



PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS, CLEAR GUIDANCE & DISTRICT COLLABORATION

SEPTEMBER 20-23, 2026

The Park Vista
Gatlinburg, Tennessee



Registration
Check-In



Conference
Resources



TENNESSEE SUPERINTENDENT STUDY COUNCIL

Purpose



Provide for, and participate in,
professional growth opportunities
for improving leadership and
management practices
in Tennessee schools.



Support and encourage
operational procedures, school
administrative theories and practices,
and advance school leadership
in Tennessee schools.



Examine and provide feedback
on existing programs, practices and
procedures, and to facilitate the
development of new and different
approaches in addressing the
challenges and demands
in Tennessee schools.

77th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS, CLEAR GUIDANCE & DISTRICT COLLABORATION

Contents

- 3 General Information**
 - Technology
 - Rooms
 - Contacts
- 4 Session Information**
 - Overview
 - Breaks
 - School Districts
by CORE Region
- 5 Schedule of Events**
 - Sunday
 - Monday
 - Tuesday
 - Wednesday
- 8 SSC Executive Committee**

General Information

Wifi Network

Hilton Conference
Password: pv27

Accessing Content

Scan the QR code
or visit [tn.gov/
education/about-the-
tdoe/engagement/
engagement-councils/
superintendent-study-
council.html](https://tn.gov/education/about-the-tdoe/engagement/engagement-councils/superintendent-study-council.html).



Program and Hospitality

Stop by the registration desk (lower level, outside Tennessee Ballroom) for questions or requests for assistance. For urgent support, please reach out to one of the following department staff members:

Ricki Collins
629-259-5198

Angela Lewis
615-955-3049



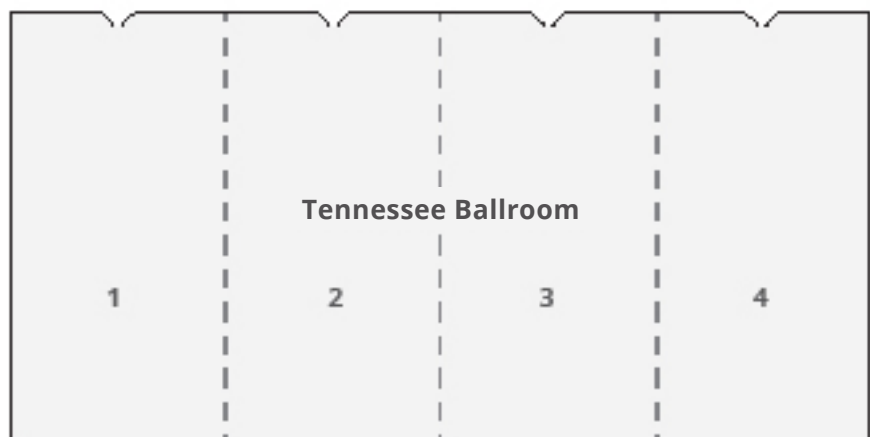
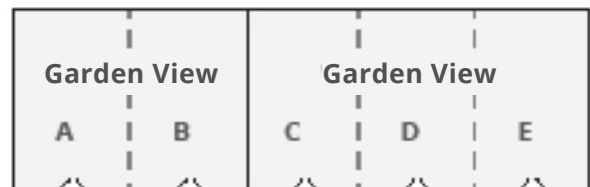
— ROOMS —

Park Vista Hotel

Upper Level



Lower Level



Abbreviations used:

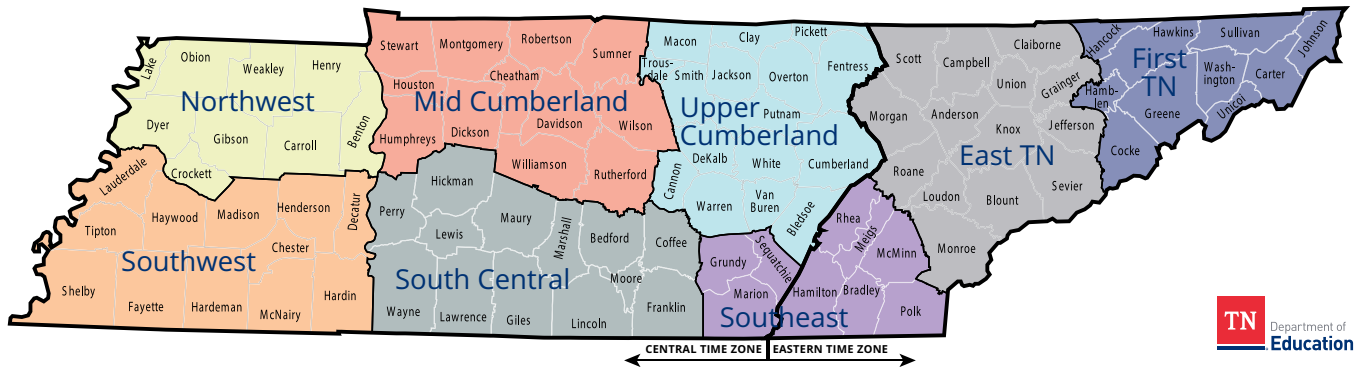
TB = Tennessee Ballroom

GV = Garden View

MV = Mountain View

School Districts

— BY CORE REGION —



CORE Region	School Districts
NORTHWEST	Alamo City, Bells City, Benton County, Bradford SSD, Carroll County, Crockett County, Dyer County, Dyersburg City, Gibson County SSD, Henry County, Hollow Rock-Bruceton SSD, Humboldt City, Huntingdon SSD, Lake County, McKenzie SSD, Milan SSD, Obion County, Paris SSD, South Carroll SSD, Trenton SSD, Union City, Weakley County, West Carroll SSD
SOUTHWEST	Arlington, Bartlett, Chester, Collierville, Decatur, Fayette, Germantown, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson-Madison County, Lakeland, Lauderdale, Lexington, McNairy, Memphis-Shelby County, Millington, Tipton, University Schools, WTSD
SOUTH CENTRAL	Bedford County, Coffee County, Fayetteville City, Franklin County, Giles County, Hickman County, Lawrence County, Lewis County, Lincoln County, Manchester City, Marshall County, Maury County, Moore County, Perry County, Tullahoma City, Wayne County
MID CUMBERLAND	Cheatham County, Clarksville-Montgomery County, Dickson County, Franklin SSD, Houston County, Humphreys County, Lebanon SSD, Metro Nashville, Murfreesboro City, Robertson County, Rutherford County, Stewart County, Sumner County, TSB, Williamson County, Wilson County
UPPER CUMBERLAND	Bledsoe County, Cannon County, Clay County, Cumberland County, DeKalb County, Fentress County, Jackson County, Macon County, Overton County, Pickett County, Putnam County, Smith County, Trousdale County, Van Buren County, Warren County, White County, York Institute
SOUTHEAST	Athens City, Bradley County, Cleveland City, Dayton City, Etowah City, Grundy County, Hamilton County, Marion County, McMinn County, Meigs County, Polk County, Rhea County, Richard City, Sequatchie County
EAST TENNESSEE	Alcoa City, Anderson County, Blount County, Campbell County, Claiborne County, Clinton City, ETSD, Grainger County, Jefferson County, Knox County, Lenoir City, Loudon County, Maryville City, Monroe County, Morgan County, Oak Ridge, Oneida City, Roane County, Scott County, Sevier County, Sweetwater City, Union County
FIRST TENNESSEE	Bristol City, Carter County, Cocke County, Elizabethton City, Greene County, Greenville City, Hamblen County, Hancock County, Hawkins County, Johnson City, Johnson County, Kingsport City, Newport City, Rogersville City, Sullivan County, Unicoi County, Washington County

Schedule of Events

All conference times in Eastern Time Zone

— SUNDAY —

TIME	EVENT	ROOM
11:00 – 12:00	AIMS Board Meeting	GV A/B
12:00 – 1:00	AIMS Membership Meeting & Luncheon	GV C/D
2:00 – 6:00	Registration	Outside TB
3:00 – 4:00	TOSS New Superintendent Meeting	GV A/B
4:00 – 5:00	SSC Executive Committee Meeting	GV E
4:00 – 6:00	TOSS Photos for Directory	Lower Lobby
4:30 – 5:30	TOSS Reception	GV CD
6:00 – 8:00	TOSS Awards Banquet	TB 2/3/4

