PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

MEGA CONFERENCE 2019

JULY 15-19, 2019 · MOBILE, AL

Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel
Renaissance Battle House Hotel
Mobile Convention Center
MEGA 2019 GENERAL INFORMATION

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM: The preliminary program will be posted on the Alabama State Department of Education’s Website (www.alsde.edu). Postings on the Web site will provide a complete description of all conference sessions and activities.

LODGING: Each attendee is responsible for making her/his hotel arrangements for the conference. Request Alabama Department of Education MEGA Conference rates when making reservations. The Alabama State Department of Education accepts no responsibility for lodging.

CONFERENCE CHECK-IN: Upon arrival, participants may pick up materials at the registration desk in the Mobile Convention Center beginning at 8 am on Monday, July 15, and continuing each day of the conference.

WHAT TO WEAR: Participants are invited to dress comfortably and may want to consider bringing a sweater or jacket for cooler environments. Room temperatures have been set to provide an atmosphere that is most comfortable for a majority of participants; therefore, it is most important that participants who are uncomfortable in cooler climates consider this situation in planning their conference attire.

PARKING INFORMATION: Parking is available at the Mobile Convention Center for approximately $5 per day. Since there are only 220 available spaces, attendees may want to consider carpooling. Those registered at the Renaissance Riverview Hotel may choose valet parking at approximately $20 per day or self-park for $14 per day. Limited parking is available on nearby side streets. Some parking areas may be a long distance from the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, the Renaissance Battle House Hotel, and the Mobile Convention Center. NOTE: The Renaissance Battle House Hotel is valet-only.

MOBILE CIVIC CENTER PARKING/SHUTTLE SERVICE: Additional parking (at no cost to MEGA Conference 2019 attendees) will be available at the Mobile Civic Center on Civic Center Drive. Free air-conditioned shuttle (15-passenger activity bus) round-trip service will be provided daily in 15-minute intervals from the parking lot of the Mobile Civic Center to the Mobile Convention Center. Shuttle service will begin on Monday, July 15, 2019, at 12:00 noon and will run Tuesday through Thursday from 7 am to 5:00 pm. Shuttle service will conclude on Friday, July 19, 2019, at 12:00 noon. The distance from the Mobile Civic Center to the Mobile Convention Center is approximately 1.5 miles. Security will be provided at the Civic Center only during the hours of the shuttle service. There will be covered waiting areas at the Mobile Convention Center and the Mobile Civic Center for the shuttle service.

DIRECTIONS TO MOBILE CIVIC CENTER: Traveling I-65 South, take I-10 East to Exit 26A (Canal Street); turn left at the end of the exit ramp onto Canal Street. Proceed to Claiborne Street; turn right. Entrance to Civic Center Parking is on Claiborne Street.

CONFERENCE FORMAT: The Mega Conference 2019 will begin Monday, July 15, at 1:00 pm with a General Session in the Mobile Convention Center. Concurrent sessions will be held beginning on Tuesday, July 16, through Thursday, July 18, with morning sessions from 8:15-11:30 and afternoon sessions from 1:00-4:15 pm. The conference will end Friday, July 19, at the conclusion of the 8:15-11:30 morning sessions. All concurrent sessions will be related to Improving Schools: It’s Everybody’s Business.
MEGA 2019 Conference Schedule

Monday, July 15

MEGA 2019 OPENING SESSION
Mobile Convention Center · East and West Ballrooms

Monday, July 15, 2019 · 1:30 pm

Tuesday, July 16

8:15 am - 9:45 am.................... 90-Minute Sessions
8:15 am - 11:30 am............... 3-Hour/Half-Day Sessions
8:15 am - 4:15 pm.................. 6-Hour/Full-Day Sessions
10:00 am - 11:30 am........... 90-Minute Sessions

EXHIBIT HALL OPEN - VISIT EXHIBITS

11:30 am - 1:00 pm............... LUNCH – Visit Exhibits
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm................ 90-Minute Sessions
1:00 pm - 4:15 pm.............. 3-Hour/Half-Day Sessions
2:45 pm - 4:15 pm............... 90-Minute Sessions

Wednesday, July 17

8:15 am - 9:45 am.................. 90-Minute Sessions
8:15 am - 11:30 am............... 3-Hour/Half-Day Sessions
8:15 am - 4:15 pm............... 6-Hour/Full-Day Sessions
10:00 am - 11:30 am........... 90-Minute Sessions

EXHIBIT HALL OPEN - VISIT EXHIBITS

11:30 am - 1:00 pm............... LUNCH – Visit Exhibits
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm............... 90-Minute Sessions
1:00 pm - 4:15 pm.............. 3-Hour/Half-Day Sessions
2:45 pm - 4:15 pm............... 90-Minute Sessions

Thursday, July 18

8:15 am - 9:45 am.................. 90-Minute Sessions
8:15 am - 11:30 am............... 3-Hour/Half-Day Sessions
8:15 am - 4:15 pm............... 6-Hour/Full-Day Sessions
10:00 am - 11:30 am........... 90-Minute Sessions

EXHIBIT HALL OPEN - VISIT EXHIBITS

11:30 am - 1:00 pm............... LUNCH – Visit Exhibits
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm............... 90-Minute Sessions
1:00 pm - 4:15 pm.............. 3-Hour/Half-Day Sessions
2:45 pm - 4:15 pm............... 90-Minute Sessions

Friday, July 19

8:15 am - 9:45 am................ 90-Minute Sessions
8:15 am - 11:30 am............... 3-Hour/Half-Day Sessions
10:00 am - 11:30 am........... 90-Minute Sessions
Gifted Updates
This session will focus on the updated gifted information at the ALSDE and how it affects the school districts. We will share the updated resources available on the ALSDE web site and on MOODLE. We will review the current and new forms to use for gifted referrals to eligibility. Participants will leave this session with many resources.
Location/Room: Location/Room: Clipper
Emily Hurst, Shirley Farrell

Better Conversations: Coaching Ourselves and Each Other To Be More Credible, Caring, and Connected
As educators we have the capacity for improving our schools by improving our communication. For that reason, striving to improve the way we communicate should be important to all of us. Since our beliefs shape our actions, we will examine beliefs and principles that are at the heart of better conversations. We will also explore several habits to support these beliefs as we strive to have better conversations. Our schools are only as good as the conversations within them.
Location/Room: Crystal Ballroom
Ann Hoffman

Rethink Alabama CTE: Maximizing Learning Opportunities for Students
Strong career and technical education (CTE) programs provide a lasting mark on how well current and future workforces are prepared to meet the diverse needs of industries and employers. We also know that education is an essential component to any state’s economic and workforce plans. Join us as we share what is new in the reauthorization of the Perkins Act that will maximize opportunities to improve learning and outcomes for Alabama’s students that lead to lifelong advancement and success. We will also engage participants in conversation about what high-quality CTE programs should offer when aligned with state education, economic, and workforce priorities. Let us reset and rethink college and career readiness together!
Location/Room: 105
Tommy Glasscock

ALCSS Presents Engagement and Assessment Strategies in the Content Areas
Plan to participate in this workshop designed to engage students while formatively assessing student achievement of content knowledge. The presenters will use social studies content to present the strategies, while participants take part in doing them. Strategies can be used with upper elementary, middle school, and high school students and are easily adapted to fit the classroom teacher’s grade level and subject. The presenters represent the Alabama Council for Social Studies, who is providing door prizes for a few active participants!
Location/Room: 106A
Melinda Staubs

A Can Do School in a Can’t Do Atmosphere
This presentation will provide participants with an understanding of attitudes and skills needed to successfully support students. It will guide teachers and school leaders to become the model for what the whole school should be in high poverty areas. Additionally, faculty and staff can lead students in taking responsibility for their own learning while being their coach.
Location/Room: 106B
Johnny Mitchell

Teachers, When Doing Mathematical Tasks, Who Does The Work?
When using tasks in the classroom, who does most of the work? This session takes a look at the role of the teachers and the student when using good mathematical tasks in the classroom. Come and join us in looking at teacher and student practices.
Location/Room: 107A
Phenicia Nunn, Todd Beers

I Have My Data, Now What? Purposeful Planning with Scantron Performance Series Data
Participants will engage in job-embedded professional learning to improve their current data analysis practices with Scantron Performance Series data. They will develop prescriptive, Tier I and individualized lessons and formative assessments that address deficits identified in their class or school data. The following components of the Scantron engine will be used in this training: Standards Detail Report, Edgenuity, Suggested Learning Objectives, and Achievement Series. Participants will need their login information for Scantron and Edgenuity and a fully-charged electronic device for this session.
Location/Room: 107B
Courtney Giles

New 2019-20 Processes for AP Coordinators
Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, all schools offering AP® will register for AP Exams in the fall and have access to free classroom resources to support students and teachers throughout the year. In this workshop, AP coordinators will learn how to access, setup, and use the new use the AP Registration and Ordering system; manage the student roster; support AP teachers in accessing resources; navigate the AP Course Audit process; and order AP Exams. Q&A time will allow participants to ask questions and share feedback. AP coordinators, principals, district, and school staff are encouraged to attend.
Location/Room: 201A
Janet Swandol

ALSDE Updates
This session will provide conference attendees with updated information regarding ALSDE Counseling and Guidance initiatives, school counseling program accountability, best practices in school counseling, and school counseling program recognition.
Location/Room: 201B
Sean Stevens
A Comprehensive Overview Of Eprove Strategies

Participants will learn about the newest application/tool within the eProve™ suite-eProve Strategies. This new component of eProve enables institutions to follow a planning process to establish actionable strategies and cultivates a culture of continuous improvement. Is it guided by a four-phase process:

- Envisioning-looking ahead to anticipate the needs of stakeholders and the demands of the world at large.
- Planning-identifying proactive approaches to pursuing the institution’s mission and realizing its vision.
- Implementing-setting into motion the day-to-day work of continuous improvement while monitoring for progress and fidelity.
- Evaluating-making determinations regarding the effectiveness of continuous improvement efforts based on rigorous consideration of processes and results.

During the 2019-2020 School Year, Alabama schools will transition to this new application/tool to complete there Alabama Continuous Improvement Plan (ACIP) instead of ASSIST as previous years.

*There will be repeat sessions.

Location/Room: 202B
Andre Harrison

Transformation Academy Revisited (Elementary)

This session will bring participants of previous cohorts back together to discuss where they are in the improvement process, assistance needed, and next steps. Promising practices will be shared among participants.

Location/Room: 203A
Karen Anderson

Follow the Arrow - Using Alabama's Insight Tool with Performance Series Reports.

In archery, “follow the arrow” is a way of adjusting the site to properly hit the target. After your students have taken the Performance Series assessments, reports allow instructors to view summary and detailed reports of all the standards students have attained. Using that data along with the Alabama Insight tool can provide guidance for developing plan to target instructional needs.

