

2026 MASS/ALLIANCE SUMMER CONVENTION

Beau Rivage Resort and Casino

Agenda

Saturday, July 11, 2026

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|-----------------------|--|-------------------|
| 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Registration for Superintendents | Registration Desk |
| 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. | GENERAL SESSION
Welcome/Remarks/Introductions:
Dr. Phil Burchfield, Executive Director, MASS

Introduction:
Dr. Tyler Hansford, President, MASS

<i>“Legal Issues”</i>

Jim Keith, Attorney, Adams and Reese LLP | Magnolia A |
| 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Reception
<i>Sponsored by:</i>
YOUNG LAW GROUP | Azalea Ballroom |

Sunday, July 12, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast (Retiring Superintendents to be Recognized) <i>Sponsored by:</i> <i>TRANSAMERICA LIFE INSURANCE / CATCHINGS AGENCY</i>	Magnolia A
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Registration	Camellia Ballroom
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Registration for Alliance Member	Registration Desk
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Alliance Chairpersons' Meeting	Azalea D
6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Show Time on the Coast	Magnolia Ballroom

Dining Begins at 6:00 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M.

Sponsored by:

C SPIRE

CAPTURING KIDS' HEARTS

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS SPECIALISTS

GREENE EDUCATION

JUMPSTART TEST PREP

KIDS FIRST EDUCATION

MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL OF COCA-COLA BOTTLER'S ASSOCIATION

PRYORMORROW, PC

SYNERGETICS (ENDEAVOR IT)

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Monday, July 13, 2026

6:30 a.m. **Exhibit Hall Opens for the Day**

6:45 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. **Continental Breakfast** Magnolia Foyer
Sponsored by:
JBHM ARCHITECTURE
INTERIOR ELEMENTS
MILLCREEK OF PONTOTOC
MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICAL PLANT ADMINISTRATORS

8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **GENERAL SESSION** Theatre

Welcome/Remarks/Introductions:
Dr. Phil Burchfield, Executive Director, MASS

Introduction:
Dr. Tyler Hansford, President, MASS

Brad McCoy, Keynote Speaker

Sponsored by:
PERFORMANCE BASED EDUCATION CO.

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Break Magnolia Foyer

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Concurrent Session 1

Magnolia E

“Big Outcomes, Small Budget: Building a Fully Funded STEAM Academy from the Ground Up”

- How SCSD leveraged FIRST Robotics and NAF Academies to spark student and local industry interest
- Using an energy partnership to fund, deliver, and promote a STEAM Academy within existing budgets
- How purpose-driven labs and learning environments are improving student outcomes and strengthening industry community collaboration

Alan Lumpkin, Retired Superintendent,
Scott County School District

Chad Harrison, Superintendent, Scott County School District

David Fava, FIRST Senior Mentor-Mississippi,
FIRST Robotics

Allie Harris, Mississippi Market Leader, Schneider Electric

Monday, July 13, 2026, continued

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Concurrent Session 2

Magnolia F

“Advancing Neurodiverse Studies: Research that Shapes the Future”

- Ph.D. in Neurodiverse Studies
- Transformative Impact of Research
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration Across Systems

Dr. Angela Gill, Coordinator of Exceptional Education,
Assistant Professor of Education, William Carey University

Dr. Christy Liverett, Coordinator of Gifted Education,
Assistant Professor of Education, William Carey University

Concurrent Session 3

Magnolia G

“From Chaos to Control: How to Plan and Implement Effective Test Prep Seamlessly”

- How to Identify Standards Vertically Across Grades and Horizontally Across Assessments
- How to Plan and Implement Test Prep While Focusing on Instructional Time and Methods
- How to Identify and Eliminate Potential Challenges to Successful Test Prep

Rod Martin, Vice President, Jumpstart Test Prep

Crystal Bates, Curriculum Director, District Test Coordinator,
Wayne County School District

Concurrent Session 4

Magnolia H

“When Presence Matter”

- Revised Compulsory School Attendance Law
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Policy

Bryan Marshall, Ph.D., Associate State Superintendent, MDE

Concurrent Session 5

Azalea A

“Promoting Student Achievement through Common Instructional Knowledge, Language, and Tools”

- Explore an impactful, concrete roadmap for embedding literacy-rich practices across grades and disciplines.
- Synchronize knowledge, efforts, and supports across each tier of the districtwide instructional ecosystem.
- Accelerate achievement without burdening educators with endless checklists and compliance-driven tasks.

