

Illinois Education: Redefined by COVID-19

An analysis of what has been learned and a look forward to the summer and fall.

LUDA 2020 Spring Digital Conference, June 3-5

Conference topics for Superintendents, Chief School Business Officials, Curriculum and Instruction Administrators, Human Resources Administrators, Technology Leaders, Special Education Administrators, and Principals

Featured Keynote Speakers:



Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
Illinois State Superintendent
of Education



Dr. Joseph South
Chief Learning Officer
International Society for Technology in Education

REGISTRATION FEE: **NONE**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **MAY 22, 2020**

REGISTRATION LINK: [CLICK HERE](#)

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS: CONFERENCE@LUDAILLINOIS.ORG

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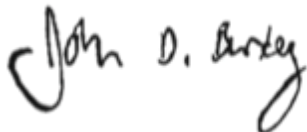
from LUDA's Executive Director

Life as we know it abruptly changed in March when school buildings were closed and stay at home guidelines were issued. Our schools were put in the position of immediately redesigning our education delivery model, that endured mostly unchanged for over 100 years, and was transformed in the course of a few days. The past two months have been incredibly challenging, but our schools have risen to the occasion.

The LUDA Spring Conference is typically held in suburban Chicago when we gather in person, analyze the current school year, and plan for the next school year. When it became evident that our Spring Conference would not be held in person, our organization immediately adapted, just as our schools have done. We dismissed our previously planned conference topic and completely rebuilt it to be centered on the issues we faced this spring and those we will face this summer and fall. Instead of just replicating the in-person conference, it has been designed differently. Because districts will not have to bear the cost of travel and registration, this conference has been designed to be relevant and accommodate more administrative specialty areas. The conference will span three days, but you may register for as many, or as few, sessions as you wish. There are two general sessions (one on Thursday and one on Friday) which will operate as webinars. Most of the other sessions will be interactive and participants will be able to engage in discussions.

We look forward to your participation in the first ever all digital LUDA conference.

Sincerely,
Dr. John Burkey



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3RD

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Remote Learning Meme Fatigue: Legal and Practical Considerations as Students and Staff Return to School with Restrictions

Presenters: Caroline A. Roselli, Partner, Robbins Schwartz; Joseph J. Perkoski, Managing Partner, Robbins Schwartz

Description: This session will review the legal and practical challenges school districts navigated during the period of remote learning this spring, and how such experiences will guide school districts as we look to the future with the return of students and staff to our school buildings. We will address necessary preparations and legal considerations related to staffing, student attendance, gaps in student learning, and how to safely transition back to school. The presentation will also touch on what social distancing or other restrictions may look like in the school setting to ensure the safety of all individuals as we return to school buildings under new norms.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Human Resource Administrators, Chief School Business Officials

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Financial Planning in Challenging Times

Presenters: Steve Miller, Senior Product Manager - 5Sight, Forecast5 Analytics; Zach Stokes, Senior Analytics Advisor, Forecast5 Analytics

Description: Join us for a session around the financial challenges and decisions that school districts are facing as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and its economic impact. We will take a look back at school funding data following the Great Recession to study trends and economic activity that will help guide school district leaders as they work to communicate their current situation to the Board and Community. We will then discuss the key questions administrators should be asking about their finances during this time. Forecast5 will provide a checklist of questions that can be used for conversations with your leadership team as well as demonstrating key techniques using Forecast5 tools to model different scenarios.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Chief School Business Officials

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

School Finance in a Time of Economic Disruption

Presenters: Ares Dalianis, Partner, Franczek P.C.; Scott Metcalf, Partner, Franczek P.C.