Location/Room: 203B
Meg Lowry

Building a Culture of Critical and Creative Thinkers

This interactive workshop will define classroom culture leading to student success and provide the instructional leader with a research-based framework to create such an environment. Cooperative groups will engage in activities using creative and critical thinking skills utilizing the Talents Unlimited model. Educators will learn how to guide students to independent thinking, applying depth and complexity to responses to truly “own” their learning. Differentiation for gifted and special education learners will be addressed through application of the model, which will also help identify under-served populations. Student success is guaranteed through classroom discussions that promote engagement, relationships, self-confidence, and synergy.

Location/Room: 204A
Kelly Lomax

Navigating the Ins and Outs of the Student Data Application

Want to verify student data for accuracy and reporting? Come learn about the Student Data Application on the ALSDE Identify Management (AIM) platform. This session will provide an overview of the Student Data Application. This application includes all student data that is pulled from the Student Information System (SIS) through the accumulator. Data in this portal is used for reporting and funding purposes.

Location/Room: 204B
Miranda Bissoo

Special Education Services Updates

Staff from Special Education Services will provide updates and reminders.

Location/Room: Moonlight A & B
Crystal Richardson

Let's Make that Chromebook Shine!

The teams at Google have made some great advances to improve Chrome's accessibility and make it more inclusive to meet the needs of students with disabilities. We will discuss and showcase some of the new features and extensions that make Chrome an exceptional tool to aid students in gaining an education.

Location/Room: Moonlight C
Jeff Mega
Gadsden City Comprehensive Transition Program
The Transition Team from Gadsden City will discuss a remarkable local Transition program and the building process. Special education teachers will share information about the Transition elective courses in which the James Stanfield Transitions Curriculum and Practical Assessment and Exploration System (PAES) Lab are used to address skills from the Transition Standards including disability awareness, self-directed IEPs, behavior, and employability. Staff will describe community-based and job simulation training as well as student participation in Young Adults in Transition (YAIT) and Special Olympics. Finally, there will be an overview of the widely successful Beautiful Rainbow Café and its placement of students in private employment.
Location/Room: Moonlight E
Emily Day

The Natural Sciences: ASL Root Words
We are familiar with root words in English, but what about root words in American Sign Language (ASL)? Come learn ASL root words in scientific terms! Master the scientific meaning of very specific handshapes. Become familiar with the rules of ASL engagement in a scientific context. This training module gives you the opportunity to expand your vocabulary in ways that are easy to recall on the job. Interactive activities tackle these topics: 1) planetary science, 2) earth science, 3) life science, and 4) basic chemistry. It definitely looks easier than it sounds.
Location/Room: Riverboat
Molly O’Hara

Overview of Federal Programs for New Coordinators (morning)
Updates in Federal Programs for ALL Federal Program Coordinators (afternoon)
During the morning hours this session will be presented by staff from the Federal Programs Section and will provide information to new coordinators who need to administer the following programs: Title I, Parts A, C, and D; Title II Part A; Title III; Title IV, Part B; Title V; Title IX McKinney Vento Homeless Education. During the afternoon hours this session will provide an overview of Federal Programs’ Monitoring; the Continuous Improvement Plans; School Improvement; and new initiatives or updates within Federal Programs.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR I
Beth Joseph

Make Learning Fun:
Using Tech Tools for Active Learning
All you need to make learning fun is the right tech tool combined with an appropriate instructional strategy. Learn how to use these technology tools to increase participation and empower the learners in your classroom.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR III
Barry Wiginton

Tech Tools That Work For All Students:
From Enrichment To Intervention
Integrating technology into an already packed lesson plan is not always easy. We will share with you tips, tools, and suggestions for making the technology work for you and your students. Join us as we look at ways to integrate the digital literacy standards into things you may already be doing to intervene and extend your lesson. You will leave with a toolbox of not only tools but ways to integrate those tools into your lessons.
Location/Room: Riverview/Grand Bay
Melissa Mann

Oral Language for K-1: A Stepping-Stone to Comprehension
Over the past decade, our understanding of what is involved in reading fluency has been enlarged. Fluency requires that students read at an appropriate rate in order to free the reader's cognitive resources so that the meaning of the text can be the focus of the attention. In this session, participants will learn about the relationship between fluency and comprehension and how to embed effective fluency instruction across the curriculum. Participants will actively engage in diagnosing students' reading interferences and making a plan of action to assist students in moving forward with their reading.
Location/Room: Riverview/Windjammer
Wendy Warren

Legal Aspects of Special Education: What Successful School Principals and Staff Do (and Need to Know)
This session is based upon and with reference to the ALSDE’s “Help Guide” that was initially designed for school principals. The guide has recently been revised and is relevant for everyone. Julie Weatherly will highlight the top “need to know” legal requirements related to educating students with disabilities. Discussion will include parental rights and safeguards; child-find, evaluation and eligibility; IEP process, content and implementation; and important issues such as discipline and least restrictive environment. This session is repeated multiple times throughout the week to allow everyone an opportunity to attend. A copy of the revised “Help Guide” will be available for each participant.
Location/Room: Schooner
Julie Weatherly

Discover How Access To Special Ed Connection® Can Benefit You!
LRP Publications - the education community’s most trusted source for practical strategies and legal guidance for more than 40 years, brings you Special Ed Connection. The Alabama State Department of Education has paid for a subscription to Special Ed Connection so that every school district in the state can have access to the website! Special Ed Connection is the premier online resource to help you understand the myriad of laws and regulations that govern Special Education. Join us as we cover time-saving techniques, tips and tools to help you get the most out of this valuable resource.
Location/Room: Bienville Square
Kelly Whiting
Land of Confusion
This session includes a review of the Gifted Education world from the perspective of an individual who was once served in the gifted population. Now I provide training on working with students with exceptionalities that requires educators to think outside the box with students.
Location/Room: Clipper
James Sanders

School Nursing and Special Education Law: Hot Topics and Burning Questions
Both federal and state special education laws apply to the provision of school health and nursing services to public school students. Because most students with health care needs would more than likely be considered “students with disabilities” under these laws, they may be entitled to the protections afforded under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), as well as other applicable federal and state laws. This presentation will address current hot topics and attempt to answer burning questions arising under these laws as they relate to the provision of nursing and other school health services to students with disabilities.
Location/Room: Convention Center/West Ballroom
Julie Weatherly

Bridging the Gap: From IDEA Mediation to IDEA Facilitation
This seminar will examine conflict in the educational environment with a focus on using mediation and facilitation to devise and implement strategies for its prevention, management, and resolution at all levels of education, from K-12. Conflicts between and among students, faculty, parents, and administrators are addressed. Topics explored will include: overcoming impasse in mediation; dealing with difficult people; managing differing interests; IDEA mediation Follow Up: What, Why and How; navigating IEP team meetings; and the benefits of facilitated IEP team meetings.
Location/Room: Crystal Ballroom
Nika Gholston, Tamika Miller

Earning AdvancED STEM Certification for Your Career and Technical Education Facility - The Process
In December of 2018, the Muscle Shoals Career Academy (part of the Muscle Shoals, Alabama City School District) became the first career and technical educational facility in Alabama to earn the prestigious AdvancED STEM certification, an internationally recognized mark of quality for STEM schools and programs. Hear a firsthand account of the AdvancED process for preparing for the review — application, website development, alignment of standards and the on-site review visit.
Location/Room: 105
Caryn Hairell

The Laws of Motion: Integrating STEM with Physical Activity!
Numerous studies have shown that children who are active and healthy have a lower risk of juvenile behavior, an increase in academic achievement, and tend to have a much better self-image. This workshop integrates STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math with Physical Activity in the unique Skillastics® format that helps develop healthier, more productive children. This is a one-of-a-kind workshop!
Location/Room: 106A
Suzanne Stone

Balancing Work and Life to Improve Student Learning
In this presentation, participants will discuss specific stressors within the life of educators. The speaker strives to create an atmosphere of humor to actively engage participants as they learn specific skills necessary to thrive in life and in their classrooms. Visuals will be used to ensure that each participant has access to coping mechanisms to sustain them through the most trying situations that can occur in life. Participants will also explore the effectiveness that they have as educators. Utilizing strategies learned in this session will improve the ability to work with colleagues and students to improve teaching and learning.
Location/Room: 106B
Wendy Lang

Teachers, When Doing Mathematical Tasks, Who Does The Work?
When using tasks in the classroom, who does most of the work? This session takes a look at the role of the teachers and the student when using good mathematical tasks in the classroom. Come and join us in looking at teacher practices and student practices.
Location/Room: 107A
Phenicia Nunn, Todd Beers

RTI - Response to Instruction or Relationships to Improvement?
RTI is an effective process to assist students with academics. However, we have to look at every aspect of a student’s life in order to effectively help them be successful. In my role as the RTI Specialist, I make home visits, conference with students, meet with parents, and help make referrals to outside agencies that can offer added assistance at home and at school. All of these things are very beneficial to a student. However, my first priority is forming a relationship with that student and those parents in order for the child to have ALL of his/her needs adequately determined and met. We will show how we use RTI not only to offer academic interventions but also as a way of forming relationships to improve every area of the student’s life. Our goal is to see consistent and steady improvements and opportunities.
Location/Room: 107B
Wendy Arnold

New Opportunities for Alabama Middle and High Schools Based on a Proven Model of Improvement
A+ College Ready has worked with 180+ Alabama high schools in 80+ school districts. Alabama has led the nation in AP success growth in math, science and English. NOW, A+CR is expanding its successful training and incentive program to middle schools and to individual Advanced Placement teachers. Come learn how your high school, middle school and/or individual AP teachers can benefit from participation in this innovative approach to school improvement. Applications will be available.
Location/Room: 201A
Tammy Dunn

School Counseling Program Impact for School Instructional Leaders
This session will provide School Instructional Leaders with valuable information and best practices to understand the roles, duties and responsibilities of the school counselors.
Location/Room: 201B
Sean Stevens
Developing High-Quality, Technically Sound Items for Science Assessments

In this item writing workshop, science educators will be trained on how to write items to meet quality expectations, including how best to write items to measure the Alabama Course of Study Standards. Writers will be trained in the careful consideration of the standards, which will provide for the critical link between assessment questions and instruction in the classroom. Writers will also be trained to consider other important aspects of item writing, such as item context, assumed student knowledge, cognitive complexity, and depth of knowledge as reflected in the Alabama Course of Study Standards.

Location/Room: 201C
Anna Pavlik

Examining the ACT Writing Test

The ACT Writing Test is a 40-minute essay test that measures students' writing skills, but there is more to it than that. This workshop will help teachers mind and will cover in detail and with examples, the writing test format, and content (writing domains), how the test is scored, and will provide the writing rubrics along with examples of scored student writing samples. Teachers who attend will leave with a deeper understanding of the ACT Writing Test and can immediately incorporate this new knowledge and understanding to benefit their students in becoming College and Career Ready.

