



## No Off-season for School Leaders

It is a rewarding time of the year to be a school leader as we watch our graduating students proudly walk across the stage and receive their diplomas. It's especially meaningful for those who have the honor of actively participating in those ceremonies.

It's important for us to celebrate these students and take a moment to appreciate the effort and support of the many teachers, support staff, school leaders, family members, and community members who directly or indirectly contributed to their success. In many Wisconsin communities, high school graduation ceremonies are events celebrated by the entire community.

Often, as school leaders, the work you do in the board room can seem disconnected from the learning taking place in our classrooms. However, this couldn't be further from the truth. We know from research that a school board's behavior (positive or negative) has a corresponding impact on its students and staff. That is why it is so important to continue to develop and improve as a school leader.

As the school year winds down, now is a good time to pursue those opportunities to grow as a school board member or administrator. I know there is no off-season for school leaders, but the summer gives us all a chance to take a step back and reflect on our roles in education.

I encourage you to look to the WASB for professional development.

This year, the WASB Summer Leadership Institute in Green Bay in July has been paired with a special School Safety Seminar. The School Safety Seminar on Friday, July 13 will cover a variety of related topics including child development, mental health, school security audits, digital threats, and, among others, crisis communication. Glenn Rehberg, the acting director for the Office of School Safety at the Department of Justice, will be joining us at one of the morning breakout sessions to talk about the state's new school safety grants and legal requirements. Attendees will have the opportunity ask him questions and get an update on the grant process. (Reminder to all districts: the initial applications for the school safety grants are due June 8.)

The Summer Leadership Institute to be held the next day (Saturday, July 14) includes separate governance tracks for new and experienced school board members. The topics to be covered include financial forecasting, the basics of Wisconsin school board laws, strategic planning, and among others, using self-assessments to develop effective school board/superintendent teams.

In addition to the July conferences, the WASB organizational consultants will be running a series of four evening workshops in August on effective board governance and team building. Planning is also underway for the WASB Fall Regional Meetings in September and October and several legislative

advocacy workshops in November. Watch for more information to be released. There is also a wide selection of recorded and scheduled webinars on a variety of school law and governance topics accessible at [WASB.org](http://WASB.org).

Some of the best board training though often happens with individual boards on topics customized to meet their needs. With the WASB's cadre of experienced school attorneys and consultants, we're able to provide a wide spectrum of board governance training. If needed, we can blend legal and governance topics into a single, tailored workshop with an attorney and a governance consultant participating. Call or email us today to explore how we can best meet your needs.

The WASB is proud to serve Wisconsin school districts with school law, policy, advocacy, governance, and consulting services. Did you know that for 2017-18, the WASB is on pace to respond to more than 4,200 law-related inquiries from school districts? Or that we held more than 60 events last year with more than 4,000 school officials attending? Check out the highlights of our annual report to the membership on pages 20-21.

I hope you get time with your families and loved ones this summer. Make sure you also take some time to continue to improve and grow your knowledge and experience as a school leader. Have a great summer! ■

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