— MONDAY —

TIME	EVENT	DETAILS & PRESENTER(S)	ROOM
7:00 – 8:00	TSSE Breakfast		MV A/B
8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast		TB 1/2
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome to SSC	<i>SSC Executive Committee, Commissioner Lizzette Reynolds</i>	TB 3/4
9:10 – 9:40	General Session #1	Agency Priorities <i>(Sam Percy, Christy Ballard, Kristy Brown, Jonathan Criswell)</i>	TB 3/4
9:40 – 9:45	Transition		
9:45 – 10:25	Concurrent Sessions: Round 1 <i>Choose 1 to attend from the list of options.</i>	Getting Data Right: Strengthening District Systems for Funding Accuracy (<i>Caryn Burkholder</i>) Through the Fog: Communicating in a Crisis (<i>Ricki Collins, Amanda Chin</i>) Legal Updates <i>(Christy Ballard, Taylor Jenkins)</i> AI in K-12: What Districts Need to Know (<i>Rica Douglas</i>)	GV A/B GV C/D MV A/B MV C/D

— MONDAY —

Continued

TIME	EVENT	DETAILS & PRESENTER(S)	ROOM
10:25 – 10:30	Transition		
10:30 – 11:10	Concurrent Sessions: Round 2 <i>Choose 1 to attend from the list of options.</i>	From Policy to Practice: How We Engage (<i>Emily Cornute</i>) Through the Fog: Communicating in a Crisis (<i>Ricki Collins, Amanda Chin</i>) Leveraging the 3-Year District Plan: Driving Annual Improvement (<i>Ginger Leach, Jami Corwin</i>) Leveraging DST & CORE Support: Exiting TSI, ATSI, and CSI Status (<i>Jaclyn O'Brien, Robin Copp</i>) Getting Data Right: Strengthening District Systems for Funding Accuracy (<i>Caryn Burkholder</i>)	TB 3/4 GV A/B GV C/D MV A/B MV C/D
11:10 – 11:15	Transition		
11:15 – 11:55	Concurrent Sessions: Round 3 <i>Choose 1 to attend from the list of options.</i>	Getting Data Right: Strengthening District Systems for Funding Accuracy (<i>Caryn Burkholder</i>) Opening Doors: District Innovations Supporting Student Success from Elementary through Postsecondary Pathways (<i>Deborah Knoll</i>) Leveraging Statewide Partnerships: Resources and Supports Available to Districts (<i>Jennifer Jordan, Misty Moody</i>) Legal Updates (<i>Christy Ballard, Taylor Jenkins</i>) AI in K-12: What Districts Need to Know (<i>Rica Douglas</i>)	MV C/D GV A/B GV C/D MV A/B TB 3/4
11:55 – 1:00	Lunch		TB 1/2

— MONDAY —

Continued

TIME	EVENT	DETAILS & PRESENTER(S)	ROOM
1:00 – 2:00	General Session 2	District Spotlights: Academic Achievement & Student Growth Student Behavior & Student Supports Budget Management, Funding Strategies, and Grant Utilization Data Use, Reporting, and Accountability Practices Operations (<i>Processes, Systems, and Efficiencies</i>)	TB 3/4
2:00 – 2:15	Break		
2:15 – 3:15	Problem-Solving Labs <i>Choose 1 to attend from the list of options.</i>	Finance/TISA (<i>Maryanne Durski, Caryn Burkholder</i>) SPED & Student Supports (<i>Jennifer Jordan, Misty Moody</i>) Accountability (<i>David Laird</i>) Legal and Policy (<i>TDOE Office of General Counsel, Emily Cornute</i>) Human Capital (<i>Brooke Amos, Taylor Reid</i>) Federal Programs (<i>Deborah Thompson</i>)	TB 3/4 GV A/B GV C/D MV A/B MV C/D GV E
3:20 – 3:50	SGO Engagement (Optional Session)	<i>Emily Cornute</i>	MV A/B
4:00 – 4:15	SSC Meeting & Bylaw Vote	<i>SSC Executive Committee</i>	TB 3/4
4:15 – 5:00	TOSS Membership Meeting		TB 3/4
5:00 – 6:00	TSSE General Session		TB 3/4