Location/Room: 201D
Bryan Williams

Professional Learning: Best Practices Utilizing Technolgy and Data

Effective and empowered teachers directly influence student outcomes. In this session participants will learn how technology can facilitate personalized adult learning in support of student achievement. Attendees will review best practices, learn how teacher and student data inform professional learning, and discover ways to deliver high quality content improving educator effectiveness.

Location/Room: 202A
Lisa Andreko

Achieving AdvancED STEM Certification and Implementing Effective Best Practices to Enhance STEM Opportunities for Learners

During this session, participants will learn about the elements of achieving AdvancED STEM Certification step-by-step. Participants will also explore the significance of STEM Education, apply the STEM Standard and Indicators, and understand the STEM certification process and requirements. In addition, participants will learn about the new and innovative best practices to enhance STEM opportunities for all learners.

Location/Room: 202B
Scott Davidson

SIG School Meeting - Journey to Sustainability

This meeting is required for all 9 SIG schools, and will discuss sustainable practices to support school turnaround and Improvement after SIG grant funding ends.

Location/Room: 203A
Karen Anderson

I Have My Data, Now What? Purposeful Planning with Scantron Performance Series Data

Participants will engage in job-embedded professional learning to improve their current data analysis practices with Scantron Performance Series data. They will develop prescriptive, Tier I and individualized lessons and formative assessments that address deficits identified in their class or school data. The following components of the Scantron engine will be used in this training: Standards Detail Report, Edgenuity, Suggested Learning Objectives, and Achievement Series. Participants will need their login information for Scantron and Edgenuity and a fully-charged electronic device for this session.

Location/Room: 203B
Courtney Giles

Overcoming Cultural Poverty, Disengaged Parents, and Apathetic Students.

Poverty is all too common in America's schools. What's rare, is an opportunity for educators to sit an absorb first-hand from a former at-risk student who dropped out of high school, endured a mother abusing drugs, absent father and learning disability. Ultimately, repeating two grades. In this engaging session participants will unlearn perceived fallacies about students from poverty as well as discover my 4 R's of education. Educators must be REAL with students and parents from poverty. Educators must understand that RESPECT is everything to today's youth (which is why when made to feel disrespected they go from calm to irate really quickly). Educators should make classroom material RELEVANT to the lives of the youth and Educators must form and nurture meaningful RELATIONSHIPS with each student. Craig's trademark slogan is "GED to PHD", which is a concrete paradigm that educators should never give up on any student.

Location/Room: 204A
Craig Boykin

Getting it Done Right: Special Education Processes 1-5

Staff from Special Education Services at the Alabama State Department of Education will conduct an interactive all-day session on the five special education processes. This training will help individuals who work with students with disabilities unpack the requirements for referral, eligibility, Individualized Education Program (IEP) development and implementation, reevaluation to determine continued eligibility, reevaluation to determine if changes need to be made to the IEP, annual IEP Team meetings, and IEP meetings to amend the annual IEP. Participants will have an opportunity for in-depth discussion, questions and answers.

Location/Room: Moonlight A
SES Staff

Resources for ALL

Learning need not be a chore. Learn some engaging ways to support all student learning. This session will highlight Universal Design for Learning (UDL) especially as it relates to inclusion and working with students with unique needs in the general education classroom.

Location/Room: Moonlight B
Sheila Bolling
Improving Co-Teaching: Elevating the Level of Instruction in the Co-Taught Classroom

Co-teaching is the most often used service delivery option to support students with disabilities in general education classrooms. This session is intended for professionals already familiar with co-teaching basics. We will focus on ways to differentiate content, process, and product and identify how co-teachers may incorporate specially designed instruction (SDI) into the co-taught classroom. We will specifically focus on integrating SDI and evidence-based practices strategically within the three high-yield co-teaching approaches.

Location/Room: Moonlight C
Donna Ploessl

Developing Transition-Focused IEPs Using Transition Assessment Data

The purpose of this session is to teach attendees to develop transition-focused IEPs through a two-phase process. The process involves (a) conducting age-appropriate transition assessments and (b) using the data from the assessment to develop student-centered transition-focused IEPs. Attendees will work through example case studies, receive handouts to guide their processing through the content presented, and receive handouts regarding pertinent resources.

Location/Room: Location/Room: Moonlight D
Ashley Vogt, Stephan Kwiatek

Ideal Experience for a Mainstreamed Student

When visualizing a student being happy and successful in a mainstreamed environment, what do you believe is needed to make that happen? To guide your visualization, stories from students will be shared along with recommended practices and a review of special education and civil rights laws. Hands-on discussion on how to handle common scenarios along with strategies for micro advocacy and role shifting will be provided, as well, by a dynamic Deaf attorney with extensive expertise in both advocacy and teaching.

Location/Room: Riverboat
Tawny Holmes Hlibok

Federal Programs eGAP 101

This session is for new Federal Program eGAP users. The consolidated Federal Programs application will be reviewed for new Federal Program Coordinators.

Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR I
Julie Turner

TransACT Parent Notifications - Part of Your Parent and Family Engagement Planning

Research shows that when parents and families engage in the education of their children, they tend to perform better academically. TransACT’s Parent Notices are an important tool to use to engage parents and families, especially those with limited proficiency in English. This presentation provides information about TransACT’s Parent Notices, highlighting notices for Title I, Parent and Family Engagement, School Improvement, ELs, and Students Experiencing Homelessness. This presentation covers how to access TransACT, the importance of communicating in a language parents can understand, and how to identify the notices that need to be sent, who to send them to, and when.

Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR II
David Holbrook

Becoming Computational Thinkers and Computing Analysis: PLUACLD680 Part Two

This session is open for all teachers and administrators. Join us as we explore the new digital literacy and computer science COS and participate in hands-on activities that encourage our students to become computational thinkers and collect, analyze and create new solutions to real world problems. Participants will be using data to analyze current issues in our society today. We will be flying and coding drones and discussing what you need to get off the ground with drones in your classroom and how drones are relevant to so many content area standards. Facilitators will be sharing resources and lesson plan ideas to get your students to become computational thinkers. * Interested participants who attend this session and TransACT's Parent Notices are an important tool to use to engage parents and families, especially those with limited proficiency in English. This presentation provides information about TransACT's Parent Notices, highlighting notices for Title I, Parent and Family Engagement, School Improvement, ELs, and Students Experiencing Homelessness. This presentation covers how to access TransACT, the importance of communicating in a language parents can understand, and how to identify the notices that need to be sent, who to send them to, and when.

Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR III
Elizabeth Sessions

Which Procedural Parts of the IEP Process Are the Most Judicially Vulnerable

This session will systematically address each of the procedural requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for free appropriate public education (FAPE) and a representative sample of court decisions applying each one. The results is an objective answer that shows the frequency and outcomes of judicial rulings for each of the procedural parts of the IEP process. The discussion of the practical meaning of these results carefully differentiates legal requirements, as determined by the courts, with both the other applicable legal forum—the ALSDE complaint and compliance process—and professional best practices.

Location/Room: Riverview/Grand Bay
Perry Zirkel

Vocabulary (K-1): A Stepping-Stone to Comprehension

Many studies have shown that reading ability and vocabulary size are related. In addition, as students encounter vocabulary in text and on assessments, their understanding of text may hinge on their background knowledge of the words. In this session, participants will learn how to select vocabulary words for instruction that students can use across content areas as well as some practical strategies for assisting students in the acquisition of vocabulary.

Location/Room: Riverview/Jubilee
Karen Rutledge-Bell

The Art of Early Childhood for Administrators: Recognizing the Little Moments That Create the Masterpiece

Research indicates that a high quality early childhood experience increases reading and math proficiency and decreases retention rates, special education referrals, and absenteeism. This presentation will show administrators and support personnel what developmentally appropriate practices look like in an early childhood classroom and how the benefits of a strong start will last a lifetime.

Location/Room: Riverview/Mobile Bay
Ede Wortham, Kiri McFarland
Writing (2-3): A Stepping-Stone to Comprehension
Writing in the elementary classroom is geared toward teaching students to produce high-quality writing for a variety of purposes. Writing, like reading, is defined from a developmental standpoint, which begins with the acquisition of foundational skills and then leads to the application of more sophisticated techniques (What Works Clearinghouse [WWC], 2012). Students should develop an early foundation in writing in order to communicate their ideas effectively and efficiently. In this session, participants will learn the what, why, and how associated with writing as a stepping-stone to comprehension.

Location/Room: Riverview/Windjammer
Wendy Warren

Earning AdvancED STEM Certification for Your Career and Technical Education Facility - The Process
In December of 2018, the Muscle Shoals Career Academy (part of the Muscle Shoals, Alabama City School District) became the first career and technical educational facility in Alabama to earn the prestigious AdvancED STEM certification, an internationally recognized mark of quality for STEM schools and programs. Hear a firsthand account of the AdvancED process for preparing the review — application, website development, alignment of standards and the on-site review visit.

Location/Room: 105
Caryn Hairell

You’ve Given the Civics Test Now What?
A locally-administered Civics test is required for students to complete the 12th grade government course in Alabama. This presentation will provide general information about Civics test administration, Achievement Series reports, and instructions for administering a preexisting Civics test in the coming school year. In addition, Scantron and ALSDE representatives will discuss best practices for using Civics test results to improve instruction.

Location/Room: 106A
Nettie Carson-Mullins

Understanding Behaviors Caused by Trauma and Mental Illness
This presentation covers the impact of trauma physically, academically, emotionally, and socially. Participants will examine mental health issues that affect teaching and learning. Participants will also learn ways to engage parents and community stakeholders in efforts to use restorative justice and proactive discipline measures to ensure safe learning environments.

Location/Room: 106B
Erica Butler

What a Successful, Collaborative Career Coach and Counseling Team Approach can mean for your Counseling Program
This session will showcase the positive collaboration with the Counselor and Career Coach.

Location/Room: 201B
Kay English

Shifting Paradigms: Using Performance Series as a Formative Assessment
During the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years, the Alabama State Department of Education utilized Scantron’s Performance Series test as its interim summative assessment for 3rd – 8th graders. Starting in 2019-20, Performance Series will return to its original position as a voluntary, K-12 formative assessment tool. In this session, we will discuss best practices for using Performance Series as a formative assessment and strategies for preparing students for high-stakes assessments through the implementation of Performance Series, Achievement Series, and Scantron Analytics.

Location/Room: 201D
Terrence Ingram

ACAP Summative Assessment
What we need to know about the new summative assessment - This session will allow participants to learn more about the upcoming ACAP assessment. Focus will be on technology enhanced questioning and automated constructed response.