Description: Franczek Attorneys Ares Dalianis and Scott Metcalf present an in-depth discussion of school finance and property tax issues facing Illinois school districts as they respond to the economic disruption and societal change brought on by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The presentation topics include: Short Term Borrowing, Interfund Transfers and Loans, State and Federal Funding, COVID-19 and Property Tax Assessments, and Tax Payments and Delinquency.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Chief School Business Officials

Remote Learning: Personalizing Supports for IEP students

Presenters: Beth Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Barrington 220; Chelsea Hedges, Director of Student Services, Barrington 220; Nick Simon, District Partnerships, Goalbook

Description: Since our school buildings closed due to COVID-19, districts have experienced a variety of challenges with implementing distance learning. These challenges are amplified in our special education populations, where the additional personalized supports provided by districts at the classroom level are no longer available. Please join us for a discussion of how Barrington 220 has addressed these challenges and overcome some of the barriers to instruction presented by distance learning using a variety of methods, including Goalbook Toolkit. We will focus on how we are supporting students with IEPs and their families as we navigate these unprecedented circumstances.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Special Education Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction Administrators

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3RD (cont.)

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Digital School Board Meetings

Presenters: Dr. Lisa Hichens, Superintendent, Batavia 101; Dr. Karen Sullivan, Superintendent, Indian Prairie 204; Dr. Scott Rowe, Superintendent, Huntley 158

Description: Districts had to rapidly adapt public board meetings into a digital format. Three LUDA Superintendents will share the mechanics of how they conducted their board meetings, as well as their challenges and successes, as their boards operated in the digital format.

Intended Audience: Superintendents

Workplace Liability in the Post-Pandemic Era

Presenters: Frank B. Garrett, III, Partner, Robbins Schwartz; Todd K. Hayden, Partner, Robbins Schwartz

Description: As school districts prepare to reopen, they will likely encounter COVID-19 grievances, claims and lawsuits from both employees and students. This session will address the possible claims which revolve around the duty owed to employees and students. Some examples are: Does failure to properly clean or disinfect school grounds constitute willful and wanton negligence? Are schools liable for a staff member's injury if they return an employee to work who has COVID-19? Will a district be liable if a staff member fails to enforce "social distancing" guidelines and students' contract COVID-19? Are school districts required to provide PPE to its employees? Will a school district face grievances or lawsuits for "forcing" an employee to return to work?

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Human Resources Administrators, Chief School Business Officials, Principals

THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

COVID 19: The Federal Government Response

Presenter: Noelle Ellerson Ng, Associate Executive Director, Advocacy & Governance for AASA

Description: Noelle Ellerson Ng, the Associate Executive Director of Advocacy and Governance for AASA, will present the Federal Government's response to COVID-19 including the topics of federal funding, federal policy relief, the related economic downturn, and what it all means for schools.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Chief School Business Officials

Digital Safety in a Remote Learning Environment

Presenters: Mike McInerney, Regional Sales Manager; Gaggle; Heather Durkac, Vice President of Operations, Gaggle

Description: Mike McInerney and Heather Durkac share how districts across the country are keeping students safe in a virtual learning environment with district issued digital tools. Gaggle is helping to identify those students who may be struggling with isolation, the dramatic change in their daily routine, or concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic in O365 or Google (email/drive), as well as Hangouts, Teams, Filter and LMS support and monitoring. Gaggle will dive into student and staff safety solutions that can help school districts protect student safety and district liability as they engage in continued learning on and off campus. This presentation will include: Insight into national trends linked to student safety and well-being, a live demo of Gaggle Safety Management and its tools/partners, an analysis of real-life student safety concerns uncovered by Gaggle, and Data from the crisis situation as well as more recent trends as districts move toward distance learning.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Technology Leaders, Curriculum and Instruction Administrators

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Remote Learning: The Student Perspective

Presenters: Students from Batavia, Rockford and Elgin including their superintendents: Dr. Tony Sanders, Superintendent, Elgin U-46; Dr. Lisa Hichens, Superintendent, Batavia 101; Dr. Ehren Jarrett, Superintendent, Rockford 205

Moderator: Dr. John Burkey, Executive Director, LUDA

Description: Involving student voice has always been important, but is even more necessary during this period of physical school closure and remote learning. Students from three LUDA districts will provide their perspectives on their remote learning experiences and suggestions for school leaders as we continue to advance education in the future.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Curriculum and Instruction Administrators, Principals

