

Strategic Financial Modeling for Day School Stability **FAQ's**

Why come to this conference?

This conference is intended to introduce and train schools in the use of a multi-year strategic planning tool. Many schools think of financial management solely on a year by year basis. Even those that do think longer term often do not follow a formalized plan. Schools that attend the conference will leave with the beginnings of a strategic financial plan, developed using a customizable tool. Schools will be eligible to apply for post-conference coaching to further refine their plans and integrate them into school life.

What is a strategic financial plan?

A strategic financial plan is an expression of a school's mission and vision in financial terms over a multi-year time frame. It tethers the mission or vision to the annual budget. Strategic priorities, as well as the means to pay for them, are carefully built into the plan. Although these plans do not preempt the budgeting process, they can ease the process by enabling leaders to do some thinking in advance and frontload certain decisions. These plans can and should be amended year by year.

How will schools develop these plans at the conference?

A customizable, computer-based tool is making its debut at this conference. Participants will have the opportunity to begin to work with this tool under the direction of the tool's designer, Sacha Litman, of Measuring Success. Sessions will help schools to evaluate their budgeting assumptions and assess their environmental realities as they begin to use the tool.

Why register as a team?

The conference program was specifically designed for school teams, because it is our belief that strategic financial planning must be collaborative and shared by key personnel and lay leaders. Team members will engage with one another around issues such as: their school's mission, the assumptions the school brings to budget development, and the environmental realities of the school's community. To participate, schools must send a team of at least two individuals. This team can include two or more of the following: head of school, business manager, executive director, board chair, treasurer, finance committee member, or others.

What do I need?

Schools should bring a lap top computer, a copy of their mission, vision, or philosophy statement, annual budget, and their Yardstick™ customized report, if available.

Can I see the schedule?

A draft program is available [here](#).

How do I prepare my school for the impact of this conference?

Ensure that this conference is on the agenda of an upcoming board meeting. Hand out these FAQ's, the conference program, and the invitation and discuss:

- What your school wants to get out of a new financial plan
- How it will be integrated into the school after the conference
- How the school might use a PEJE coach, if awarded, to further refine the plan and integrate it into the school.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions about logistics, please contact Mark Blechner at mark@peje.org or 617.367.0001 x 144. If you have questions about the program, please contact Stephane Acel at stephane@peje.org or 617.367.0001 x 125.