



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)
- 8:10-8:30 am Welcome, introductions
- 8:30-9:00 am **Legislative Update: 2026 Programs and Policies Affecting Nonpublic Schools**
Tim Benz, President, MINNDEPENDENT
- 9:00-9:05 am Sponsor Spotlight: Thrivent
- 9:05-9:25 am Networking Break/Visit Sponsors
- 9:25-9:30 am Sponsor Spotlight: Langer Construction
- 9:30-10:45 am **SESSION 1: Private School Legal Checkup: New Developments and Recurring Risks**
Sam Nelson, Attorney and Owner, [Nelson Law, PLLC](#)
- 10:45-11:05 am Networking Break/Visit Sponsors
- 11:05-11:10 am Sponsor Spotlight: Escal Advisors
- 11:10-12:25 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](#)
- 12:25-12:30 pm Sponsor Spotlight: VenturEd Solutions



12:30-1:30 pm	Lunch and free time
1:30-1:35 pm	Sponsor Spotlight: Enquiry Tracker
1:35-2:50 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>
2:50-2:55 pm	Sponsor Spotlight: Slow Road Photo
2:55-3:00 pm	Day 1 Wrap Up
3:00-3:15 pm	Networking Break/Visit Sponsors
3:15-5:30 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)
8:00-8:15 am	Welcome
8:15 –8:20 am	Sponsor Spotlight: Canopy IT Solutions
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, President & CEO, Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA)</i>
11:10-11:30 am	Conclusion/Reflections/Adjourn