Location/Room: 202A
Sarah Mitchell

Building Accomplished Middle Level Practice
In the age of accountability, our focus has narrowed. Districts and states launch initiatives to improve learning around Literacy (especially elementary) and College and Career Readiness (mostly high school). The plan for middle school seems to be “survive”. The good news is that we have DECADES of research on what works in educating young adolescents. Join us for a session to provide an overview of that research base, a brief look at understanding the adolescent brain, and the resources available for middle-level educators.

Location/Room: 203B
Andrew Maxey

The Transformative Influence of a Trauma Conscious Educator!
The impact of childhood trauma and chronic stress is one of the most pressing issues facing educators and society at large. If you work with youth there’s a good chance you worked with a student like Craig Boykin a former at-risk student who dropped out of high school, endured a mother abusing drugs, absent father and learning disability. Trauma prevents students from being able to engage fully in the present moment. In a trauma-informed school, the adults in the school community are prepared to recognize and respond to those who have been impacted by traumatic stress. Becoming a trauma-informed educator requires a layered approach to create an environment with clear behavior expectations for everyone, open communication, and sensitivity to the feelings and emotions of others. Within a school’s walls are especially vulnerable students, such as those with histories of neglect, trauma, or violence. Schools are well positioned to help these traumatized students.

Location/Room: 204A
Craig Boykin
ALSDE Applications 101: Cohort, Dropout, and College and Career Readiness
This session will provide an overview of the following applications on the ALSDE Identity Management (AIM) platform: Cohort, Dropout, and College and Career Readiness. This session will present basic tips for updating student data and navigating within these applications.
Location/Room: 204B
Marilyn Lewis

Let's Make that Chromebook Shine!
The teams at Google have made some great advances to improve Chrome's accessibility and make it more inclusive to meet the needs of students with disabilities. We will discuss and showcase some of the new features and extensions that make Chrome an exceptional tool to aid students in gaining an education.
Location/Room: Moonlight C
Jeff Mega

Global Communicator: Building your professional learning network
This session is open to all teachers and administrators. Join me as we explore the opportunities available when you become a connected educator. Developing a Personal/Professional learning network is one of the most powerful things you can do to improve your teaching and provide better outcomes for your students. This session focuses on 7 steps to building a PLN: defining a PLN, making connections, using Twitter to build a PLN, hashtags and Twitter chats, using blogs, curation tools, and making the time to build your PLN.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR III
Natalie Veazey

Tech Tools That Work For All Students: From Enrichment To Intervention
Integrating technology into an already packed lesson plan is not always easy. We will share with you tips, tools, and suggestions for making the technology work for you and your students. Join us as we look at ways to integrate the digital literacy standards into things you may already be doing to intervene and extend your lesson. You will leave with a toolbox of not only tools but ways to integrate those tools into your lessons.
Location/Room: Riverview/Grand Bay
Melissa Mann

What is First Class Pre-K and What Can It Do for Me, My Students, and My School?
Learn about the nationally recognized and lauded statewide First Class Pre-K program administered by the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education. Find out what makes this experience so exceptional for students and teachers! Hear about the material and instructional advantages of participation in the program, the high standards and levels of support, the process for acquiring a grant to fund a pre-k classroom, and the amazing short- and long-term benefits realized from participation in First Class Pre-K for children, teachers, and schools. You will leave knowing why this educational innovation truly is FIRST CLASS!
Location/Room: Riverview/Mobile Bay
Katrina Bowling

Discover How Access To Special Ed Connection® Can Benefit You!
LRP Publications - the education community's most trusted source for practical strategies and legal guidance for more than 40 years, brings you Special Ed Connection. The Alabama State Department of Education has paid for a subscription to Special Ed Connection so that every school district in the state can have access to the website! Special Ed Connection is the premier online resource to help you understand the myriad of laws and regulations that govern Special Education. Join us as we cover time-saving techniques, tips and tools to help you get the most out of this valuable resource.
Location/Room: Bienville Square
Kelly Whiting

Everything You Wanted to Know About Gifted, But You Were Afraid to Ask!
Join this session to ask questions and discuss best practices for identification and services for gifted learners. This is the time to ask those questions you have wondered about but could never get an answer. If we run out of questions in this 90 minute session, we can put your knowledge to the test with a Jeopardy Game about Gifted in Alabama.
Location/Room: Clipper
Emily Hurst, Shirley Farrell

IDEA Mediation: Methods, Risks, Ethics, and Rewards
Mediation is an effective tool for resolving disputes in special education and knowing how to prepare and be effective in mediation is important. This presentation will focus on the ABC's of IDEA mediation with practical resources for participants. The session will focus on understanding and navigating through the IDEA mediation process from start to finish. Participants will leave with not only a better understanding of IDEA mediation but an appendix of forms and new tools that will help them in their next IDEA mediation. Topics to be considered during the session: What is Mediation? How does it differ from negotiation and arbitration? What is IDEA Mediation? How does it differ from IEP facilitation, resolution meetings and due process hearings? The language of IDEA Mediation. How to request IDEA mediation. How to prepare for mediation, including sample position statements, forms, and documents to submit to the mediator, opposing counsel and/or the other side. The role of the mediator. The role of the parties. Who should attend the mediation conference? Tips and Tricks to having an effective mediation. The mediation agreement. How to get over an impasse in a mediation.
Location/Room: Crystal Ballroom
Nika Gholston, Tamika Miller

Year or Two in Review of Case Law Under the IDEA and Sec. 504/ADA
This session will provide a fast-paced and systematic compilation of recent published court decisions from across the nation, with special emphasis on Alabama and the Eleventh Circuit, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the corresponding pair of federal civil rights statutes--Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The focus will be on current and emerging trends in this litigation, including the practical implications of both the settled and unsettled issues for this jurisdiction. The presenter welcomes active Q/A with the participants.
Location/Room: Grandbay
Perry Zirkel
Independent Educational Evaluations
This session will provide a systematic checklist of the IDEA regulations, U.S. Department of Education policy interpretations, and court decisions specific to independent educational evaluations (IEEs) at public expense. It will also address the legal meaning of the other Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirement for IEEs, which is that districts “consider” them. The checklist is comprehensive and current, yet compact, thus being useful whenever a parent requests or submits an IEE in the IDEA context.
Location/Room: Grandbay
Perry Zirkel

Maximum Employment Matters: Examining What’s Driving Our Economy and High-Demand Jobs
Want to bring industry experts from across the country into your classroom? Then Maximum Employment Matters is your solution! In the Maximum Employment Matters archived webinar series, industry experts share their insights on the skills that students need to be successful in their future career paths, forecast labor trends and areas of growth, and offer career advice. Currently archived topics include manufacturing, healthcare, banking and financial services, economics, and leisure and hospitality, energy, technology, marketing, and cybersecurity. This session will also highlight free related classroom teaching resources including activities, lessons, infographics, and online interactives. This session will build awareness about labor trends and high-demand jobs throughout the Southeast. We will share classroom activities and resources to complement the archived video that reinforce the industry expert’s points. Activities include a soft skills self-assessment, interviewing skills, listening and following directions, and cost benefit analysis of changing jobs.
Location/Room: 105
Julie Kornegay

Elementary Rainy Day Recess.... Problem Solved....And So Much MORE!
In this session attendees will learn of a new innovative way to engage students academically during rainy day recess and still allow for that much needed physical movement. This extremely versatile activity is based on the perfect balance of academic/physical/collaborative elements and completely captivates students during play. By using our 26 alphabet letters as individual game pieces the academic possibilities are truly limitless. Students from the youngest non-reader to the highest reading level can enjoy this fast paced game by simply changing the complexity of the word/task cards. Your students will be watching the weather for rainy days!
Location/Room: 106A
Carol Cranford

Teaching in the Future Tense
In 1970 Alvin Toffler said, “It is no longer sufficient for Johnny to understand the past. It is not even enough for him to understand the present...Johnny must learn to anticipate the directions and rate of change...And so must Johnny’s teachers.” Now, 50 years later, we educators find ourselves with a dire responsibility to help our students identify, harness, and predict society's rapid changes. But to do it, we’ll all need to become futurists. Come explore ways to bend our classrooms into the future tense.
Location/Room: 106B
Daniel Whitt

RTI - Response to Instruction or Relationships to Improvement?
RTI is an effective process to assist students with academics. However, we have to look at every aspect of a student’s life in order to effectively help them be successful. In a role as an RTI Specialist, we make home visits, conference with students, meet with parents, and help make referrals to outside agencies that can offer added assistance at home and at school. All of these things are very beneficial to a student. However, our first priority is forming a relationship with that student and those parents in order for the child to have ALL of his/her needs adequately determined and met. We will show how we use RTI not only to offer academic interventions but also as a way of forming relationships to improve every area of the student’s life. Our goal is to see consistent and steady improvements and opportunities.
Location/Room: 107B
Wendy Arnold

School Based Mental Health Collaboration Model
This session will showcase how schools and/or school systems have effectively implemented the school-based mental health collaboration model. Practical information will be shared as to what is working, and what needs improvement.
Location/Room: 201B
Patrice Davis

ACT’s New Electronic/Online Reporting
ACT school and district level test results will soon be available from ACT through a dynamic and interactive secure website. This huge leap forward gives the educator more data and more ways to use that data. Attendees will be provided an introductory level view of this tool, as well as the discussion on the data connection to the classroom, school and district, from the view of the Teacher to the Superintendent.
Location/Room: 201D
Patrice Davis

Taking a Deep Dive: Understanding and Preparing for the ACT beginning in Middle School and on to High School
Exemplary student ACT preparation takes into consideration that schools cannot wait to begin ACT student preparation in the 9th grade. This session will provide middle school content-area teachers with the knowledge, skills, and strategies that they will need to begin the process of preparing students for success on the 11th grade ACT. Teachers will develop an understanding of the skills and standards that are tested on the ACT and the role that they can play in ACT student preparation. As students enter high school further preparation continues with teachers digging deeper into subject-specific standards in Math, ELA, and Science. Participants will learn how to develop a plan to improve student achievement.
Location/Room: 202A
Gene Burchfield
Tools and Strategies for School Leaders to Dismantle the School-to-Prison Pipeline

It is imperative that teachers make education count for ALL students. Across America, Craig conveys to educators that we must (1) educate ourselves about the "school discipline gap." (2) Help students and colleagues unlearn misperceptions about students from poverty. (3) Continue reaching out to low-income families even when they appear unresponsive (and without assuming, if they are unresponsive, that we know why). (4) Respond when colleagues stereotype poor students or parents. (5) Fight to keep low-income students from being assigned unjustly to special education or low academic tracks. (6) Make curriculum relevant to poor students, drawing on and validating their experiences and intelligences. Most important, we must consider how our own class biases affect our interactions with and expectations of our students.

