

AASPA Fall Drive In Conference

Join us for the AASPA Fall Drive In Conference, a comprehensive professional development event for educational administrators and human resources professionals. This document provides all essential details about the upcoming conference, including location, date, registration fees, accommodation options, and the full agenda of informative sessions led by industry experts.

EVOLVE WITHIN

Conference Location and Date

The AASPA Fall Drive In Conference will be held at the Shelby County Instructional Center located in Alabaster, Alabama. This centrally located venue provides an ideal setting for professional development and networking opportunities for educational administrators and HR professionals.

The conference is scheduled for Friday, October 24, 2025. Attendees should plan to arrive early to check in and receive conference materials before the first session begins.

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Venue

Shelby County Instructional Center
Alabaster, Alabama

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Date

Friday, October 24, 2025

Registration Information

Registration for the AASPA Fall Drive In Conference is now open. The conference offers tiered pricing to accommodate both AASPA members and non-members. Early registration is encouraged as space may be limited.

AASPA members can take advantage of a discounted registration fee of \$70, representing significant savings over the non-member rate. This member benefit reflects the organization's commitment to providing valuable professional development opportunities to its membership base.

Non-members are welcome to attend at a registration fee of \$95. This fee provides full access to all conference sessions, materials, and networking opportunities. Non-members may also consider joining AASPA to take advantage of the member rate for this and future events.

\$70

AASPA Member Fee

Discounted rate for current AASPA members

\$95

Non-Member Fee

Standard registration for non-AASPA members

Registration fees include access to all sessions, conference materials, and refreshments throughout the day. Payment can be made online through the AASPA website or by check made payable to AASPA.

Accommodation Information

For attendees requiring overnight accommodations, we have arranged a special conference rate at the Holiday Inn Express Alabaster. This convenient hotel option is located near the conference venue, providing easy access to the Shelby County Instructional Center.

The negotiated room rate for conference attendees is \$129 per night. This special rate represents significant savings off the standard room rates and includes the hotel's complimentary breakfast, free Wi-Fi, and access to other amenities.

To secure this special rate, attendees must make their reservations before September 23, 2025. When booking, be sure to reference the block code "AAS" to receive the discounted conference rate. Reservations can be made directly with the hotel by calling 205-624-6488.

Hotel

Holiday Inn Express Alabaster

Contact

205-624-6488

Rate

\$129 per night

Block Code

AAS

Deadline

September 23, 2025

We recommend booking your accommodations early as the room block may fill up before the cutoff date. Alternative accommodations may be available in the area, but will not include the negotiated conference rate.

Conference Topics Overview

The AASPA Fall Drive In Conference will feature a comprehensive program of sessions designed to address current challenges and opportunities in educational administration and human resources. The carefully curated agenda includes presentations from leading experts in their respective fields.

Each session has been selected to provide practical, actionable information that attendees can implement in their school districts. The topics cover a range of critical areas including legal updates, legislative developments, hiring practices, and certification requirements.

The conference structure allows for both presentation and discussion, giving attendees the opportunity to engage directly with presenters and peers. This interactive format maximizes the learning experience and facilitates valuable networking connections.

The following sections provide detailed information about each session, including presenter information and topic descriptions. Attendees are encouraged to review the full agenda to plan their conference experience effectively.

Parental Paid Leave & Workman's Comp

One of the highlight sessions of the conference will be presented by Attorney Melissa McKie, focusing on the critical topics of Parental Paid Leave and Workman's Compensation in educational settings. This comprehensive session will provide attendees with up-to-date legal information and practical guidance on these increasingly important areas of human resources management.

Attorney McKie brings extensive expertise in education law and employment matters. Her presentation will cover recent legal developments, case studies, and best practices for implementing and managing parental leave policies in school districts. Attendees will gain insights into compliance requirements, policy development, and effective administration of these benefits.

The Workman's Compensation portion of the session will address common challenges faced by school administrators, including claim management, return-to-work protocols, and strategies for minimizing risks while ensuring appropriate employee support. Attorney McKie will also discuss the intersection of Workman's Compensation with other leave entitlements such as FMLA.