A Google View; Lessons Learned from COVID-19 and the Path Ahead

Presenters: Anne Nash, Program Manager, Chicago-based Google for Education Team; Britton Picciolini, Regional Manager, Google for Education; Erika Schlichter, Ed. D, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Innovation, Huntley 158; David E. Smith, Executive Director of Technology, Elmhurst 205; Ron Carroll, Manager of Instructional Technology, Chicago Public Schools

Description: Join the Chicago-based Google for Education Team and LUDA district leaders to reflect on what we have experienced, seen, and learned over the past few months. But perhaps even more importantly, what this means for the future of education and schools in Illinois. LUDA district leaders will highlight the specific challenges they have faced, best practices they have developed, as well as what did not or has not worked as well for their learning communities. The Google Team will share high level trends they are seeing across K12 education, such as increased demand for detailed usage of analytics; the need for more robust guardian support in education; the emphasis on

THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH (cont.)

accessibility and strategies for differentiation and support for diverse learners; and the importance of effective, safe, and secure communications platforms.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Curriculum and Instruction Administrators, Technology Leaders, Principals

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Is the Time NOW to Reinvent Education to Ensure We Are Meeting the Needs of ALL Students?

Presenters: Jeff Ion, Regional Director for School Partnerships, Illuminate Education; Dr. Dawn Bridges, Senior Director of Education Partnerships, Right at School

Description: In this session, participants will share their experiences of remote learning environments during the pandemic and brainstorm how districts can leverage what has been learned to truly reinvent how schools instruct, assess, and ultimately meet the needs of students. Panelists will include Dr. Lisa Hichens, Superintendent, Batavia 101; Dr. Barry Reilly, Superintendent, Bloomington 87

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Curriculum and Instruction Administrators, Principals

Special Education Legal Considerations During COVID-19: FAPE, Compensatory Education Requests, In-Person Evaluations and More

Presenters: Laura M. Sinars, Partner, Robbins Schwartz; Caroline A. Roselli, Partner, Robbins Schwartz

Description: For several months now, special education administrators have been dealing with the impact of school closure and remote learning on special education students. However, new special education challenges and considerations face school districts as we anticipate a potential return to school. During this presentation, we will review the FAPE standard during these exceptional COVID-19 circumstances, analyze how to respond to compensatory education requests, address the back log of in-person evaluations and IEP meeting requests, as well as examine other special education issues if schools return in the fall with restrictions in place.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Special Education Administrators, Principals

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Beyond the Constant: Student Learning in a Post COVID School District

Presenters: Dr. Genevra Walters, Superintendent, Kankakee 111; Felice Hybert, Assistant Superintendent, Kankakee 111

Description: Kankakee School District 111 was fortunate to have been one of the first schools to pilot Competency Based Education. The priority has been to move past an educational system that is focused on time and space. Kankakee administrators and teachers have struggled with the idea of focusing on teaching being the constant and learning being the variable; to now learning being the constant and teaching the variable. COVID-19 has plunged educators globally into an experience that forces us to think about educating our children differently. This presentation will describe the educational design that will be the focus of the Kankakee School District 111 in partnership with the broader community as we move into this new norm.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Curriculum and Instruction Administrators, Principals

THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH (cont.)

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (cont.)

Strategic School District Healthcare Planning in the Midst of Economic Uncertainty: How District Health Plans Can Come Out Stronger, and More Cost Effective, Following This Crisis

Presenters: Luke Moo, Senior Consultant, Group Alternatives; Mike Baker, President, Group Alternatives

Description: Districts of all sizes will be facing many added challenges over the coming years due to the Coronavirus and the resulting economic fallout. Since each district is unique, it is imperative to use data analytics, specialized employee communication tools, and committee relationships to get where each district needs to go. We will walk through tools and resources that have been helpful to our school clients with examples of what has been accomplished that can ensure better decision making and thus more effective control over costs. These highlights will be actionable and relevant to districts of all sizes.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Chief School Business Officials, Human Resource Administrators

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM – GENERAL SESSION ONE

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala

Speaker: Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, State Superintendent of Illinois

Moderators: Dr. John Burkey, Executive Director, LUDA; Dr. Ehren Jarrett, Superintendent, Rockford 205

Description: State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala will participate in a 'fireside chat' in which she will discuss the challenges faced this spring with the COVID-19 related school physical closures as well as what to expect and how to prepare for transitioning back to in-person learning.

