



2026 COSSBA National Conference + UBA Preconference Day

Wednesday, Mar 11

01:00 PM - 02:45 PM

UBA Advisors Meeting

Wednesday, Mar 11: East Tower - 2nd Floor Registration Desk

03:00 PM - 06:00 PM

Conference Registration Desk

East Tower - 2nd Floor Registration Desk

Wednesday, Mar 11

03:30 PM - 05:30 PM

COSSBA Board of Directors Meeting Meeting

Thursday, Mar 12

****Programming Times and Events subject to change****

Thursday, Mar 12

07:00 AM - 08:00 AM

UBA Preconference Day - Networking Breakfast

Thursday, Mar 12: East Tower - 2nd Floor Registration Desk

07:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Conference Registration Desk

East Tower - 2nd Floor Registration Desk

Thursday, Mar 12

08:15 AM - 09:30 AM

UBA Preconference Day - Opening Keynote Session

Jailhouse Keys to Schoolhouse Doors: A Journey of Transformation and Leadership

Ralph Simpson
The Simple Factor

This presentation explores the powerful personal journey of a former corrections officer who transitioned into education and rose to become a Deputy Superintendent. Through vivid storytelling and leadership insights, it highlights how education serves as a transformative force—unlocking potential, breaking cycles of incarceration, and opening doors to opportunity. The speaker reflects on lessons learned from both sides of the system, emphasizing the role of educators and leaders as “door-openers” who shape destinies. This talk challenges audiences to rethink the impact of their work and to lead with purpose, compassion, and vision.

Thursday, Mar 12

09:45 AM - 11:00 AM

UBA Preconference Day - Concurrent Session Block

Block sessions will be announced in Mid November

Thursday, Mar 12

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

UBA Preconference Day - Student School Board Member Panel

Thursday, Mar 12

12:30 PM - 01:45 PM

UBA Preconference Day - Lunch Session

Guarding Minds, Guiding Futures

Melissa Reeves

With growing concerns around school safety, addressing mental health has become an essential part of the conversation. This session examines the critical link between mental wellness, academic achievement, and school safety and security, highlighting the need for a balanced approach that integrates both physical and psychological safety. This presentation will explore foundational strategies and collaborative, practical practices that promote a positive school climate to facilitate academic achievement.

Thursday, Mar 12

02:00 PM - 03:15 PM

UBA Preconference Day - Concurrent Session Block

Block sessions will be announced in mid-November

Thursday, Mar 12

03:30 PM - 04:45 PM

UBA Preconference Day - Closing Session

Seeing is Believing

Willie Spears

The Willie Spears Experience

The process of going From Vision to Impact in education is realized in the manifestation of high achieving students. Willie will explore the transformative journey of turning innovative ideas and strategic visions into tangible, meaningful outcomes. It delves into the essential mindset, leadership qualities, and practical steps required to bridge the gap between conceptual aspirations and real-world achievements. Attendees will gain insights into how to accomplish this goal through the educational life experiences, strategies, and techniques of our speaker. The goal is to inspire and equip school board executives, board members, superintendents, and other educational leaders to move beyond planning ...

Friday, Mar 13

****Programming Times and Events subject to change****

Friday, Mar 13: East Tower - 2nd Floor Registration Desk

07:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Conference Registration Desk

East Tower - 2nd Floor Registration Desk

Friday, Mar 13

09:00 AM - 11:00 AM

COSSBA Annual Business Meeting

Each year, COSSBA's member state association delegates gather for the Annual Member Business Meeting. Delegates consider amendments to the Association's bylaws and the adoption, deletion, and amendment of resolutions and advocacy position statements. Attendees will also hear a State of the Association Report. State Delegates are assigned by each member state and submitted to COSSBA in advance of this meeting. Limited guest seating is available at the Annual Member Business Meeting.