Location/Room: 204A
Craig Boykin

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Location/Room: Bienville Square
Kelly Whiting

Improvement is a Process: Using Improvement Science to Redesign K-5 Reading Instruction for Students with and without Disabilities

Continuous improvement in literacy is at the heart of every district and school mission. The need to improve reading achievement often brings a sense of urgency and a tendency to fall into the cycle of solution-itis. This can result in a lot of work with little improvement occurring. Consistent and sustained improvement requires a commitment to a user-centered approach and the use of an improvement process. Learn how embracing improvement science can help districts and schools improve reading for all students. Learn real-time practical applications and hear experiences on learning to improve grounded in research from Parker Boudett; City, Bryk, Gomez, Grunow; LaMahieu, Dufour; Fullan, Schmoker, and Ramirez-Stukey.

Location/Room: Bienville Square
Janet Kaylor

Gifted Does not Equal Perfect: Affective Needs of Gifted Students

In this session participants will learn how and why gifted children are different from their same-aged peers and why specialized services are required for their social and emotional vulnerability. We will explore strategies and activities to foster healthy social and emotional development in gifted children.

Location/Room: Clipper
Shirley Farrell

Rethink Alabama CTE: Maximizing Learning Opportunities for Students

Strong career and technical education (CTE) programs provide a lasting mark on how well current and future workforces are prepared to meet the diverse needs of industries and employers. We also know that education is an essential component to any state's economic and workforce plans. Join us as we share what is new in the reauthorization of the Perkins Act that will maximize opportunities to improve learning and outcomes for Alabama's students that lead to lifelong advancement and success. We will also engage participants in conversation about what high-quality CTE programs should offer when aligned with state education, economic, and workforce priorities. Let us reset and rethink college and career readiness together!

Location/Room: 105
Tommy Glasscock

Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs): A Vehicle To Engage Students, Deliver Content And Communicate Research

Remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) have become an important tool in marine research, exploration and industry. Construction of ROVs can be done by middle and high school students in an informal or formal setting. ROV components are inexpensive and levels of complexity can be adjusted to fit a variety of age groups and skill levels. With the integration of scientific and engineering practices, focus on 21st century skill development and need for classroom STEM activities, ROV-based curricula represent an engaging way to address scientific and engineering literacy.

Location/Room: 106A
Tina Miller-Way

Winning Against the Odds

This presentation will provide participants with an understanding of attitudes needed to successfully help students. Additionally, it will also provide characteristics of the most highly effective teachers which have proven to help all types of learners to be successful.

Location/Room: 106B
Johnny Mitchell

All the Feels

How do we build inclusion and opportunities for social and emotional learning through intentional choices? We will reflect on the value of inclusion as it relates to building social and emotional learning opportunities. Investigate ways to include social and emotional growth in any classroom or organization. Learn how to create a place where students can develop their Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision Making, Self-Awareness and Self-Management.

Location/Room: 107A
Beth Dille

Building Accomplished Middle Level Practice

In the age of accountability, our focus has narrowed. Districts and states launch initiatives to improve learning around Literacy (especially elementary) and Colleg and Career Readiness (mostly high school). The plan for middle school seems to be "survive". The good news is that we have DECADES of research on what works in educating young adolescents. Join us for a session to provide an overview of that research base, a brief look at understanding the adolescent brain, and the resources available for middle-level educators.

Location/Room: 107B
Andrew Maxey
New 2019-20 Processes for AP Coordinators
Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, all schools offering AP® will register for AP Exams in the fall and have access to free classroom resources to support students and teachers throughout the year. In this workshop, AP coordinators will learn how to access, setup, and use the new use the AP Registration and Ordering system; manage the student roster; support AP teachers in accessing resources; navigate the AP Course Audit process; and order AP Exams. Q&A time will allow participants to ask questions and share feedback. AP coordinators, principals, district, and school staff are encouraged to attend.
Location/Room: 201A
Janet Swandol

Elementary, Middle & High School Counseling Spotlight
This session will provide various tools that elementary, middle and high school counselors can utilize to help enhance the school counseling program. Participants will be able to share best practices in the school counseling curriculum, system support, and student planning and responsive services.
Location/Room: 201B
Allison Taylor, Daniel Pratt, Kay English

Using Performance Series Data to Reflect and Plan
When used to make sound instructional decisions, assessments can help improve education. Recognizing growth, progress toward goals, and areas for improvement closes achievement gaps and increases student achievement. This session will guide educators through using Performance Series data to identify strengths and weaknesses in skills. We will discuss making instructional plans for small groups of students to help improve student achievement.
Location/Room: 201C
Andrea Simmons

ELA Initiative Implementation
The ELA initiative is designed to improve English Language Arts teaching and learning in the classroom. The schedule is based on 5 units of instruction. Units are developed with pre-tests, post-tests, resources, and built-in data meetings. Based on analyzed data, students will be placed in a second delivery remediation group or an enrichment group. The schedule is based on 5 units of instruction. The timeline can be adjusted for 4 or 6 units as needed. The 5-unit plan will take 11 days to fully implement. An optional 12th day has been included for a final wrap-up of the Implementation Plan.
Location/Room: 201D
Sarah Mitchell

Compliance Monitoring for Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
Schools and districts throughout Alabama use AdvancED resources to support their continuous improvement journey and do compliance monitoring. During this session, participants will learn the specific factors that impact school quality, and the tools available from AdvancED | Measured Progress that support self-assessment and on-site monitoring requirements of these factors. They will also learn how to objectively evaluate their school's performance and monitor compliance activities in a dashboard view to inspire meaningful discussions about how to improve outcomes.
Location/Room: 202A
Andre Harrison, Jean Scott, Paul Gay

Transformation Academy Revisited (Secondary)
This session will bring participants of previous cohorts back together to discuss where they are in the improvement process, assistance needed, and next steps. Promising practices will be shared among participants.
Location/Room: 203A
Molly Killingsworth

The Cruc of the Matter:
The Role of the Problem-Solving Team (PST)
According to the RtI Action Network, “In order for a multi-tier system of supports to be effective and for RtI implementation to be successful, schools must be able to determine not just ‘if’ instruction and intervention supports are working, but which students they are working for, how well they are working, and under what conditions they are working (e.g. with a specific amount of intensity).” This knowledge is gained through the problem-solving process. It’s not enough to have a problem-solving team in your schools, there must be a problem-solving culture that gets to the root cause of issues that affect student success and leads to targeted solutions. We will share lessons learned from this journey.
Location/Room: 203B
Christine Spear

Overcoming Cultural Poverty, Disengaged Parents, and Apathetic Students
Poverty is all too common in America’s schools. What’s rare, is an opportunity for educators to sit an absorb first-hand from a former at-risk student who dropped out of high school, endured a mother abusing drugs, absent father and learning disability. Ultimately, repeating two grades. In this engaging session participants will unlearn perceived fallacies about students from poverty as well as discover my 4 R’s of education. Educators must be REAL with students and parents from poverty. Educators must understand that RESPECT is everything to today’s youth (which is why when made to feel disrespected they go from calm to irate really quickly). Educators should make classroom material RELEVANT to the lives of the youth and Educators must form and nurture meaningful RELATIONSHIPS with each student. Craig’s trademark slogan is “GED to PHD”, which is a concrete paradigm that educators should never give up on any student.
Location/Room: 204A
Craig Boykin

De-escalating Dangerous Behaviors and Situations
Matt will speak on the importance of recognizing early warning signs of stress and anger. He will discuss common steps that anyone can use to help diffuse dangerous situations. He will share simple verbal and nonverbal communication skills that most anyone can use to prevent dangerous situations from escalating. He will also focus on using personal safety to keep all parties safe during the de-escalation process.
Location/Room: 204B
Matt Eldridge

Getting Fiscally Fit with Part B, IDEA
The Special Education Services (SES) Fiscal Team will present, train, and answer questions on the following: Expectations for each LEA regarding Federal and State Fiscal requirements; Budget Development; SES Requirements for the Electronic Grant Application Process (eGAP); Fiscal Monitoring; High Cost Funding; and Catastrophic Funding.
Location/Room: Moonlight A
SES Fiscal Team
Super Heroes of Preschool Are Here to ELPP You With Your Data

This session will focus on the preschool indicators: Indicator 6, Preschool Settings; Indicator 7, Preschool Skills; and Indicator 12, Part C to B Transition. Comparisons of data from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018 will be discussed, and the significance of preschool data in State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/AAPR) and LEA determinations will be highlighted. Strategies for continual improvement on all three indicators will be offered along with changes made in the collection of data.

**Location/Room:** Moonlight B
Denise Wilson, Sheila Bolling, Stephanie Frucci

Ipad Access for Students with Physical, Sensory, and Learning Challenges

This session will focus on how to use the built-in features of iOS and iPad accessories to enhance access for students with disabilities. Participants will see how to access features such as text to speech, voice recognition, switch scanning, assistive touch, visual enhancements, and guided access to enhance alternative access to iOS applications. Participants will learn how to configure accessibility options and develop a greater understanding of the practicality and necessity of custom accessibility features to support students with complex motor, sensory, and learning challenges in an educational environment.

**Location/Room:** Moonlight C
Michael Papp

Bridging the Gap: From IDEA Mediation to IDEA Facilitation

This seminar will examine conflict in the educational environment with a focus on using mediation and facilitation to devise and implement strategies for its prevention, management, and resolution at all levels of education, from K-12. Conflicts between and among students, faculty, parents, and administrators are addressed. Topics explored will include: overcoming impasse in mediation; dealing with difficult people; managing differing interests; IDEA mediation Follow Up: What, Why and How; navigating IEP team meetings; and the benefits of facilitated IEP team meetings.

**Location/Room:** Moonlight D
Nika Gholston, Tamika Miller

The R Cubed Framework: Relationship, Rigor, and Relevance in the Co-Taught Classroom

The presentation will have as a general theme the importance of developing strong student - teacher relationships while concurrently increasing the level of rigor and expectations of students with academic, emotional, and/or social challenges. The Greensboro Middle School presenters will explain how CHAMPS and Foundations where important tools in this process, and they will also use data as supporting evidence.

**Location/Room:** Moonlight E
Anthony Sanders

Mathematics in American Sign Language (ASL): The Fundamentals

Learn the fundamentals in American Sign Language (ASL) for mathematics! From whose point of view? Which ASL symbol is the correct one to use? What’s the ASL term for it? How does ASL show the subtle differences in mathematical meaning? Shy away from ASL mathematics no more! Discover how to express mathematical concepts accurately in sign language. Tuck away a few pointers that carry you far. Settle questions that may haunt the sign language interpreter or educator of deaf and hard of hearing children. Join the growing movement to standardize mathematical expressions in sign language.