Donyall D. Dickey, Ed.D., Founder, Chief Executive Officer,
Educational Epiphany

Dr. Carol Jones, Superintendent, Wayne County School District

Monday, July 13, 2026, continued

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Concurrent Session 6

Azalea B

“Big Projects, Tight Budgets, Smart Decisions”

- Budget Breaking Point: Learn how districts plan ahead instead of scrambling year to year.
- Borrowing Done Right: Discover financing options to help avoid headaches.
- Costly Mistakes: Avoid the hidden financing traps that can derail projects, budgets, and community trust.

Jim Young, Young Law Group

Warren Greenlee, MuniGroup

Bonnie Granger, Young Law Group

Concurrent Session 7

Azalea C

“How the MS Superintendent Institute is Transforming District Leadership in MS”

- Discover Your Inner Core
- Design a High Performing Education System
- Delivering a Transformed Schooling Experience

Dr. Stanley Ellis, Superintendent,
Humphreys County School District

Dr. Brandon Quinn, Superintendent, Alcorn School District

Dr. Irene Turnage, Superintendent, Holly Springs School District

Dr. Tori Holloway, Superintendent,
Vicksburg Warren School District

Dr. Cederick Ellis, National Facilitator, NCEE

Dr. Susan Muse Rucker, MS State Director, NCEE

Concurrent Session 8

Azalea D

“The Story Behind the Numbers: Using Data to Drive Decisions, Diagnosis Systems and Deliver Results”

- The problem with educational data.
- Data is a diagnostic tool.
- What are the numbers really saying?

Cloyd Garth, Superintendent, Hazlehurst City School District

Windell Greene, CEO, Greene Education Services

Monday, July 13, 2026, continued

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Concurrent Session 9

Theatre

“Investigations of Misconduct and Reporting Strategies to Keep You Out of Trouble”

- How do You Investigate Allegations of Misconduct?
- When do You Engage Law Enforcement in Your Investigations?
- How and What do You Communicate to the Public Regarding Findings of Misconduct?

Elizabeth Maron, Adams and Reese LLP

John Hooks, Adams and Reese LLP

KaShonda Day, Adams and Reese LLP

Jim Keith, Adams and Reese LLP

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Lunch with the Exhibitors**

Magnolia Foyer

Sponsored by:

ROLLINS & SUMRALL EDUCATION GROUP, INC.

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ***“MDE Accountability Updates”***
(Everyone Should Attend)

Theatre

Dr. Lance Evans, State Superintendent, MDE

4:00 p.m. **Exhibit Hall Closes for the Day**

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. **President’s Reception**

Magnolia A

Sponsored by:

BAILEY EDUCATION GROUP

EDUCATIONAL EPIPHANY

HOWARD TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY – EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

NATIONAL CENTER ON EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY

SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC

THE EXCELLENCE GROUP

THE KIRKLAND GROUP

AND OUR LOYAL MASS PARTNERS:

AMERICAN FIDELITY ASSURANCE COMPANY

SCHOLASTIC EDUCATION

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

6:30 a.m. **Exhibit Hall Opens for the Day**

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

Magnolia Foyer

Sponsored by:

KELLY EDUCATION

PRIMERICA

ROSEMONT CONSULTING SERVICES

WATERS TRUCKS

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Concurrent Session 1

Magnolia E

“Bridge to Career”

- The Mississippi Department of Education will explore Mississippi's Bridge to Career Course.
- This is an innovative option for students who do not pass a state assessment.
- Participants will hear implementation insights from MDE and Madison County School District.

Wendy Clemons, Chief Academic Officer, MDE

Ma'Kesha Adams, Executive Director,
Secondary Education, MDE

Dr. Teague Burchfield, Director of High School Services,
Madison County School District

Concurrent Session 2

Magnolia F

“Building Sustainable PBIS through University – School District Partnerships”

- Describe the PBIS partnership between TEAL and the Partnership Middle School.
- Explore how university partnerships can provide professional development.
- Examine how sustained PBIS partnerships contribute to positive school climate.

