

Georgia School Superintendents Association
Fall Bootstrap Conference
October 22-23, 2025
Classic Center, Athens, Georgia

**Lead with Vision, Collaborate with Purpose, &
Strengthen Georgia's Schools**

Tuesday, October 21

- 9:30 a.m. **New Superintendent Workshop/Luncheon – *Olympia 2***
- 12:30 p.m. **Women In Network Event – *Meet at Athena D***
- 6:00 p.m. **GSSA Board of Directors Dinner – *Olympia 1***
- 7:00 p.m. **GSSA Board of Directors Meeting – *Olympia 2***
- 8:00 p.m. **GSSA Platinum and Gold Sponsored Welcome Reception – Rooftop of Hyatt**

This year our Platinum and Gold Sponsors are hosting a Welcome Reception for GSSA members that will start at **8:00 pm** at the Hyatt Place HYBAR to kick start the conference. In the past, many of our members have indicated the need for opportunities to network, collaborate, and socialize with colleagues. Having gone through the varied experiences of the superintendency, opportunities for dialogue, problem-solving, and commiseration are highly valued by superintendents and educational leaders at every level. At this event, you will have the opportunity to meet with Georgia superintendents, GSSA staff, some of the speakers for our conference, and other educational leaders, in a relaxed and informal setting. We hope that you will plan to attend so you don't miss out on the refreshments, desserts, music, and fellowship.

Wednesday, October 22

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration Opens – *Thomas Street Lobby Area***
- 8:00 a.m. **CSRA RESA – Board of Control – *Parthenon 2***
- 8:00 a.m. **Chattahoochee Flint RESA – Board of Control – *Parthenon 1***
- 8:00 a.m. **Northwest GA RESA – Board of Control – *Olympia 2***
- 8:30 a.m. **Okefenokee RESA – Board of Control – *Athena A***
- 8:30 a.m. **West Georgia RESA – Board of Control – *Olympia 1***

General Session I: – *Athena F-J*

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Recognition

GSSA President Bubba Longgear welcomes members and guests to the conference and recognizes sponsors and other special guests as he presides over the first day.

10:20 a.m. Jeff Utecht – Generation AI: Superintendents Leading Schools Into the Next Era

Superintendents today are leading at the intersection of two transformative forces: a multigenerational workforce and the rise of Generative AI. From veteran educators to Gen Z teachers, and from Millennial parents to Gen Alpha students, each generation engages with technology and change differently. This keynote explores how understanding these generational perspectives is essential for creating district-wide strategies that embrace AI responsibly and effectively. Superintendents will gain practical insights on how to build buy-in across diverse stakeholders and prepare their schools for a future where AI is not optional but foundational.

11:30 a.m. GSSA Awards

The four finalists for the 2026 Superintendent of the Year Award will be recognized, the winner of the prestigious Bill Barr Leadership Award will be announced, and recognition of new Superintendents.

12:00 p.m. Lunch – *Athena A, B, C, and E*

General Session II: – *Athena F-J*

1:30 p.m. Kaleb Green – Dooly County Student Speaker

1:45 p.m. Ga Department of Education - Literacy Update – April Aldridge & Amy Denty

2:15 p.m. Sandy Hook Promise – Crystal Garrant

2:30 p.m. David Lewis – The Muscogee Way

3:15 p.m. Red Cross - Alicia Doherty & Garrett Reid

3:30 p.m. Stan DeJarnett – Georgia State Board Chair

3:45 p.m. Fran Dundore – Governor's Office of Student Achievement

4:00 p.m. Linda Tyree – SREB Crisis Recovery Network Update

4:15 p.m. Dr. Jody Barrow – GA PSC update

4:30 p.m. President's Reception – *Athena B, C, and E*

All conference attendees are invited to this reception honoring new superintendents and those who are retiring.

Thursday, October 23

7:30 a.m. **GSSA Breakfast – *Athena E***

Conference attendees are invited to enjoy breakfast and network with colleagues before the session starts.

General Session III – *Athena F-J*

9:00 a.m. **Welcome - GSSA President-elect Craig Lockhart presides**

9:05 a.m. **GA DoE Update**

9:45 a.m. **Tim Scott – GHSA Update**

10:00 a.m. **HB 268 – John Zauner & Rob Brown**

10:30 a.m. **Legal Updates – Phil Hartley**

News from the legal front will be presented by GSSA's long-time friend from the law firm of Pereira, Kirby, Kinsinger & Nguyen, LLP.

12:00 p.m. **Conference Adjournment**

12:15 p.m. **Luncheon for afternoon meeting attendees – *Athena E***

12:15 p.m. **AI in Action: Leading with Vision and Clarity - Jeff Utecht – *Athena CD***

12:15 p.m. **GSSA Legislative Committee Meeting – *Athena B***

12:15 p.m. **GAEL Board of Directors Meeting – *Athena A***