**Location/Room:** Riverboat
Molly O’Hara

Becoming Design Thinkers and Global Collaborators:

This session is open for all teachers and administrators. Join us as we explore the new digital literacy and computer science COS and participate in hands-on activities that can be used to encourage our students to become design thinkers and global collaborators. Learn how to engage your students using an incredibly creative, imaginative, and expressive form of media production. This innovative design session focuses on easy-to-use Stop-Motion techniques for the classroom and can be used in any subject area to bring any topic or theme alive. Plus, there will be LEGOS! Facilitators will be sharing resources and lesson plan ideas that encourage deeper levels of thinking as well as encouraging students to collaborate on a local and global level.

* Interested participants who attend this session and Becoming Computational Thinkers and Computing Analysis and complete online assignments are eligible to earn a PLU.

**Location/Room:** Riverview/Bon Secour BR III
Robert Mayben

Launching August 2019: New Resources and Supports for AP Teachers, Students, and Coordinators

In school year 2019-20, the AP Program is launching a system of resources to empower teachers, engage students, and support coordinators. Created in collaboration with educators and based on best practices in schools across the country, these simple, focused, and effective resources will include an AP question bank, unit guides, formative assessments, progress dashboards, improved tools for exam administration, and new fall ordering deadlines. Join me to learn about the benefits to schools, including the timeline for implementation, streamlined exam experiences, and what your school can expect from AP.

**Location/Room:** Riverview/Mobile Bay
Janet Swandol

Legal Aspects of Special Education: What Successful School Principals and Staff Do (and Need to Know)

This session is based upon and with reference to the ALSDE's "Help Guide" that was initially designed for school principals. The guide has been revised and is relevant for everyone. Julie Weatherly will highlight the top "need to know" legal requirements related to educating students with disabilities. Discussion will include parental rights and safeguards; child-find, evaluation and eligibility; IEP process, content and implementation; and important issues such as discipline and least restrictive environment. This session is repeated multiple times throughout the week to allow everyone an opportunity to attend. A copy of the revised "Help Guide" will be available for each participant.

**Location/Room:** Schooner
Julie Weatherly
Ideas Mediation: Methods, Risks, Ethics, and Rewards
Mediation is an effective tool for resolving disputes in special education and knowing how to prepare and be effective in mediation is important. This presentation will focus on the ABCs of IDEA mediation with practical resources for participants. The session will focus on understanding and navigating through the IDEA mediation process from start to finish. Participants will leave with not only a better understanding of IDEA mediation but an appendix of forms and new tools that will help them in their next IDEA mediation. Topics to be considered during the session: What is Mediation? How does it differ from negotiation and arbitration? What is IDEA Mediation? How does it differ from IEP facilitation, resolution meetings and due process hearings? The language of IDEA Mediation. How to request IDEA mediation. How to prepare for mediation, including sample position statements, forms, and documents to submit to the mediator, opposing counsel and/or the other side. The role of the mediator. The role of the parties. Who should attend the mediation conference? Tips & Tricks to having an effective mediation. The mediation agreement. How to get over an impasse in a mediation.

Location/Room: Moonlight D
Nika Gholston, Tamika Miller

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Location/Room: Bienvenue Square
Kelly Whiting

Improvement is a Process: Using Improvement Science to Redesign K-5 Reading Instruction for Students with and without Disabilities
Continuous improvement in literacy is at the heart of every district and school mission. The need to improve reading achievement often brings a sense of urgency and a tendency to fall into the cycle of solution-it-is. This can result in a lot of work with little improvement occurring. Consistent and sustained improvement requires a commitment to a user-centered approach and the use of an improvement process. Learn how embracing improvement science can help districts and schools improve reading for all students. Learn real-time practical applications and hear experiences on learning to improve grounded in research from Parker Boudett; City, Bryk, Gomez, Grunow; LaMahieu, Dufour; Fullan, Schmoker, and Ramirez-Stukey.

Location/Room: Bienvenue Square
Janet Kaylor

Launching or Expanding Your School’s Computer Science Program with Open Source Tools & Curriculum
Over 600 schools across the country have started or expanded their computer science programs by partnering with Microsoft’s TEALS (Technology Education and Literacy in Schools) Program. CS is the fastest growing career field and schools are shifting to develop the talent that the workforce demands. TEALS works because we focus on building teacher capacity in a sustainable way. Partnering with us is now free and we only use open source tools and curriculum. Find out how your school can partner with us and increase your computer science offerings.

Location/Room: 105
Amber Pope

National Geographic’s Geo-Inquiry Process: Inquiry + Storytelling + Civic Engagement
Geo-Inquiry is an integrated, project-based process that connects real-world challenges to the classroom. The Geo-Inquiry Process incorporates the attitudes and skills of an Explorer: curious, responsible, and empowered to make a difference in the world. In this interactive session, educators will learn new strategies to help students develop critical thinking skills, ask questions, collect information, visualize and analyze data, create a compelling story, and ultimately become advocates for change in their local communities.

Location/Room: 106A
Carley Lovorn

An Attendance Program, What Does Coding Have To Do With It?
Coding can make or break a school system’s data, specifically with Chronic Absenteeism. Consistency within a school system can impact a system’s data for the year. Come join a conversation and presentation on coding and how it can relate positively or negatively to your overall data. In addition, we will share the State Attendance Committee’s recommendation regarding coding for school systems. We will also review for you how to pull data and work with the data within your system.

Location/Room: 106B
Bob Lawry

How to Use Data to Improve your Counseling Program
Participants will learn how one Counselor utilizes data to effectively guide the counseling and guidance program to best meet student needs.

Location/Room: 201B
Willieta Ellis Conner

Using Data Analytics to Ask Better Questions & Drive Change
Data does not give us answers - it guides us to ask better questions! When it comes to improving learning and instruction, it is not the quantity of the data that counts, but how that data is used to inform what actions we take in our schools. In this interactive session, join subject-matter experts as they guide participants through real-life explorations of classroom, school, and district-level data. Topics include identifying grade inflation, using Analytics to identify students at risk for dropping out of high school, creating a group of students for recruitment into advanced classes, and more.

Location/Room: 201D
Proya Nihalani, Terrence Ingram
Accomplished Teaching Practices that Work!
Through collaborative conversations, participants will build capacity in teaching practice through analysis of questioning strategies to affect student growth and achievement. Educators will incorporate accomplished teaching practices, such as knowing students through building relationships and designing systematic instruction for growth by examining their practices. Participants will then create/refine the reflection process of instruction and assessment to determine next steps to meet the needs of all learners. The foundation of the session is built on National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Five Core Propositions, which is a research-based practice for building capacity in any classroom through accomplished teaching practices.
Location/Room: 202A
Kelly Lomax

What's New with AdvancED/Measured Progress?
AdvancED has launched a new system of continuous improvement to support its new Performance Standards and protocol. During this session, participants will grasp a thorough understanding of the essential elements of the AdvancED Continuous Improvement Process and the resources that are within the new eProve Platform to support their work regarding their continuous improvement journey, organizational effectiveness, and the elements of the Accreditation Engagement Review. Participants will also learn about the new resources and tools from Measured Progress and how these tools can also support their work during their continuous improvement journey.
Location/Room: 202B
Andre Harrison

Peer-to-Peer Prevention in 30 Seconds - The Greatest Save Teen PSA Program
Attendees will learn how The Greatest Save Teen PSA (Personal Safety Announcement) Program, a unique, highly effective peer-to-peer crime prevention education program, raises awareness among teens that changes attitudes resulting in fewer victimizations and first time offenders. Topics include how this program meets the needs of teens, impacts students, schools and the community, and how it partners high schools with local law enforcement. Winning PSAs from schools across the State will be shown. This program creates a window into the world of your students while serving as a measure of school mental health and contributing to school safety.
Location/Room: 204B
Nancy Sebastian

Getting Fiscally Fit with Part B, IDEA
The Special Education Services (SES) Fiscal Team will present, train, and answer questions on the following: Expectations for each LEA regarding Federal and State Fiscal requirements; Budget Development; SES Requirements for the Electronic Grant Application Process (eGAP); Fiscal Monitoring; High Cost Funding; and Catastrophic Funding.
Location/Room: Moonlight A
SES Fiscal Team

SLPs: State Department Updates for You
This presentation will include current information on producing compliant eligibilities and Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for school-based speech-language pathologists (SLPs). Updated information on preschool and English Learners as it relates to SLPs will be included.
Location/Room: Moonlight B
Stephanie Frucci

Ipad Access for Students with Physical, Sensory, and Learning Challenges
This session will focus on how to use the built-in features of iOS and iPad accessories to enhance access for students with disabilities. Participants will see how to access features such as text to speech, voice recognition, switch scanning, assistive touch, visual enhancements, and guided access to enhance alternative access to iOS applications. Participants will learn how to configure accessibility options and develop a greater understanding of the practicality and necessity of custom accessibility features to support students with complex motor, sensory, and learning challenges in an educational environment.
Location/Room: Moonlight C
Michael Papp

The R Cubed Framework: Relationship, Rigor, and Relevance in the Co-Taught Classroom
The presentation will have as a general theme the importance of developing strong student - teacher relationships while concurrently increasing the level of rigor and expectations of students with academic, emotional, and/or social challenges. The Greensboro Middle School presenters will explain how CHAMPS and Foundations where important tools in this process, and they will also use data as supporting evidence.
Location/Room: Moonlight E
Anthony Sanders

Creating the Ideal Science Program in the Early Childhood Classroom
Children are full of wonder at the world around them. They use their senses to explore and investigate what is in the world where they live. This exciting hands-on training will give youth the skills and information you need to create opportunities for young children to develop science process skills through learning centers. Goals for the workshop will include: Really defining what science is.Setting up a Science Investigation and Learning Center in an early childhood aged classroom. How to plan for informal and formal science learning activities. Teaching students the basic process skills they can discover through science activities. Become familiar with the general science areas. Implementation of science throughout your classroom. Developing a science-based theme in your classroom. You will walk away with the tools to create a top-notch science discovery center in your own classroom.
Location/Room: Riverview/Mobile Bay
Kara Cosby
Making the Most of Our Work with Safe and Civil Schools
Concerned about high tardy rates and disciplinary infractions? Want to determine how to engage students in building positive relationships with staff? Learn how Monroe County High School implemented practical, effective solutions based on tools from Safe &amp; Civil Schools. See how data driven evidence was used to remarkably reduce tardies to class and discipline while creating a more positive school culture and climate, all within the first year of implementation!
Location/Room: Moonlight E
Maurice Woody Sr.