Dr. Patricia Hampshire, Associate Professor,
Mississippi State University

Concurrent Session 3

Magnolia G

“Classrooms without Walls: Reimagining Teaching through Video”

- Extend the Reach of Great Teachers Beyond the Physical Classroom
- Create a Flexible, Resilient Teaching Model that Supports Teachers
- Bring Instructional Consistency even when Staff is Limited

Tony Leland, Senior Solutions Architect, C Spire

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, continued

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Concurrent Session 4

Magnolia H

“Building a Modern School Infrastructure: The Foundation for Safety, Communication, and Reliability”

- Reliable networks that support instruction, safety, communication, and future technology growth across modern school districts.
- Clear, immediate communication that improves emergency response, daily operation, and staff coordination across campus environments.
- Modern camera systems that improve situational awareness, campus safety, and faster decision-making during critical incidents.

Grace Strahan, General Manager, Synergetics

Caleb Yates, Sales Account Manager, Extreme

Gwen Salmon, Account Executive, Algo

Concurrent Session 5

Azalea A

“Building Minds, Building Futures: Knowledge-Building Dimensions that Boost Instruction, Engagement, and Retention”

- Knowledge-building dimensions that, when applied to curricular resources, can break through the ceiling effect.
- Research-based practices that teachers can use to take students' reading capabilities to the next level.
- Empower readers to tackle challenging texts with confidence and curiosity.

Dr. Joyce Jamerson, Director of Academic Planning and Solution Development, Scholastic Education

Concurrent Session 6

Azalea B

“REACHING ALL LEARNERS: Improving Accountability by Addressing the Bottom 25%”

- Reaching the bottom 25% is critical to school success - including special education students
- Success begins with identification of the bottom 25% and PLANNING to address their needs
- Followed by appropriate MTSS interventions and differentiation aimed at meeting the needs of all learners

Sharon Coon, The Excellence Group

April Rice, The Excellence Group

Chaffie Gibbs, The Excellence Group

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, continued

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Concurrent Session 7

Azalea C

“Pathways to Proficiency: Leveraging Data for Instructional Impact”

- Why this Matters: Aligning assessments with HQIM ensures coherent, consistent instruction from district to classroom.
- What this Looks Like: Aligned assessments, benchmarks, Stepping Stones, Power Checks, and purposeful data meetings.
- Implementation: Using real-time data to adjust instruction and drive student proficiency forward.

Amanda Samples, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services, DeSoto County School District

Jennifer Stripling, Chief Academic Officer, DeSoto County School District

Kristy Dunning, Director of Intermediate Schools, DeSoto County School District

Paul Shelly, SVP, Assessment Solutions, Learning Explorer

Concurrent Session 8

Azalea D

“The Shift to Align Standards: Teach Deep, not just Wide”

- Transform instruction from isolated standards to a powerful text-first approach.
- How standard-aligned instruction uses tasks to spiral skills across the year.
- Walk away with practical strategies, sample lesson moves and planning tools to align with HQIM's.

Starr Brown, Performance Based Education

Haley Griffin, Tate County School District

Katrina Ricks, Tate County School District

Concurrent Session 9

Theatre

“Tips for Successful Non-Renewals and Terminations of Employees”

- What Proactive Steps can You take in Preparation for Non-Renewals?
- What are Effective Strategies in Employee Terminations?
- What are Typical Approaches Taken by Employees' Attorneys in Hearings?

Elizabeth Maron, Adams and Reese LLP

John Hooks, Adams and Reese LLP

KaShonda Day, Adams and Reese LLP

Jim Keith, Adams and Reese LLP

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Break**

Magnolia Foyer

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, continued

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Concurrent Session 1

Magnolia E

“Adolescent Literacy and the Math Initiative in Senate Bill 2294”

- The Mississippi Department of Education will provide guidance on Senate Bill 2294 implementation.
- This session focuses on Adolescent Literacy and the Math Initiative priorities.
- Participants will hear requirements for the 2026-2027 school year.

