

The Ever-Elusive Financial Dashboard

NBOA has tapped the collective wisdom and experience of its staff and board of directors (comprised almost entirely of very seasoned independent school business officers) to create a three-page dashboard with key financial indicators and trends that track the most important data points boards and administrators should use to understand a school's financial position and sustainability. Use the dashboard as is or add your own performance indicators that tell your school's individual story.

Jennifer Osland Hillen, CPA, CGMA, Vice President, Professional Development and Business Affairs, NBOA

Jennifer graduated in the top 7% of her class, magna cum laude from Birmingham-Southern College with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting, Spanish, and business. She studied abroad at St. John's College of Oxford University in 2004.

A Certified Public Accountant, Jennifer worked in assurance and advisory services for international "Big 4" public accounting firm, Ernst & Young, before joining Harpeth Hall School as controller in 2009 followed by associate director of finance and operations. In 2017 she was named director, accounting, finance & tax programs and later in the year served concurrently as interim director, professional development for the National Business Officers Association (NBOA), a national not-for-profit membership association that serves all business operations (including finance, HR, facilities, IT, security, regulatory compliance, etc.) for nearly 1,400 independent schools in the US and several other countries. In 2018 she was named to a senior leadership role as vice president, professional development and business affairs, overseeing all aspects of NBOA's programming and serving as a content expert on independent school business operations, in addition to acting as the liaison to the board's strategic initiatives committee.

Having served as the Junior League of Nashville's first executive vice president in 2015-16, she accepted the nomination and was slated by the membership to serve in the role of president in 2018-19, the JLN's 97th year. In this position, she is honored to be a member of the Leadership Nashville class of 2018 and serves on the board of the Monroe Carell Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt from 2017-2019. Her favorite non-board JLN positions have included serving as the inaugural chair of the Mentor Program, which recommended to the board that the League eliminate the sponsor requirement to join. Additionally, she chaired the Community Impact Committee that selected the League's first-ever multi-year community focus/impact model of childhood obesity. Jennifer is an alumna of the Young Leaders Council and has served on advisory councils for W. O. Smith School as well as LEAD Public Schools. She was also a 30 Under 30 honoree of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Jennifer wrote and illustrated the bestselling book, GOODNIGHT, NASHVILLE, giving a portion of each sale to a local non-profit.

Mary Kay Markunas, Director, Research and Member Resources, NBOA

Mary Kay Markunas is NBOA's Director, Research and Member Resources. She leads the research efforts for the organization, including the ongoing development of NBOA's data collection platform Business Intelligence for Independent Schools (BIIS). She also supports the membership by developing and delivering professional development content, as well as assisting members find and utilize the NBOA resources. Before joining NBOA, Markunas served as the Director of Finance and Operations at The Avery Coonley School for 12 years, and prior to that, in various financial and operational roles at Motorola, Inc. as well as a short stint in engineering consulting. She holds a B.S. from Purdue University and an MBA from the University of Michigan.

Additional Information

Participants will earn 1 CPE credit.

Field of Study: Finance

Prerequisites: Basic knowledge of independent school finances

Advanced Preparation: None

Program Level: Update

Delivery Method: Group Live