VSBA
Virginia School Boards Association®

Rivanna Ridge Professional Building
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News Release

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VSBA Annual Convention to Bring Together Education Leaders from Across Virginia

Charlottesville, VA – The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) will welcome more than 800 school board members, superintendents, division administrators, and education leaders from across the Commonwealth to its 2026 Annual Convention, November 18-20, 2026, in Williamsburg, Virginia.

As one of the Commonwealth's premier professional development opportunities for public education leaders, the three-day convention will provide a forum for collaboration, innovative ideas, and meaningful discussions on the challenges and opportunities facing Virginia's public schools. Attendees will explore emerging trends, exchange best practices, and gain valuable insights to strengthen school board governance and support student success in their local school divisions.

Convention Highlights:

- **Professional Development:** Attendees will have access to 45 educational sessions, clinics, and workshops covering timely topics such as artificial intelligence, effective school board governance, school law, and other issues impacting public education.

- **Exhibitors Scholarship:** Made possible through the generous support of VSBA Annual Convention exhibitors, this scholarship recognizes an outstanding high school senior who has served as a student school board representative. The 2026 recipient will be announced during the Opening General Session, celebrating student leadership, academic achievement, and service.

- **High School Video Contest:** Inspired by the theme "Rooted in Public Education," this year's contest invited high school students across Virginia to showcase the value and impact of public education through creative 30-second videos. Winning entries will be recognized and featured during the Opening General Session.

- **Exhibition of School Architecture:** This annual exhibition highlights innovative school facility designs that enhance learning environments and support student success. Featured projects swill showcase thoughtful approaches to sustainability, functionality, safety, and the evolving needs of school communities.

The 2026 VSBA Annual Convention also marks a significant milestone as the Association celebrates 120 years of leadership, advocacy, and support for Virginia's public school boards. Throughout the convention, attendees will have opportunities to reflect on the Association's legacy while looking ahead to the future of public education in the Commonwealth.

Featured General Session Speakers:

Damon West: Damon West is a nationally recognized keynote speaker, best-selling author, and former college quarterback whose powerful story of adversity, redemption, and transformation has inspired audiences across the country. Drawing from his journey and his widely acclaimed Coffee Bean message, Damon challenges individuals to create positive change in even the most difficult environments. His engaging and impactful presentations leave audiences motivated to lead with resilience, purpose, and a renewed mindset.

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Orion Jean: Orion Jean is a nationally recognized youth leader, author, and the 2021 TIME Kid of the Year, known for turning small acts of kindness into a global movement. As the founder of the "Race to Kindness" campaign, he has inspired millions through initiatives focused on giving, service, and leadership. With a simple yet powerful message—"If you see a problem, fix it"—Orion empowers audiences of all ages to lead with compassion and make a meaningful impact.

Tara Martin: Tara Martin is an enthusiastic educator, national speaker, and author who thrives on change and refuses to settle for the status quo. With experience as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, and district administrator, she brings a wealth of knowledge to her roles. As the founder of #BookSnaps, a revolutionary reading comprehension strategy now implemented in seventeen countries, Tara constantly seeks unique ways to make learning fun, relevant, and meaningful.

About the Virginia School Boards Association
The Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through advocacy, training, and services. The Association offers conferences, information, training, and counseling designed to meet the needs of the Commonwealth's educational leaders.

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