Friday, Mar 13

09:15 AM - 10:15 AM

Concurrent Session Block

Friday, Mar 13: East Tower - 2nd Floor Exhibitor Showcase

10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

Exhibitor Showcase

East Tower - 2nd Floor Exhibitor Showcase

Friday, Mar 13

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Concurrent Session Block

Friday, Mar 13

01:00 PM - 02:30 PM

Welcome to COSSBA 2026 / COSSBA Opening Keynote Session

Phylicia Rashad

Opening RemarksKeynote and Conversation with Phylicia RashadAn accomplished actor and stage director, Phylicia Rashad became a household name when she portrayed Claire Huxtable on The Cosby Show, a character whose enduring appeal has earned her numerous honors and awards. She has appeared in The Gilded Age, The Chi, Diarra from Detroit, NBC's This Is Us (Emmy nominations), in the popular Fox TV series Empire, in Tarell Alvin McCraney's Peabody Award-winning series David Makes Man, on the OWN Network, The Good Fight, Little America, and The Crossover.

Friday, Mar 13

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Concurrent Session Block

Friday, Mar 13

04:00 PM - 05:00 PM

Concurrent Session Block

Friday, Mar 13

05:30 PM - 07:30 PM

National Conference Welcome Reception

Saturday, Mar 14

****Programming Times and Events subject to change****

Saturday, Mar 14: East Tower - 2nd Floor Registration Desk

07:00 AM - 04:30 PM

Conference Registration Desk

East Tower - 2nd Floor Registration Desk

Saturday, Mar 14

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Concurrent Session Block

Saturday, Mar 14: East Tower - 2nd Floor Exhibitor Showcase

09:00 AM - 01:00 PM

Exhibitor Showcase

East Tower - 2nd Floor Exhibitor Showcase

Saturday, Mar 14

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Concurrent Session Block

Saturday, Mar 14

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

COSSBA Executive Directors Roundtable

Saturday, Mar 14

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Concurrent Session Block

Saturday, Mar 14

01:00 PM - 03:15 PM

Saturday General Session

Pivot

Ravi Hutheesing
Ravi Unites

With 40% of jobs about to be automated and 65% of youth destined for jobs that don't yet exist, Ravi offers a "deep dive" into how to empower Generations Z and Alpha to Pivot and succeed in an unpredictable and global future. Today's graduates must harness and leverage the power of Artificial Intelligence, but the true differentiator will come through their humanity and creativity. By prioritizing Human Intelligence and Cultural Competence, they will build multi-cultural networks, create worldwide opportunities, and grow into passionate global citizens and principled leaders. More than ever, students need an education not driven by politics or profits, ...

Saturday, Mar 14

03:30 PM - 04:30 PM

Concurrent Session Block

Saturday, Mar 14

Evening on the Town

Join your fellow peers on a night on the town in Louisville. Attendees are on their own to explore the sights and sounds of Downtown Louisville and Beyond!

Sunday, Mar 15

12:00 AM - 12:01 AM

****Programming Times and Events subject to change****

Sunday, Mar 15: East Tower - 2nd Floor Registration Desk

07:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Conference Registration Desk

East Tower - 2nd Floor Registration Desk

Sunday, Mar 15

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Concurrent Session Block

Sunday, Mar 15

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Concurrent Session Block

Sunday, Mar 15

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

National Conference Closing Session

Bad Kids Don't Exist: How accelerated childhood and adult expectations have created a misunderstood generation

Stuart "Mister Stu" Perry

Bad Kids Don't Exist

Every policy, decision, and discipline code shapes how children experience school—and, ultimately, how they see themselves. Yet too often, our systems respond to behavior instead of understanding it. In this keynote, child therapist and national speaker Mister Stu reframes challenging behavior through the lens of development, neuroscience, and compassion—helping education leaders see how well-intentioned systems sometimes set kids up to fail. Through humor, research, and real-world stories from the front lines of child mental health, Mister Stu explores: How “accelerated childhood” and changing cultural norms have impacted student behavior and wellbeing Why outdated expectations and reactive policies can unintentionally increase stress and disengagement What school ...



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