

# Karen Smith, RTSBA, CPA, CIA

## **Biography**

Karen Smith is the Chief Financial Officer at Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest district in Texas, with over 118,000 students and a budget of \$1.1 billion. She has worked in school business for 30 years with experience in finance, risk management, child nutrition, technology, parent organizations and internal audit.

Karen is an active member of the Texas ASBO affiliate, serving as its board president in 2016. She has written curriculum, presented at conferences and webinars, mentored new business managers, participated in various committees, and continues to be an engaged leader.

Her passion in recent years has been to give back to other school business officials and advocate at the state and federal levels to help legislators understand the concerns and needs of school districts and their students.

Karen provided pivotal testimony to the Texas legislature regarding the need to revise the existing school funding system and was invited to testify on the funding formula for at-risk students. She was selected as a member of the State Compensatory Education Allotment Advisory Committee by the Texas Education Agency.

Karen has also been very involved in ASBO International where she has served as a member and vice chair on ASBO's Legislative Advisory Committee, advocated at the U.S. Capitol, presented sessions at the annual conference, developed webinars, and assisted with a crowdfunding toolkit.

Karen is a native of Houston, Texas where she currently resides with her husband Joe.

## **Vision Statement**

Public education is a gift. While each of us have different state and national laws and school funding systems, our duty as school business officials is to ensure a strong public education system is available to all children. As a globally recognized authority in the school business profession, ASBO is in a unique position to bring us together and make a difference in public education.