

Board Smart

Our Curriculum

Overview Series

Currently Available

- The Importance of Balance (Intergenerational Fairness, Diversity, Participation)
- Importance of Public Pension Benefits (Benefits to Retirees and the Broader Economy)
- The State of Public Pensions (Economic Stability / Funded Status)
- Key Differences Between Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Plans
- Annual Required Contribution Basics
- Expected Rate of Return Basics
- Differences Between the US and Canadian Models

Planned

- Pension Fundamentals: Public v. Private Sector Plans
- Pension Soundness Basics (Long-term Solvency)
- Pension Plan Funding and Actuarial Processes

Governance Matters Series

Currently Available

- The Prudent Fiduciary
- Fiduciary Fundamentals
- The Role of the Fiduciary Board
- Powers of the Fiduciary Board
- Public Pension Governance Structures
- Operating in the Public Sector Fishbowl
- Board Self-Evaluation
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Governance Policies
- Fiduciary Duty and the Job of the Board

Planned

- Governing Legislation: Common and System Specific Policies and Interpretations; Statutory Governance
- Ethics, Code of Conduct, Conflicts of Interest

Board Operations and Dynamics Series (Conducting the Business of the Board)

Currently Available

- Choosing the Right Leadership (Hiring and Succession Planning for the CEO/CIO)
- The Role of Committees
- The Role of Chair and Vice-Chairs
- Evaluating the Executive Director

Planned

- Board Use of Third-Party Service Providers

Decision and Risk Intelligence Series

Currently Available

- The Board's Focus on Strategy
- Peer Benchmarking
- A Primer on Performance and Risk – Part 1
- Performance and Risk – Part 2
- Risk Appetite and Risk Tolerance – Part 3
- The Role of the Board in Oversight of Performance and Risk – Part 4
- Insight Not Overload

Planned

- Enterprise Risk Management and Risk Assessment
- Optimizing Use of the Board Portal
- Operational Risk

Reporting and Reassurance Series

Currently Available

- Financial Management Essentials

Planned

- Enterprise Reassurance and Verification (The Role of Internal Audit, Compliance and Risk, External Audit, and Other Third Parties)
- Compliance and Controls

Asset Management Oversight Series

Currently Available

- Setting the Course (Asset Management Basics)
- Understanding Investment Risk
- Overseeing the Course
- Investment Beliefs
- Overseeing Investment Operations
- Corporate Governance and Proxy Voting – An Overview
- The Basics of Private Equity Investing and Costs
- Corporate Governance in the US

Planned

- Outsourcing Investment Management
- Should We Manage Assets Internally?
- Board Oversight of Delegated Investment Strategy
- Investment Strategies and Policies Review
- Board Oversight of Private Equity
- What the Board Should Know About Due Diligence and Monitoring
- Understanding Performance Reporting, Valuations, Investment Accounting
- A Primer on Asset Classes
- ESG and International Corporate Governance
- The Key Investment Theories Trustees Should Know

Pension Administration Series

Currently Available

- Actuarial Basics for Defined Benefit Plans

Planned

- Defined Benefit Plan Design and Rules
- Hybrid Pension Plans
- Appeals and Rules Interpretation
- Basics of Pension Operations and Board Oversight

Defined Contribution/Deferred Compensation Plans Series

Planned

- Types of Public Sector Defined Contribution and Deferred Compensation Plans (401(a), 403(b), 457, etc.)
- Fiduciary Responsibilities of DC Boards
- Selecting DC Service Providers: Record Keepers, Consultants, Fee Management
- DC Plan Participant Education and Optimizing Participation
- DC Investment Options
- Benchmarking DC Performance

Health Benefits Management Series

Planned

- Health Insurance Administration Overview
- What Trustees Should Know About Health Care Plans
- Health Insurance Triple Aim (Care, Health, Cost)
- Importance of Health Insurance in Workforce Recruitment and Retention
- Health Insurance Benchmarking: Vital Signs of Vital Functions
- Health Care Management
- Pharmacy Management

Enterprise Administration Series

Currently Available

- The Cyber Threat: What Board Members Should Know

Planned

- The Chief Financial Officer's Role
- Information Technology and the Board's Role
- Security and Cybersecurity
- Human Resources
- Organization and Staff Operations
- Procurement / Vendor Relationships
- Resourcing and Budgeting
- Legal Support