Updates--New Equitable Services to Private Schools Regulations
LEAs and Private School Officials will learn about the new United States Department of Education ESSA Regulations regarding private schools and equitable services. This session will include how federal funds can be used to provide services to private schools. Participants are encouraged to bring a copy of the regulations found at ed.gov to this session.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR I
Julie Turner

TransACT Parent Notifications - Part of Your Parent and Family Engagement Planning
Research shows that when parents and families engage in the education of their children, they tend to perform better academically. TransACT’s Parent Notices are an important tool to use to engage parents and families, especially those with limited proficiency in English. This presentation provides information about TransACT’s Parent Notices, highlighting notices for Title I, Parent and Family Engagement, School Improvement, ELs, and Students Experiencing Homelessness. This presentation covers how to access TransACT, the importance of communicating in a language parents can understand, and how to identify the notices that need to be sent, who to send them to, and when.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR II
David Holbrook

LETRS: The Science of Literacy Instruction
Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) is a professional development course that supports teachers in diagnosing reading issues, identifying successful strategies and assessing the effectiveness of instructional resources to support students. It is for all educators who teach reading, from beginning teachers to teachers with years of experience. Join us in this action packed session as we share how the Pre-K-3 Literacy Professional Development Grant for Teachers and Literacy Coaches is providing participating educators with a deeper understanding of the science of reading and the positive impact in Alabama schools and classrooms.
Location/Room: Riverview/Mobile Bay
Gay Finn

From a School Counselor’s Perspective: the Gifted & Talented Student
Gifted and talented students are unique. While some school personnel may view them as ‘the smartest kid in the class’, others may view them as disruptive, uninterested, and at times, non-compliant. Come learn about these students from the perspective of the school counselor. The school counselor can be the advocate for these students to help them get the social support and academic challenges they need to thrive.
Location/Room: Clipper
Laura Hodges

Intelligent Lives: A Film by Dan Habib
Please join the Alabama State Department of Education for a special screening of the movie “Intelligent Lives.” From award-winning filmmaker Dan Habib comes INTELLIGENT LIVES, a catalyst to transform the label of intellectual disability from a life sentence of isolation into a life of possibility for the most systematically segregated people in America. INTELLIGENT LIVES stars three pioneering young American adults with intellectual disabilities – Micah, Naieer, and Naomie – who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college, and the workforce. Academy Award-winning actor and narrator Chris Cooper contextualizes the lives of these central characters through the emotional personal story of his son Jesse, as the film unpacks the shameful and ongoing track record of intelligence testing in the U.S. INTELLIGENT LIVES challenges what it means to be intelligent, and points to a future in which people of all abilities can fully participate in higher education, meaningful employment, and intimate relationships.
Location/Room: Crystal Ballroom
TASH Alabama

The Four Faces of FAPE
This session will identify and explain each of the four faces, or dimensions, of the IDEAs central obligation--free appropriate public education (FAPE). The first two, procedural and substantive FAPE, started in Rowley (1982), with the procedural face taking further form in IDEA 2004 and the substantive face being refined in Endrew F. (2017). The other two, failure to implement and capability to implement, are relatively new and not yet uniformly settled. The explanation will extend to show the difference between the legal standards for each one and professional recommendations for best practice.
Location/Room: Grandbay
Perry Zirkel

Launching or Expanding Your School’s Computer Science Program with Open Source Tools & Curriculum
Over 600 schools across the country have started or expanded their computer science programs by partnering with Microsoft’s TEALS (Technology Education and Literacy in Schools) Program. CS is the fastest growing career field and schools are shifting to develop the talent that the workforce demands. TEALS works because we focus on building teacher capacity in a sustainable way. Partnering with us is now free and we only use open source tools and curriculum. Find out how your school can partner with us and increase your computer science offerings.
Location/Room: 105
Amber Pope
Utilizing Service Dogs in the School Counseling Program

School Service dogs are trained to assist educators and counselors with student interventions that create drama-free classrooms. Hear how Ella, the service dog, is a positive influence in the Counseling and Guidance Program at Alexandria Elementary School in Calhoun County.

Location/Room: 201B
Willietta Ellis Conner

Assessment Literacy: Understanding How Classroom Assessment Practices Can Better Support Student Learning and Success

Researchers from Marzano and Hattie to Brookhart and William have demonstrated the importance of improving classroom assessment to enhance student learning. In this hands-on and interactive session, an ACT Program Director will share best practices in formative and summative assessment, with particular attention to improving the quality of feedback, using multiple choice questions diagnostically, raising the rigor of student assignments and tasks to DOK levels three and four, and designing rubrics to assess higher order thinking skills.

Location/Room: 202B
Jonathan Martin

Building Accomplished Middle Level Practice

In the age of accountability, our focus has narrowed. Districts and states launch initiatives to improve learning around Literacy (especially elementary) and College & Career Readiness (mostly high school). The plan for middle school seems to be "survive". The good news is that we have DECADES of research on what works in educating young adolescents. Join us for a session to provide an overview of that research base, a brief look at understanding the adolescent brain, and the resources available for middle-level educators.

Location/Room: 203B
Andrew Maxey

Hot Off The Press!! The New Acap Alternate Assessment

Student Assessment will provide a through breakdown, including all the ins and outs for administration, of the NEW ACAP Alternate Assessment for 2019-2020.

Location/Room: 204B
Nannette Pence
**Section 504 & Title II of the ADA Legal Update**

This general session will review recent court and Office of Civil Rights opinions relevant to a public school's legal obligations under Section 504 and Title II of the ADA. Topics will include Section 504 evaluations and eligibility determinations; development of Section 504 plans; nondiscrimination in nonacademic services; disability harassment claims; bullying/harassment; service animals; health care plans; money damages; and other recent topics of interests.

**Location/Room:** 204B

Rudney Lewis

**The Behavior Blueprint**

This is a mini-session to assist school- and district-level staff gain information and tools that can be taken back to begin constructing or reviewing current behavior systems that are in place. We will jump straight into practices so it is suggested participants have some background knowledge on behavioral interventions/terminology.

**Location/Room:** Moonlight B

James Sanders

**Getting to the Business of Planning for Co-Teaching**

Co-teaching is a service delivery option in which a general education teacher and a special education teacher share instructional responsibility and accountability for a diverse group of students with the goal of improving outcomes and reducing the achievement gap for students. However, even when professionals are committed to co-teaching, barriers often arise related to the logistics. One frequently mentioned concern pertains to co-planning. This includes arranging common planning time, keeping to the task of co-planning, and lacking necessary tools to support co-planning. The presenter provides a useful structure along with tools to assist teachers to co-plan for effective co-taught lessons.

**Location/Room:** Moonlight C

Donna Ploessl

**Developing Transition-Focused IEPs**

**Using Transition Assessment Data**

The purpose of this session is to teach attendees to develop transition-focused IEPs through a two-phase process. The process involves (a) conducting age-appropriate transition assessments and (b) using the data from the assessment to develop student-centered transition-focused IEPs. Attendees will work through example case studies, receive handouts to guide their processing through the content presented, and receive handouts regarding pertinent resources.

**Location/Room:** Moonlight D

Ashley Vogt, Stephan Kwiatek

**Behind the Scenes of Closing the Achievement Gap ... Fostering Change Through Intentional Professional Development**

This session will summarize several initiatives implemented through professional development partners from the Alabama State Department Education State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) representatives and Andalusia City Schools' representatives. You will learn more about what it takes to close the achievement gap for subgroups through appropriate classroom management and school-wide management (using tools such as CHAMPS and FOUNDATIONS), the importance of co-planning and co-teaching with efficacy, and transition planning for post-secondary success.

**Location/Room:** Moonlight E

Sonja Hines

**Ethics of Interpreting with Deaf or Hard of Hearing Students**

Interpreting for deaf or hard of hearing children can be a challenging position, one with limited guidance or support. Ethical situations can arise on a daily basis. This presentation by a Deaf attorney with extensive experience in Deaf education will cover position papers, brand new guidelines from National Interpreters in Education Consortium, state laws, online and print resources for interpreting guidance, RID Code of Professional Conduct, and standards of practices. Interpreters will walk away feeling they are understood and with an expanded base of knowledge and recommendations to draw from as they conduct a key service in our schools.

**Location/Room:** Riverboat

Tawny Holmes Hlibok

**This Kid Is Out Of Control: Underlying Issues Of Students' Behaviors Growing Up With Trauma.**

With the increase of children entering foster care we need to be prepared for the children's behaviors. We need to open our eyes to the environments these children are developing in and calling home. What are the effects of growing up in the home that does not have water or power, food in the cabinets, parents that are addicted to drugs, and parents that are not emotionally and physically available to the students in your classroom? This presentation will help you realize these kids behaviors aren't because they are "bad", it's because they are trying to survive. We will discuss the functions of behaviors, how to gain and develop a relationship that it not coercive, and how rules and consequences give the student stability.

**Location/Room:** Riverview/Bon Secour BR I

Nicole Dieckow

**Make Learning Fun: Using Tech Tools for Active Learning**

All you need to make learning fun is the right tech tool combined with an appropriate instructional strategy. Learn how to use these technology tools to increase participation and empower the learners in your classroom.

**Location/Room:** Riverview/Bon Secour BR III

Barry Wiginton

**Independent Educational Evaluations**

This session will provide a systematic checklist of the IDEA regulations, U.S. Department of Education policy interpretations, and court decisions specific to independent educational evaluations (IEEs) at public expense. It will also address the legal meaning of the other Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirement for IEEs, which is that districts “consider” them. The checklist is comprehensive and current, yet compact, thus being useful whenever a parent requests or submits an IEE in the IDEA context.

**Location/Room:** Riverview/Grand Bay

Perry Zirkel
Effective Partnerships between Alabama Head Start Programs and Public Schools

This session will consist of a panel discussion highlighting effective partnerships between Alabama Head Start programs and Public Schools from at least five communities. Head Start Directors and Public School Superintendents will share stories of the advantages of collaboration in the areas of
(1) facilities,
(2) education services – transitions, early intervention,
(3) professional development,
(4) enrollment,
(5) ESSA, and
(6) curriculum/assessments.
The goal of this session is to show effective ways that diverse early childhood education delivery systems can work together to ensure that all children are ready for school.

Location/Room: Riverview/Mobile Bay
Trellis Smith

Legal Aspects of Special Education: What Successful School Principals and Staff Do (and Need to Know)

This session is based upon and with reference to the ALSDE’s “Help Guide” that was initially designed for school principals. The guide has recently been revised and is relevant for everyone. Julie Weatherly, Esq. will highlight the top “need to know” legal requirements related to educating students with disabilities. Discussion will include parental rights and safeguards; child-find, evaluation and eligibility; IEP process, content and implementation; and important issues such as discipline and least restrictive environment. This session is repeated multiple times throughout the week to allow everyone an opportunity to attend. A copy of the revised “Help Guide” will be available for each participant.