Michelle Nowell, Associate State Superintendent, MDE

Kanequa Willis, State Math Coaching Coordinator, MDE

Concurrent Session 2

Magnolia F

“Bridging Education with Careers and the Readiness Component of the Accountability Model”

- Proven methodology to effectively track students within the readiness component of the accountability model
- Specifics of the highly competitive and innovative Tupelo School District Career Academy
- Bridging education and industry creates pathways for students to Enroll, Employ or Enlist upon graduation

Dr. Rob Picou, Superintendent, Tupelo Public School District

Dr. Melissa Thomas, Assistant Superintendent,
Tupelo Public School District

Evet Topp, Director of Workforce Development,
Tupelo Public School District

Dr. Lundy Brantley, Accountability Model Coach,
Performance Based Education

Scott Cantrell, President, Performance Based Education

Concurrent Session 3

Magnolia G

“Capturing Kids’ Hearts: Building Culture that Drives Results”

- Explore foundational CKH practices that increase student engagement, improve behavior, and support academic success.
- Discuss proven strategies for creating high-performing school cultures that support lasting academic success.
- Learn how districts are improving culture and outcomes through CKH implementation.

Brad McCoy, Leadership Strategist, Capturing Kids' Hearts

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, continued

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Concurrent Session 4

Magnolia H

“From Complex to Clear: Making Data Faster, Simpler, and Actionable”

- Save Time Daily: Reduce data work so leaders can focus on instruction, not reports.
- Simplify Systems: Replace complex processes with clear, repeatable routines.
- Turn Insight into Action: Move from analysis to immediate instructional decisions that drive results.

Dr. Carla Kirkland, CEO, The Kirkland Group

Dr. Miskia Davis, Director, District and School Performance and Accountability, The Kirkland Group

Dylan Jones, Director, District and School Performance and Accountability, The Kirkland Group

Landon Pollard, Assistant Superintendent, Marshall County School District

Concurrent Session 5

Azalea A

“From the Miracle to the Middle Grades: Decodables that Change Trajectories”

- Explore what effective foundational recovery looks like when instruction, materials, and routines work together.
- Evidence-based small-group practices and age-appropriate decodable texts that can accelerate reading growth across K-8.
- Practical routines, leadership decision points, and system-level coherence that support sustainable literacy improvement.

Amanda Jacobs, Director of Academic Planning and Solution Development, Scholastic Education

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, continued

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Concurrent Session 6

Azalea B

“Avoiding Legal Landmines for Superintendents and Business Managers”

- Landmines are everywhere.
- Audits, monitoring, contract pitfalls, vendor promises, board pressure, and protection from liability.
- We will share practical strategies you will need before the next landmine hits your desk!

Jim Young, Young Law Group

Warren Greenlee, Young Law Group

Bonnie Granger, Young Law Group

Concurrent Session 7

Azalea C

“MS RESA Bulk Purchase Updates & Information”

- Update on Senate Bill 2288 - RESA Bulk Purchase
- Latest Offerings, Pricing and how to Maximize on Technology and Educational Resources
- This session will equip you with the essential information to make informed purchasing decisions

Davis Brock, Strategic Initiatives,
Howard Technology Solutions

Dr. Jimmy Weeks, Director, NMEC

Concurrent Session 8

Azalea D

“Beyond the Letter Grade: A Mississippi District's Roadmap from Accountability Data to Classroom Impact”

- Unpack the components of the state accountability model & analyze the data areas of need.
- Use job-embedded coaching to strengthen Tier 1 & high-impact tutoring to provide wraparound student support.
- Leave with a clear framework for translating accountability data into action across schools, classrooms, and students.

Ken Byars, Accountability Manager, Kids First Education, LLC

Amber Palmer, Content Specialist, Kids First Education, LLC

Art Dobbs, Assistant Superintendent,
Tupelo Public School District

Dr. Taylor Sparks, Principal, Rankin Elementary School

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, continued

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Concurrent Session 9

Theatre

“Hot Legal Topics that Keep You Awake at Night”

- Immigration Issues, Special Education, Section 504
- Title IX, FMLA, FLSA, Booster Clubs
- Student Discipline, Social Media, Medical Marijuana

Elizabeth Maron, Adams and Reese LLP

John Hooks, Adams and Reese LLP

KaShonda Day, Adams and Reese LLP

Jim Keith, Adams and Reese LLP

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Luncheon

Magnolia Ballroom

Sponsored by:

