

# NJASA & L.E.A.D

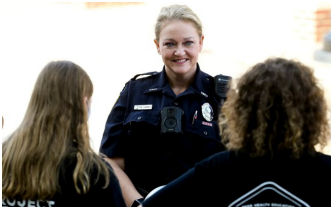
## Summer Conference

July 31, 2025



Pozyski Hall

400 Cedar Ave, West Long Branch, NJ 07764



The New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA) and Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.) form a strong partnership to create safer communities.

We achieve this by working collaboratively with educators, community leaders, families, and support organizations. Together, we provide essential resources and training to both police officers and school personnel.



The mission of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA), the unifying professional association of school leaders, is to ensure a superior statewide system of education by influencing and affecting educational policy, regulations and legislation; and by maximizing the capacity and effectiveness of school leaders through professional development programs and support services.

Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence (L.E.A.D.) is a non profit (501C3) organization, supported by dedicated police officers, committed to protecting our youth and communities from the proliferation of drugs, drug related crimes, peer to peer/cyber bullying and violence.



# Conference Schedule

## 8:00 AM Check In & Breakfast

8:45	Welcome and Program Overview	Dr. Richard Bozza, Executive Director New Jersey Association of School Administrators
8:50	Introduction of Keynote Presenter	Nicholas DeMauro, CEO & President Law Enforcement Against Drugs
	Keynote Presentation	Jack Jacobs, Colonel US Army (Retired) Congressional Medal Of Honor Recipient New Jersey Hall of Fame Inductee



Jack Howard Jacobs is no ordinary hero. He spent two tours of duty in Vietnam and was awarded the Medal of Honor. He also received two Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts for his service, and ultimately rose to the rank of colonel in an exemplary military career. Born in Brooklyn and raised in Woodbridge, Jacobs graduated from Woodbridge High School and went on to earn B.A. and M.A. degrees at Rutgers University.

## Session 1 Programs - 10:00 to 11:00 AM

### ***Cybersecurity Double Play: Block Threats & Vet App Requests***

**Berj Akian, CEO, ClassLink**

**Jamie Saponaro, Director of Community and Professional Learning, ClassLink**

**Location: Auditorium Bey Hall 113**



Logins posted on hacker forums. A flood of “Can we try this app?” emails. Either can expose student data without a repeatable plan. This action-oriented session delivers a two-part playbook any district can adopt:

- Automate dark-web scans, then trigger rapid password resets before attackers can gain access.
- Route every new software request through an approval flow that checks security, privacy, budget, and interoperability—without slowing instruction.

Outcome: a concise blueprint for blocking threats and green-lighting classroom apps with confidence.



### ***BTAM - From Law to Opportunity, Seeing Threat Assessment and MANAGEMENT as an Opportunity to Improve School Climate Safety***

**Dr. Mary Ann Bell, Superintendent, Burlington Township**

**Location: Room 129 Bey Hall**

Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) has been the law for three years, yet some school leaders have not seen the broader value. Schools may be missing opportunities to use the law and research based strategies to ensure student safety and help prevent targeted acts of violence, not just school shootings! Using real world scenarios, participants will be able to consider their responses to cases and determine if their BTAM practice is focused on helping students or just being compliant.

### ***The Digital Guardians – Bridging Technology and Safety in Modern Schools***

**Moderator:** David Marion, Principal/School Safety Specialist, West Orange Public Schools

**Fil Santiago:** Director of Technology and Administrative Services, West Orange Public Schools

**James O'Boyle:** Director of Technology, Hamilton Township School District

**Andrew Levine:** Director of Technology and Innovation, New Brunswick Public Schools

**Location:** Room 130 Bey Hall

Gone are the days when school safety relied solely on physical locks and patrolling personnel. Our panelists will delve into how their roles have expanded to encompass the strategic implementation and management of cutting-edge digital security infrastructure. They will share their insights on the challenges and triumphs of integrating technologies such as AI-powered surveillance, advanced access control systems, real-time communication platforms, and sophisticated data analytics for threat assessment.