Session Highlights

- Legal framework for parental paid leave in educational settings
- Recent developments in Workman's Compensation law affecting schools
- Policy development and implementation strategies
- Coordination between different types of leave
- Documentation requirements and best practices
- Risk management approaches

About the Presenter

Attorney Melissa McKie specializes in education law with particular expertise in employment matters affecting school districts. She has represented numerous educational institutions in legal proceedings and provided counsel on policy development and implementation.

Her practical approach combines legal expertise with an understanding of the unique challenges faced by school administrators, making her presentations both informative and immediately applicable.

CLAS & Legislative Updates

Whitney Miller-Nichols will lead an essential session providing comprehensive updates from the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) and recent legislative developments affecting education in the state. This informative presentation will ensure attendees are fully informed about the latest policy changes, funding initiatives, and regulatory requirements impacting their districts.

The CLAS updates portion will cover organizational initiatives, professional development opportunities, and advocacy efforts. Miller-Nichols will highlight how CLAS is working to support educational leaders across Alabama and provide resources to help administrators navigate current challenges in the field.

The legislative updates will focus on recent and pending legislation affecting Alabama's educational system. Topics will include budget allocations, policy changes, compliance requirements, and implementation timelines. Miller-Nichols will provide analysis of how these legislative developments may impact school operations, staffing, and student services.



Legislative Changes

Review of recent bills and legislative actions affecting Alabama schools, including funding formulas, accountability measures, and compliance requirements.



Impact Analysis

Detailed examination of how legislative changes will affect district operations, staffing decisions, and administrative procedures.



Implementation Strategies

Practical guidance for implementing new requirements, including timelines, resource allocation, and communication approaches.

This session will be particularly valuable for superintendents, principals, and human resources directors who need to understand and prepare for upcoming changes in educational policy and regulation. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss implementation strategies with both the presenter and colleagues from other districts.

Hire True Updates

Mona Coan and Andrea Wilson will present a comprehensive session on the latest developments and enhancements to the Hire True platform. This collaborative presentation will provide attendees with valuable insights into how this recruitment and hiring system continues to evolve to meet the needs of educational institutions across Alabama.

The session will begin with an overview of recent updates to the Hire True platform, including new features, improved functionality, and enhanced reporting capabilities. Coan and Wilson will demonstrate how these updates streamline the hiring process, improve candidate screening, and help districts identify the most qualified applicants more efficiently.

Attendees will learn about best practices for utilizing the platform effectively, including strategies for creating compelling job postings, efficiently reviewing applications, and managing the interview process. The presenters will share case studies highlighting successful implementation approaches from districts of various sizes and with different hiring needs.

Feature	Previous Version	New Enhancement	Benefit
Applicant Tracking	Basic status updates	Comprehensive pipeline visualization	Improved visibility of candidate progress
Screening Tools	Manual review process	AI-assisted qualification matching	Faster identification of qualified candidates
Reference Checks	Email-based system	Automated verification workflow	Higher completion rate and consistency
Reporting	Standard reports	Customizable analytics dashboard	Better insights into hiring metrics

