

What Risks Should We Be Talking About?

Risk management is an intentional approach to identifying, evaluating, and planning for risks that will likely affect your school. Finances, operations, and even your mission is at stake. Risks confronting independent schools are changing rapidly and continue to grow in complexity. How can school leadership decide which risks require attention, and who should focus on them? Informed by survey responses from nearly 250 independent school administrators about reputation and other risks that “keep you up at night,” this session will identify those risks that the prudent business officer should plan for in the current environment. The session will also provide advice on key considerations for managing those risks, which the business officer can use to jump start campus conversations.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will learn how to identify, evaluate, and plan for risks that will likely affect their schools.

Presenter: Constance Neary, J.D., Vice President for Risk Management, United Educators

Constance Neary is the vice president for risk management at United Educators (UE) and, in this role, oversees research examining liability claims trends and practices used to successfully manage risk in the educational setting. Neary works with a diverse staff of 30 subject matter experts, learning designers and technologists, and consultants to deliver EduRisk publications, webinars and workshops, online courses, and consulting services to meet the needs of UE member institutions committed to reducing risk. In addition, Neary oversaw the 2017 launch of the Canopy Programs business unit to expand UE’s mission of serving education with fee-based risk management and compliance training resources to educational institutions beyond the UE membership.

Neary presents regularly on liability and risk management topics to associations and insurance industry groups serving all segments of education. She serves as a trustee of Vermont Law School, is a past recipient of Risk and Insurance’s “risk innovator of the year” award and has participated on various committees of the National Association of College and University Attorneys and the editorial board of the Journal of College and University Law. Recently, Neary oversaw a study of risk management practices co-sponsored by UE and the National Association of Independent Schools, and coauthored the resulting “Rise above Uncertainty” report. Prior to UE, Neary practiced law at Steptoe & Johnson in Washington, D.C.

She completed her undergraduate studies at Westminster College (PA) in theater arts, received her law degree from Vermont Law School, and completed executive education at the business schools of University of Virginia and George Mason University.

Field of Study: Management Services

Prerequisites: Basic knowledge of independent school finances

Advanced Preparation: None

Program Level: Update

Delivery Method: Group Live

Participants will earn 1 CPE credit.