### ***Beyond Panic to Promise: Reimagining Physical and Digital Learning Spaces for Today's Students***

**Dr. Kimberley Markus**

**Former NJ Commissioner of Education and Founder of Education Advisors**

**Location:** Room 131 Bey Hall

This session explores how leaders can intentionally integrate physical and digital environments post-pandemic. We'll examine the distinct pedagogical approaches required in each space and why understanding these differences is crucial for student success. Join us to envision thoughtful educational frameworks that move beyond crisis response toward purposeful innovation.

### ***Using a Survivor's Lens to Address Human Trafficking Education***

**Patti Pfeifer, Outreach Coordinator, NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking**

**Gina Cavallo, Survivor, NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking**

**Location:** Room 132 Bey Hall



The feature of this interactive training is learning from a human trafficking survivor about what the issue entails and how to prevent trafficking by empowering adults/students to take awareness actions. The first part consists of an HT 101 PowerPoint presentation followed by a survivor's experiences.

## **Session 2 Programs - 11:10 AM to 12:10 PM**

### ***Holding It All In: Navigating Grief, Trauma, and the Urgent Need for Mental Health Supports in Schools***

**Nicole A. Hall, NJ4S-CGS with Acenda Integrated Health**

**Location:** Auditorium Bey Hall 113



This session will explore the often unseen emotional struggles students face, including grief, trauma, and the lasting impact of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Participants will gain insight into how these challenges affect student well-being and learn practical strategies to create safer, more supportive school environments.





## ***Crisis and Creativity***

**Chip Chantry, Teacher/Coach and Jared Scherz, Teacher/Coach CEO**

**Location: Room 129 Bey Hall**

In a recent survey of one district in Monmouth County, 46.7% of leaders said they would better enjoy their job with more time for creativity/ innovation. This interactive workshop is led by a clinical psychologist and professional comedian, so be careful at what you laugh at. With a hint of entertainment and a plethora of fun, we explore the downward spiral of crisis and the healing process of creativity.



## ***Building a Positive School Workplace Culture for Staff Attendance***

**Charity Comella, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel**

**West Windsor-Plainsboro Schools**

**Location: Room 130 Bey Hall**

Staff Attendance is becoming one of the most critical concerns for school district leaders. In this breakout session, participants will discuss what constitutes absenteeism, its negative impacts, and common reasons for why it's gotten worse. Suggestions for developing clear attendance policies, implementing attendance tracking systems, analyzing attendance data and reporting systems will be provided. Legal and ethical considerations such as compliance with labor laws and maintaining privacy/confidentiality during such procedures will be shared. Lastly, an emphasis for promoting a positive work environment, provision of resources and support will remain a consistent theme throughout.

## ***Designing a Collaborative, Discussion-Based School Administrator Training Program to Prepare for Emergency Evacuations***

**Jeff Gale, Director & Dr. Thomas Gambino**

**NJ Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness, NJ DOE**

**Location: Room 131 Bey Hall**



This presentation will guide participants through a structured process for developing and facilitating discussions with staff and stakeholders to prepare for emergency evacuations of school facilities. Attendees will learn to identify key partners essential for evacuation planning, understand the various types of emergencies that may necessitate evacuation or relocation of students and staff, and recognize evacuation procedures specific to each identified emergency type. Additionally, the session will cover crucial elements for an effective training program, including selecting appropriate relocation sites for different emergencies, establishing effective communication channels with staff, stakeholders, and parents, and ensuring safe and efficient egress from school facilities.



## ***Legal Ramifications—Federal vs. Local Policy***

**David Rubin, Esquire, Busch Law Group LLC**

**Location: Room 132 Bey Hall**

The steady stream of Executive Orders, “Dear Colleague” letters, FAQs and other directives from Washington since January addressing DEI, transgender students and other sensitive issues have raised significant legal questions about the role of the federal government in local educational policy-making. Join veteran school board attorney David B. Rubin, Esq., for an up-to-the-minute breakdown of where we are, how we got here, and where we may be headed.

