



**The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials  
Educational Fund**

*presents*

**NALEO Education Leadership Initiative**

***National Institute on School Governance:  
Serving our Students in Troubled  
Economic Times***

**March 6-8, 2009**

**Eldorado Hotel & Spa  
309 West San Francisco Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501**

***PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA***

**Friday, March 6, 2009**

**2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Registration**

**4:00 - 4:15 p.m. Welcome and Program Overview**

**4:15 - 5:45 p.m. Session I – Your School District’s Budget as a Policy Statement**

The needs and hopes of our students do not disappear when times are tough for the economy. Your goals and aspirations for your school district should not disappear either. Now it is more important than ever that school districts do what they can to deliver high quality services to their students despite fewer resources. Hear what school board members from around the country are doing to address and adapt to the budget challenges of their district, while working to make sure the academic success of their students remains paramount. Strengthen your competencies as a policymaker by exploring the interconnection between policymaking and budget analysis to ensure that your priorities as a board member are evident in your district’s budget.

**5:45 - 6:00 p.m. Networking Session**

**6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Opening Reception**

**Saturday, March 7, 2009**

**8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast**

**9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Session II – Understanding School Finance: Sources of Funding and Spending**

Research suggests that schools can neither run nor improve without proper resources. Many consider money to be the most immediate resource for schools to consider. However, understanding school financing can be very complicated, especially considering every state has different formulas and systems for financing education. With that said, there is no shortage of theories about how much education money there is or about how it is being used. But there is little understanding of basic facts - on the part of educators, policy makers, or the general public. Session panelists will discuss the basic facts about education funding to facilitate a common understanding of the uses of education funding at the local, state and federal level. This session will further your ability to analyze your district’s budget critically and identify sources of funding and spending.

**Noon - 1:00 p.m. Keynote Luncheon**

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**1:15 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Session III – Asking the Right Questions: A Framework for Budget Inquiry**

Have you developed a framework for inquiry when it comes to making tough budget decisions? As a school board member, you play a critical role in making certain public dollars are spent appropriately and wisely. Asking the right questions can distinguish you from your peers, and can improve your ability to govern more effectively. This session will provide valuable insight for contemplating and addressing budget related decisions. Your increased ability to ask strategic questions can serve as a tool for shifting board discussions and increasing your effectiveness.

**3:45 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Communications Strategy**

**Sunday, March 8, 2009**

**8:00 - 9:00 a.m.**

**Breakfast**

**9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Session IV – The Federal Economic Stimulus Package: What it Means for School Districts**

On January 15, 2009, *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*, better known as the economic stimulus package was introduced. Included in the proposed legislation is a combination of government spending and tax cuts aimed at disrupting rising unemployment and jumpstarting the economy. Specifically, the House bill contains funding for "ready-to-go" infrastructure projects including transportation, energy, environment and schools. As proposed, \$141 billion dollars could be included in the stimulus package for education, including \$41 billion in grants for local schools, \$79 billion in state fiscal relief and \$21 billion for school modernization projects. States may potentially see an instant surge of funding for schools should the stimulus package pass. As millions of dollars filter through at the state level, it is important to plan ahead to ensure your school district is ready to receive and invest these public dollars in ways that enable you to meet the most immediate needs of your students, families and community.

**10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Strategy Session**

**11:30 a.m.**

**Closing Remarks**

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