5 p.m.

Demystifying the Texas Tort Claims Act and School Immunity

If understanding Texas immunity law feels like navigating a maze, this session is your roadmap. Presenters will demystify the Texas Tort Claims Act, clarify when governmental immunity is waived, and explain the implications for claims, defenses, and school budgets. Attendees will glean actionable tips that help prepare and protect schools.

Marcos Mendoza, Coverage Counsel and **Tad Mora**, Auto, Liability, & Property Claims Director, TASB Risk Management Services

Arlington ISD: When Close Call Becomes a Wake-up Call

After reviewing injury trends, Fund Excellence Award recipient Arlington ISD identified an opportunity to prevent incidents. This session demonstrates how the district's near-miss program uncovers hazards, improves communication, and strengthens safety culture. Attendees will also learn how to leverage near-miss to drive corrective actions that reduce injury risk.

Jennifer Bakare Brown, Safety Manager, Arlington ISD; **Nicole Callahan**, Risk Solutions Consultant, TASB Risk Management Services



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Game Night to Graduation: Keeping School Events Safe and Secure

Ball games, concerts, dances, and graduations bring big crowds and unique risks. With fewer staff, more open doors, and guests unfamiliar with district procedures, even the strongest security plans can be tested. This session offers straightforward strategies for managing after-hours events and addressing challenges like medical emergencies, severe weather, fights, and lockdowns.

Tom Landry, Senior Lead Consultant, Secure Environment Consultants

Spotting Equipment Risk in Real Time

When electrical, heating, or cooling systems fail, schools face unnecessary repair costs, disruption to operations, and injury to staff and students. Join this interactive session to learn how to identify, document, and control equipment failure risks in real time. Attendees will also receive tips for strengthening collaboration between operations, maintenance, and risk management teams and learn about no-cost resources available from the Fund.

Milton Simmons, Director of Engineering, HSB

Tuesday, April 28

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Before the Breach: A Proactive Path to Cyber Resilience for Schools

A cyber breach is not the time to discover gaps in your defenses. Presenters will pinpoint common attack paths and demonstrate how proactive policies, controls, and staff merge to strengthen schools in a constantly evolving cyber risk landscape.

Tim Tillman, Owner, Allied Cyber Academy



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Leave Management and Return-to-Work Roundtable

Return-to-work and employee leave rules often collide. This roundtable addresses the gray areas with practical solutions. Attendees will share their challenges, learn what's working for their peers, and tackle tough scenarios—including coordination with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Leave and Medical Act.

Jennifer Ruedas, Claims Manager and **Adriana Talbot**, Workers' Compensation Program Consultant, TASB Risk Management Services; and **Karen Dooley**, Senior HR Consultant, TASB HR Services

What Does a Risk-Ready Culture Look Like?

Do your teachers take time to find a ladder instead of standing on a desk? Do business office staff forward "phishy" emails to your IT team instead of trusting the sender's intentions? Think of a risk-ready culture as the things employees do when nobody's watching. This session will share insights on cultivating a culture in which employees choose the safe path even if it's not the easiest path.

Cynthia Rocha, School Risk Management Consultant, TASB Risk Management Services

Connecting the Dots Between Behavior and Workplace Injuries

Safer workplaces start with what employees do (and don't do) on the job. This session introduces three practical steps to reduce injury risks: identify unsafe behavior, uncover why they happen, and implement solutions that make them unnecessary. You will leave better equipped to promote behaviors that keep employees safe every day.

Alleen Wilson, Senior Risk Control Manager, Safety National