### ***Getting a Handle on School Security, Facts, Myths and a Proactive Approach***

**Frank Messineo, Principal /Owner - Solutions Architecture**

**Location: Auditorium Bey Hall 113**



Solutions Architecture will be presenting an informational seminar geared toward providing facts and discussing the need for security “beyond hardware.” A large part of the presentation is about debunking the myths of “miracle products” and “guaranteed safety” and applies attention to the behavioral aspects of these tragic events. We also focus on the relationship between local law enforcement and the School District and urge school officials to “Take their time evaluate and implement measures that will last far beyond the latest and immediate crisis phase.”

### ***Alert - Your Student Has Experienced a Traumatic Event Out of School***

**Steve Matusz, Executive Director of Exceptional Children, Millville Public Schools**

**Tony Trongone, Retired Superintendent, Millville Public Schools**

**Dr. Carmelo Callueng, Associate Professor, Rowan University**

**Location: Room 129 Bey Hall**



This session will provide an understanding of assessing and addressing mental health issues experienced by students in crisis outside the school building. Learn how communication between local police and school personnel can save lives.

### ***AI in Education: Research, Updates, and a Path Forward***

**Dr. Derek Tranchina, Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission**

**Location: Room 130 Bey Hall**



AI is no longer on the horizon—it’s already in our schools. But how are educators actually using it? What’s working, what’s not, and how can school leaders balance innovation with academic integrity and student safety? This session explores where we are in the AI-in-education journey, highlighting recent research, real-world use cases, and a practical path forward. Participants will leave with timely insights, tangible examples, and actionable steps to take back to their districts.



### ***Attendance Matters: Districtwide Strategies for Tackling Chronic Absenteeism***

**Dr. Faye Saul-Lewis**

**Location: Room 131 Bey Hall**

Chronic absenteeism is more than a data point—it is a signal of deeper issues that impact student learning and school climate. In this professional development session, school and district leaders will explore system-wide approaches to improve attendance. By the end of the session, attendees will be equipped with actionable strategies to lead their schools or districts in reducing chronic absenteeism and reengaging students—especially those most affected by barriers to consistent attendance.

### ***Next Gen Leadership - School Safety in a Multi-Generational Community***

**Dr. Scott Rocco, Superintendent, Hamilton Township Public Schools**

**Location: Room 132 Bey Hall**



School safety is a priority for every leader. To create a safe school environment today's leaders need to know how to communicate, connect, and engage different generations. Each generation has their own preferred ways to get information, learn, and communicate. This session will discuss the seven generations currently interacting with each other and how today's leaders can use this knowledge for school safety and ultimately become Next Gen Leaders.



**Thanks to the Sponsors for Today's Program!**

## Prime Sponsors

NJ4S is a statewide, innovative hub-and-spoke model which supports youth mental wellness and promotes prevention of bullying, teen suicide, substance use, and more. Most importantly, the hub staff will connect students and their parents/caregivers to other services that support students' social, emotional and mental health and well-being. Acenda's longstanding commitment to the students and families in our communities, as well as our belief in trust-based partnerships, is a great benefit to the NJ4S program.



Create an environment where education and technology work together so learning can flourish. From access and analytics to cybersecurity and identity management, ClassLink's affordable and reliable solutions help you use technology in ways that promote and support learning. See why over 3,000 school systems love learning with ClassLink.

Proximity Learning delivers live, online instruction directly into your district's classrooms. We fill critical vacancies with certified teachers, ensuring interactive learning and student success.

- Certified, reliable remote instructors
- Teaching model emulated traditional classrooms
- Proven results verified by peer-reviewed study
- Flexible - your schedule, your curriculum



At Solutions Architecture, we are COMMITTED to our clients and to the process. Our COLLABORATION with the project team, along with our consistent COMMUNICATION throughout the life of the project, yields positive results. With Solutions Architecture you will have a single source of responsibility and one person to call for every need.



## Sponsors



The attorneys at The Busch Law Group have a shared philosophy that we bring to the practice of law. Each of us provides our clients with prompt and reliable personal attention that is necessary to work through any issue that may arise. We rely on our extensive expertise and backgrounds to provide practical advice in an efficient, cost-sensitive manner.

SAM Labs offers comprehensive resources and support for educators implementing STEAM in classrooms. Our curriculum-aligned lesson packs, starter lessons, plans, and standards alignment maps empower educators to establish foundational future-ready skills in elementary and middle school students.