— TUESDAY —

All conference times in Eastern Time Zone

TIME	EVENT	DETAILS & PRESENTER(S)	ROOM
8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast		TB 1/2
8:15 – 9:10	Accountability Hearings (Optional Session)	What Districts Need to Know (Sara Morrison, Ali Reid)	TB 3/4
9:00 – 10:00	General Session #3	Accountability in Action: Updates, Engagement, and What's Ahead (Jonathan Criswell, David Laird)	TB 3/4
10:00 – 10:05	Transition		
10:05 – 10:45	Concurrent Sessions: Round 4 <i>Choose 1 to attend from the list of options.</i>	AI in K-12: What Districts Need to Know (Rica Douglas)	TB 3/4
		Beyond Recovery: Accelerating Achievement in the Middle Grades (Christy Wall, Jennifer Jordan, Jaclyn O'Brien)	GV A/B
		Opening Doors: District Innovations Supporting Student Success from Elementary through Postsecondary Pathways (Deborah Knoll)	GV C/D
		Legal Updates (Christy Ballard, Taylor Jenkins)	MV A/B
		Prevention and Preparedness: District Insights, Lessons Learned, and Courses of Action (Lori Paisley)	MV C/D
10:45 – 10:50	Transition		

— TUESDAY —

Continued

TIME	EVENT	DETAILS & PRESENTER(S)	ROOM
10:50 – 11:30	Concurrent Sessions: Round 5 <i>Choose 1 to attend from the list of options.</i>	Prevention and Preparedness: District Insights, Lessons Learned, and Courses of Action (<i>Lori Paisley</i>)	TB 3/4
		Leveraging the 3-Year District Plan: Driving Annual Improvement (<i>Ginger Leach, Jami Corwin</i>)	GV A/B
		Leveraging Statewide Partnerships: Resources and Supports Available to Districts (<i>Jennifer Jordan, Misty Moody</i>)	GV C/D
		Reducing Temporary Teaching Permits and Expanding the Licensed Educator Workforce <i>(Brooke Amos, Taylor Reid)</i>	MV A/B
		From Policy to Practice: How We Engage (<i>Emily Cornute</i>)	MV C/D
11:30 – 11:35	Transition		
11:35 – 12:15	Concurrent Sessions: Round 6 <i>Choose 1 to attend from the list of options.</i>	From Policy to Practice: How We Engage (<i>Emily Cornute</i>)	GV A/B
		Beyond Recovery: Accelerating Achievement in the Middle Grades (<i>Christy Wall, Jennifer Jordan, Jaclyn O'Brien</i>)	GV C/D
		Monitoring Reset: Leading with Collaboration in Compliance (<i>Deborah Thompson</i>)	MV A/B
		Prevention and Preparedness: District Insights, Lessons Learned, and Courses of Action (<i>Lori Paisley</i>)	MV C/D
12:15 – 12:20	Transition		
12:20 – 12:30	Closing Remarks	<i>Commissioner Lizzette Reynolds</i>	TB 3/4
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch		TB 1/2

— WEDNESDAY —

All conference times in Eastern Time Zone

TIME	EVENT	DETAILS & PRESENTER(S)	ROOM
7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast		TB 1/2
8:30 – 12:00	TOSS Professional Development Sessions		TB 3/4

Superintendent Study Council

— EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE —

Joey Vaughn, *Chair*
Manchester City Schools
South Central

Eric Jones
Fayetteville City Schools
South Central

Tommy Arnold
Jefferson County Schools
East Tennessee

Troy Kilzer
Chester County Schools
Southwest

Clint Baker
Meigs County Schools
Southeast

Eddie Pruett
Gibson County
Special School District
Northwest

Kurt Dronebarger
White County Schools
Upper Cumberland

Richard Vanhuss
Elizabethton City Schools
First Tennessee

Trey Duke
Murfreesboro City Schools
Mid Cumberland

Leah Watkins
Henry County Schools
Northwest

— EX OFFICIO —

Lizzette Reynolds
Commissioner, Tennessee
Department of Education

Gary Lilly
Executive Director
TOSS