



2026 SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AGENDA

Monday, September 28

- 5:00 pm **Check-in starts** - Ruttger's front desk
- 7:30-9:00 pm **President's Reception - Bear Pine Bar and lobby**
*Jumpstart your conference experience by joining us for the President's Reception! This event is a fantastic opportunity to socialize, connect and network with fellow private and independent school leaders, presenters and sponsors. First-time attendees are highly encouraged to attend. **Drink tickets and snack mix provided.***

Tuesday, September 29 - Day 1 Sessions

- 7:00-8:00 am Breakfast (Ruby's Dining Room)
- 8:00 am Conference check-in (Isle of Pines/Bird Island Conference Rooms)
- 8:10-8:35 am Welcome, introductions
- 8:35-9:05 am **Legislative Update: 2026 Programs and Policies Affecting Nonpublic Schools**
Tim Benz, President, MINNDEPENDENT
- 9:05-9:10 am Sponsor Spotlight: Thrivent
- 9:10-9:30 am Networking Break/Visit Sponsors
- 9:30-9:35 am Sponsor Spotlight: VenturEd Solutions
- 9:35-10:50 am **SESSION 1: Private School Legal Checkup: New Developments and Recurring Risks, Sam Nelson, Attorney and Owner, [Nelson Law, PLLC](#)**
- 10:50-10:55 am Sponsor Spotlight:
- 10:55-11:00 am Networking Break/Visit Sponsors
- 11:00-11:05 am Sponsor Spotlight:
- 11:05-12:20 pm **SESSION 2: Reimagining Enrollment: Data-Driven Strategies for Sustainable Growth, Rachael Cramond, Sr. Director of Customer Experience & Craig Dodson, Vice President of Customer Support, [VenturEd Solutions](#)**



12:20-12:25	Sponsor Spotlight:
12:25-1:25 pm	Lunch and free time
1:25-1:30 pm	Sponsor Spotlight:
1:30-2:45 pm	Session 3: Thriving in School Leadership: Protecting Your Well-Being While Leading Others , <i>Dr. Jules Nolan, CEO and President, LP, Psy.D., NCSP & Elizabeth Carver, Vice President and Chief of Operations, MSW, LICSW, Phoenix School Counseling</i>
2:45-2:50 pm	Sponsor Spotlight:
2:50-2:55 pm	Day 1 Wrap Up
2:55-3:10 pm	Networking Break/Visit Sponsors
3:10-5:30 pm	Free Time - complimentary pontoon ride, reduced price golf, pickleball (weather permitting)
5:30-6:30 pm	Sponsor Reception - Bear Pine Bar and Lobby <i>Appetizers and drink tickets provided</i>
6:30 pm	Dinner (Ruby's Dining Room)
7:30 pm	Bonfire and Social Time

Wednesday, September 30 - Day 2 Sessions

7:00-8:00 am	Breakfast (Ruby's Dining Room)
8:00-8:20 am	Welcome
8:20-9:35 am	Session 4: Implementation and Governance Strategies for AI in Education , <i>Bob Thompson, President, and Mike Blanchard, Vice President of IT, Canopy IT Solutions</i>
9:35-9:55 am	Networking Break/Visit Sponsors
9:55-11:10 am	Session 5: The Human Side of Leadership , <i>Paul Meunier, Executive Director, Youth Intervention Programs Association</i>
11:10-11:30 am	Conclusion/Reflections/Adjourn