SCHOLASTIC EDUCATION

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Break

Magnolia Foyer

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Alliance Sectional Meetings

Superintendents *(All Superintendents Should Attend)*

Magnolia A

“National Weather Service 101”

Michael Hill, Warning Coordination Meteorologist,
National Weather Service

Chad Entremont, Science and Operations Officer,
National Weather Service

Facilitator: Dr. Tyler Hansford, President, MASS

Assistant Superintendents / Curriculum Coordinators

Magnolia E

“Leading Forward: Watch, Wait, Listen, Learn”

Dr. Denotris Jackson, Executive Director,
Mississippi School Board Association

Dr. Tommye Henderson, Superintendent Search Manager,
Mississippi School Board Association

Facilitator: Dr. Marcus Holbert, Assistant Superintendent,
Forest Municipal School District

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, continued

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Alliance Sectional Meetings**

Athletic Directors

Azalea C

“Hot Topics at the MHSAA and the NFHS”

Rickey Neaves, Executive Director, MHSAA

Jim Keith, Attorney, Adams and Reese LLP

Facilitator: Ty Weems, Athletic Director,
Pearl Public School District

Business Officials

Azalea A

“Strategies for Choosing Excellence as a School Business Official in this New Era”

Bonnie P. Granger, CPA, ESQ, Young Law Group

Facilitator: Shelia Copeland, Business Officer,
Simpson County School District

Elementary Principals

Magnolia G - H

“Identifying High-Risk Warning Signs and Approaches to Address Them”

Dr. Amanda Malone, State Literacy Director K-12, MDE

Facilitator: Dr. Nikki Graham, Elementary Principal,
Pearl Public School District

Federal Programs Directors

Magnolia F

“Student Success at the Center: Aligning Programs, Funding, and Accountability”

Elisha Campbell, Executive Director,
Grants Management and Budget, MDE

Dr. Judy Nelson, Executive Director, Federal Programs, MDE

Mathis Sheriff, Director, School Improvement, MDE

Timothy Scott, Director, Accountability Services,
District & School Performance, MDE

Facilitator: Eileen Dowsing, Federal Programs Director,
Holly Springs School District

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, continued

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Alliance Sectional Meetings**

Public Information Officers

Azalea B

“More than Test Scores: How a System of Excellence Defies Expectations Through Storytelling”

Dr. Talia Lock, Superintendent, Long Beach School District

Kenny Triplett, Social Media Specialist,
Long Beach School District

Traci Domingo, Communications Specialist,
Long Beach School District

Leigh Anne Meador, Retired Public Relations Directors,
Long Beach School District

Facilitator: Everett Chinn, Public Information Officer,
Greenville Public School District

Secondary/Middle Level Principals

Magnolia C

“From Learning Data to Instructional Action: Building a System that Measurably Moves Student Outcomes”

Robert L. Mack, Jr., Ph.D., Owner, R.L. Mack Consulting

Facilitator: Tanya Pickering, Secondary/Middle Level Principal,
Covington County School District

Special Education Directors

Magnolia D

“What the Courts are Saying Now: Special Education Case Law Every Leader Needs”

Kashonda Day, Attorney, Partner, Adams and Reese LLP

Facilitator: Dr. Tricia Cox, Special Education Director,
Ocean Springs School District

Technology Directors

Azalea D

“Technology Directors’ Roundtable”

Facilitator: Ross Randall, Technology Director,
Lamar County School District

4:30 p.m. **Exhibit Hall Closes**

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast** Magnolia Foyer
Sponsored by:
CMTA
DALE PARTNERS ARCHITECTS
JACKSON COMMUNICATIONS INC
LEARNSAFE
- 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **GENERAL SESSION** Magnolia A
Welcome/Remarks/Introductions:
Dr. Phil Burchfield, Executive Director, MASS

Steve Gilliland, Keynote Speaker
Sponsored by:
MUNIGROUP
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **2026 – 2027 MASS Board Meeting/Lunch** Azalea C - D

Sectional Committee Reports to MASS Board

All Sectional Committee Chairpersons should attend this meeting and give a verbal report to the Board. If any of the chairpersons cannot attend, they should appoint a designee.