Intended Audience: All Conference Attendees

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Instructional Preparedness Planning for 2020-21: One Unit District's Approach

Presenters: Dr. Corey Tafoya, Superintendent, Harvard 50; Jason Eggert, Illinois Partnership Manager, Edmentum

Description: This session will showcase Harvard CUSD 50 and the work of Dr. Corey Tafoya, Superintendent, and his team. Dr. Tafoya will share his philosophy and vision of instruction in Harvard in this "new normal", including the importance of essential standards, formative assessment, and differentiation at all grade levels. Attendees will take away a framework that can be used in both in-person and remote learning environments.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Curriculum and Instruction Administrators, Technology Leaders, Principals

Working Through a Crisis with Your Union

Presenters: Dr. Donn Mendoza, Superintendent, Round Lake 116; Fred Heid, Superintendent, Carpentersville 300; Dr. Douglas Wood, Superintendent, Ball-Chatham 5

Description: Collaborative relationships with our unions are more vital than ever in a time of crisis. Three LUDA Superintendents will share their stories of effective collaborative union relationships and how it has enhanced the development of remote learning.

Intended Audience: Superintendents, Human Resource Administrators

FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM – GENERAL SESSION TWO

A Conversation with Dr. Joseph South; The Global Educational Impact of COVID-19

Speaker: Dr. Joseph South, Chief Learning Officer, International Society for Technology in Education

Moderator: Dr. John Burkey, Executive Director, LUDA

Description: This conversation with Dr. Joseph South will explore the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the educational landscape. Included in the conversation will be discussion about digital equity, the evolution of digital resources, and the role policy, governance, and advocacy play in navigating through the challenges associated with the impact of COVID-19. We are fortunate to have this National Educational Technology Leader join the conversation as we consider next steps in best supporting our students, families, teachers, and communities.

Intended Audience: All Conference Attendees

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Creating a District Budget in Light of Our New Economic Realities

Presenters: Seth Chapman, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/Chief Financial Officer, St. Charles 303; Bob Beckwith, Chief Financial Officer, Rock Island 41

Description: This session will focus on how districts across the EBF adequacy spectrum are approaching revenue shortfalls to work towards a budget that supports student growth.

Intended Audience: Chief School Business Officials

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

LUDA Superintendent Roundtable

Presenter: Facilitated by Thoughtexchange

Description: An in-depth roundtable, including breakout groups, will focus on issues our schools have faced as a result of COVID-19 and include planning for the next school year.

Intended Audience: LUDA Superintendents

LUDA Curriculum and Instruction Roundtable

Presenters: Shelia Boozer, Director of Curriculum, Springfield 186; Dr. Glenn Wood, Assistant Superintendent, Plainfield 202; Nikki Tammaru, Assistant Superintendent, Elmhurst 205

Description: An in-depth roundtable for administrators responsible for curriculum and instruction that will focus on issues our schools have faced as a result of COVID-19 and include planning for the next school year.

Intended Audience: LUDA Curriculum and Instruction Administrators

LUDA Technology Leaders Roundtable

Presenters: Don Ringlestein, Director of Technology, West Aurora 129; Dr. Chris Budzinski, Chief Technology Officer, Huntley 158

Description: This session will focus on strategies for navigating through the changing role of technology amid the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. This will be a facilitated discussion for CTO's / Educational Technology Leaders.

Intended Audience: LUDA Technology Leaders