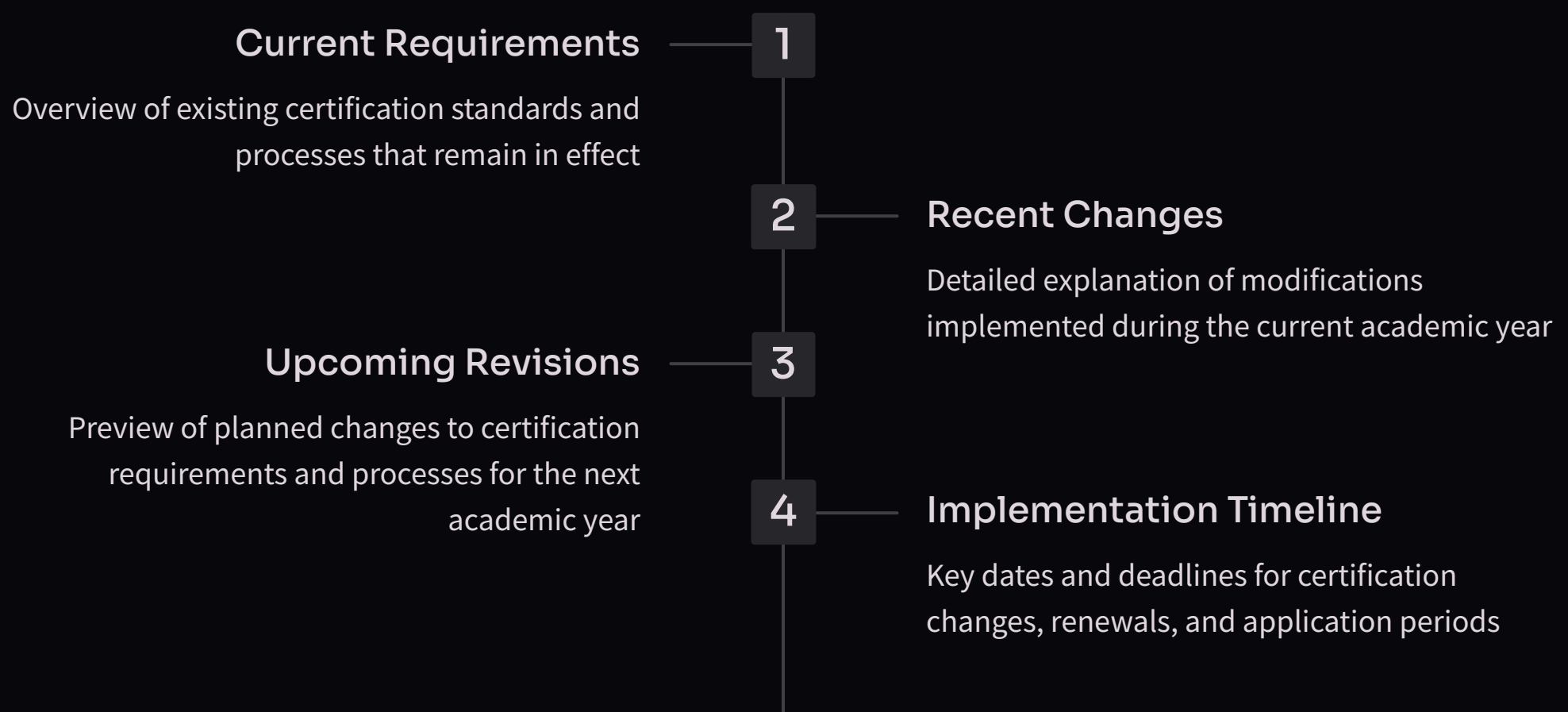
The session will also address upcoming developments planned for the Hire True platform, giving attendees insight into future capabilities and allowing them to prepare for these enhancements. Coan and Wilson will conclude with a Q&A session, providing attendees with the opportunity to address specific questions about the platform and its application to their district's unique hiring challenges.

AL SDE Certification Updates

Shavon Harris will deliver a crucial session on the latest updates to Alabama State Department of Education (SDE) certification requirements and processes. This informative presentation will ensure that human resources professionals and administrators are fully informed about current and upcoming changes to educator certification in the state.

The session will begin with an overview of recent modifications to certification requirements for various teaching and administrative positions. Harris will clarify new pathways to certification, changes in renewal requirements, and updates to emergency certification provisions. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of how these changes may affect their current and future staffing strategies.

Harris will also address the certification application process, highlighting recent improvements to the online system and providing guidance on how to navigate common challenges. The presentation will include tips for ensuring complete and accurate submissions, reducing processing delays, and effectively communicating certification requirements to current and prospective employees.



Special attention will be given to areas of certification that are currently experiencing shortages, with Harris providing information about alternative pathways and emergency provisions designed to address these challenges. The session will also cover reciprocity agreements with other states and how these affect the certification process for out-of-state candidates.

This session is essential for human resources directors, certification specialists, and administrators involved in the hiring and retention of certified personnel. Attendees will leave with actionable information that can be immediately applied to their certification management processes.