# School Finance Seminar

December 3, 2026

Embassy Suites Plainfield Conference Center
2353 Perry Rd., Plainfield, IN 46168

**8:30 a.m.** **Registration Check In Opens**

**9:00 a.m.** **Welcome & Introductions**
Dr. J. Scott Bowling, *Executive Director, Indiana ASBO*

**9:05 a.m.** **Referendum Planning: Navigating Indiana's 2028 Landscape**
This session provides a strategic look at the statewide referendum landscape to help districts begin long-term planning for 2028. Attendees will receive actionable guidance on navigating legal requirements and preparing their boards under current State laws.
-Kristin McClellan, Partner, Ice Miller

**10:05 a.m.** **Distressed Unit Appeals Board (DUAB) Updates**
An essential overview of the key fiscal indicators and warning signs DUAB is actively monitoring statewide. This session translates macro-level financial trends into practical considerations and strategic outlooks for school business officials as public education funding structures continue to evolve.
-Dan Schmidt, Executive Director, Distressed Unit Appeal Board

**10:35 a.m.** **Break**

**10:50 a.m.** **School District Insurance: Protecting Coverage While Managing Costs**
Learn to navigate essential coverages and must-haves for your district while avoiding the common cost-cutting pitfalls that create unacceptable financial risks. This session offers practical, targeted tools for structuring effective RFPs that drive competitive vendor pricing without compromising your district's essential coverage.
-David Paul, Indiana State Manager, Astra Insurance

**12:00 p.m.** **Lunch**

**1:00 p.m.** **Indiana School Finance Outlook: Data, Policy & Strategic Decisions**
Explore actionable takeaways regarding enrollment dynamics, facility capacity needs, and property tax evolution under SEA 1. School leaders will learn how to leverage the changing enrollment dynamics into actionable steps and conversations into their future financial strategy. Attendees will hear from a panel of Superintendents/Business Officials who have been navigating these challenges the past few years.
-Chad Blacklock, Director, Stifel
-Barry Gardner, Director of School Services, Policy Analytics

**2:00 p.m.** **Review of Indiana's Economic Condition**
-Dr. Larry DeBoer, Professor Emeritus, Agricultural Economics Purdue University

**3:30 p.m.** **Adjournment**