Location/Room: Schooner
Julie Weatherly

Intelligent Lives: A Film by Dan Habib

Please join the Alabama State Department of Education for a special screening of the movie “Intelligent Lives.” From award-winning filmmaker Dan Habib comes INTELLIGENT LIVES, a catalyst to transform the label of intellectual disability from a life sentence of isolation into a life of possibility for the most systematically segregated people in America. INTELLIGENT LIVES stars three pioneering young American adults with intellectual disabilities – Micah, Naieer, and Naomi – who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college, and the workforce. Academy Award-winning actor and narrator Chris Cooper contextualizes the lives of these central characters through the emotional personal story of his son Jesse, as the film unpacks the shameful and ongoing track record of intelligence testing in the U.S. INTELLIGENT LIVES challenges what it means to be intelligent, and points to a future in which people of all abilities can fully participate in higher education, meaningful employment, and intimate relationships.

Location/Room: Crystal Ballroom
TASH Alabama

Top Ten Recent Legal Issues/Rulings in Special Education

This session will identify the most legally and practically significant issues, each with at least an illustrative court decision, within the past two years. The coverage extends beyond the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, thus doubly affecting regular as well as special education personnel. For each of the top ten issues/rulings, the presentation will include a user-friendly explanation and the practical implications. For example, the item concerning the Supreme Court’s decision in Endrew F. will explain its scope of “substantive FAPE” and canvass its subsequent interpretations by lower courts and by school personnel.

Location/Room: Grandbay
Perry Zirkel

Financial Fusion: Free resources to help make connections

Understanding core personal finance skills is an essential part of being college and career ready. This session will integrate core competencies with projects that can be used in the classroom. Participants will receive free classroom tested personal finance project ideas, rubrics, and reflective writing assignments for their classroom.

Location/Room: 105
Julie Kornegay

Create a Culture of Mathematical and Critical Thinking

Learn how the game of chess can provide increased complexity for differentiation in building essential mathematical skills, critical thinking skills, life skills, and meta-cognitive processes. These are all qualities sought by businesses in today’s graduates. You do not need to know how to play chess to enjoy this session!

Location/Room: 106A
Jerry Nash

Incorporating Digital Literacy and Computer Science into the Elementary Classroom

Join the AMSTI team to explore a variety of strategies and tools designed to help elementary teachers effectively integrate the Digital Literacy and Computer Science Course of Study into the classroom. We will explore free Computer Science tools from Code.org and Google, digital literacy content from Common Sense Media and Google and hands-on tools from Ozobot, Sphero, Lego and more!

Location/Room: 107A
Keith George

Arts Education Grants! Start or Enhance a Well-Rounded Education with an Alabama Arts Education Initiative Grant

This session covers opportunities to enhance existing arts programs or help initiate new arts programs to provide access and equity to a quality arts education and a well-rounded student. A line item in the Educational Trust Fund budget is set aside for arts education and these funds are given out annually through the Alabama Arts Education Initiative Grants. Guidelines, timelines and specifics of the grant will be discussed as well as other arts education grant programs.

Location/Room: 201A
Andy Meadows
Career Development Lessons and Activities for the Classroom Teacher
This session will provide participants with insight into The Career Preparedness course which focuses on three integrated areas of instruction–academic planning and career development, financial literacy, and technology. Participants are encouraged to explore Career Development lessons /activities into the classroom. The content standards provide a strong foundation for student acquisition of the skills, attitudes, and knowledge that enables them to achieve success in school, at work, and across the life span. As part of preparing students to be college- and career-ready, this course also equips them with the skills needed for business and industry, continuing education, and lifelong learning.
Location/Room: 201B
LaDonna Beck, Lisa Martin

Assessment Literacy: Understanding How Classroom Assessment Practices can Better Support Student Learning and Success
Researchers from Marzano and Hattie to Brookhart and William have demonstrated the importance of improving classroom assessment to enhance student learning. In this hands-on and interactive session, an ACT Program Director will share best practices in formative and summative assessment, with particular attention to improving the quality of feedback, using multiple choice questions diagnostically, raising the rigor of student assignments and tasks to DOK levels three and four, and designing rubrics to assess higher order thinking skills.
Location/Room: 201D
Jonathan Martin

Math Initiative Implementation
The Math Initiative is designed to improve math teaching and learning in the classroom. The schedule is based on 5 units of instruction. Units are developed with pre-tests, post-tests, resources, and built-in data meetings. Based on analyzed data, students will be placed in a second delivery remediation group or an enrichment group. The timeline can be adjusted for 4 or 6 units as needed. The 5-unit plan will take 11 days to fully implement. An optional 12th day has been included for a final wrap-up of the Implementation Plan.
Location/Room: 202A
Gene Burchfield

What’s New with AdvancED/Measured Progress?
AdvancED has launched a new system of continuous improvement to support its new Performance Standards and protocol. During this session, participants will grasp a thorough understanding of the essential elements of the AdvancED Continuous Improvement Process and the resources that are within the new eProve Platform to support their work regarding their continuous improvement journey, organizational effectiveness, and the elements of the Accreditation Engagement Review. Participants will also learn about the new resources and tools from Measured Progress and how these tools can also support their work during their continuous improvement journey.
Location/Room: 202B
Andre Harrison

How to Develop College / Career Ready Leaders
In today’s market, businesses from around the world are sharing one common challenge, being able to hire leaders who have the habits, principles, and practices of creating success both independently and interdependently as a team. At the Leader In Me our focus is to develop life-ready leaders, by equipping students grades K through 12th grade with these habits, principles, and practices in applying these necessary skills to truly be successful in any industry across the globe. Please join us to best understand the process of developing such leaders and ensuring they are well equipped for graduation.
Location/Room: 203B
Lonnie Moore

The Behavior Blueprint
This is a mini-session to assist school- and district-level staff gain information and tools that can be taken back to begin constructing or review current behavior systems that are in place. We will jump straight into practices so it is suggested participants have some background knowledge on behavioral interventions/terminology.
Location/Room: Moonlight B
James Sanders

Behind the Scenes of Closing the Achievement Gap.......Fostering Change Through Intentional Professional Development
This session will summarize several initiatives implemented through professional development partners from the Alabama State Department Education State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) representatives and Andalusia City Schools’ representatives. You will learn more about what it takes to close the achievement gap for subgroups through appropriate classroom management and school-wide management (using tools such as CHAMPS and FOUNDATIONS), the importance of co-planning and co-teaching with efficacy, and transition planning for post-secondary success.
Location/Room: Moonlight E
Sonja Hines

Educator Certification 101
This session will cover certification renewal and reinstatement requirements, routes to obtain certification for individuals entering the teaching profession, and options for expanding certification areas for currently certified educators.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR II
Shavon Cummings

Empowering & Equipping Classroom Teachers Through a Flipped Approach to Professional Learning
How can school districts provide relevant and effective professional learning experiences for their classroom teachers with no loss of instructional time? Don't miss this opportunity to learn how administrators from one school district met this challenge using a combination of video training and teacher collaboration using the Pineapple Method. Meet the stakeholders and hear first hand accounts of the successes and challenges of implementing a district-wide school improvement plan that empowers and equips the classroom teacher through the use of formative assessment technology tools and instructional strategies.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR III
Barry Wiginton
LETRS: The Science of Literacy Instruction

Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) is a professional development course that supports teachers in diagnosing reading issues, identifying successful strategies and assessing the effectiveness of instructional resources to support students. It is for all educators who teach reading, from beginning teachers to teachers with years of experience. Join us in this action packed session as we share how the Pre-K-3 Literacy Professional Development Grant for Teachers and Literacy Coaches is providing participating educators with a deeper understanding of the science of reading and the positive impact in Alabama schools and classrooms.

Location/Room: Riverview/Mobile Bay
Gay Finn

Youth Mental Health First Aid Course (8-Hour Course)

Youth Mental Health First Aid USA is an 8 hour public education program which introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Mental Health First Aid uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care. (*This is an 8-hour course that runs from 8:15 am - 5:15 pm with a one-hour lunch break.)

Location/Room: Bienville Square
Gayla Caddell

It takes a Team to Support the Mental Health Needs of Gifted Students

Join this session to hear how one school district helped a gifted child who continuously talked about suicide. No one took this child seriously except the gifted teacher and the gifted coordinator. Leave the session with resources and strategies to develop a plan to listen and help your gifted learners with mental health needs.

Location/Room: Clipper
Jacqueline Davis

The Four Faces of FAPE

This session will identify and explain each of the four faces, or dimensions, of the IDEA's central obligation--free appropriate public education (FAPE). The first two, procedural and substantive FAPE, started in Rowley (1982), with the procedural face taking further form in IDEA 2004 and the substantive face being refined in Endrew F. (2017). The other two, failure to implement and capability to implement, are relatively new and not yet uniformly settled. The explanation will extend to show the difference between the legal standards for each one and professional recommendations for best practice.

Location/Room: Grandbay
Perry Zirkel

Maximum Employment Matters: Examining What’s Driving Our Economy and High-Demand Jobs

Want to bring industry experts from across the country into your classroom? Then Maximum Employment Matters is your solution! In the Maximum Employment Matters archived webinar series, industry experts share their insights on the skills that students need to be successful in their future career paths, forecast labor trends and areas of growth, and offer career advice. Currently archived topics include manufacturing, healthcare, banking and financial services, economics, and leisure and hospitality, energy, technology, marketing, and cybersecurity. This session will also highlight free related classroom teaching resources including activities, lessons, infographics, and online interactives. This session will build awareness about labor trends and high-demand jobs throughout the Southeast. We will share classroom activities and resources to complement the archived video that reinforce the industry expert’s points. Activities include a soft skills self-assessment, interviewing skills, listening and following directions, and cost benefit analysis of changing jobs.

Location/Room: 105
Julie Kornegay

Moving Beyond Tier 1 PBIS: Tier 2 and Tier 3 Assessment and Interventions

This presentation will overview Tier 2: (a) evidence-based intervention, (b) progress monitoring and data-based decision making, and (c) case examples across elementary and secondary school implementation. Also, the presentation will highlight strategies for determining movement across tiers and Tier 3 intervention.

Location/Room: 106B
Sara McDaniel

Let’s Grow: Classroom and School Gardening 101

As schools around the nation shift to a more hands on approach to education, the school garden is making a comeback. Whether you are interested in growing in a raised bed or a classroom window box, this presentation has you covered. We’ll discuss ways in which classroom gardening connects directly to content and how you can easily incorporate growing into your everyday scheduling. From square foot gardening to vermicomposting and seasonal growing this class will have something for everyone.

Location/Room: 107A
Scotty Feltman

Teaching/Leading with Trauma: Understanding the Impact of ACEs on Teacher/Leader Performance

This presentation will focus on helping participants understand the impact that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can have on teacher performance. Our presentation will introduce what ACEs are, how ACEs impact resiliency and stress, and the impact of ACEs on the brain. Participants will review an ACE test and learn what an ACE score might reveal about responses, stresses, and potential health risks. Participants will leave the session with ideas about how to transfer their new learning to the workplace and personal life.

Location/Room: 107B
Mandi Logan
Data Driven Advocacy & Planning for the Library Media Center
Library Media Specialists make data-driven decisions daily that impact not only the effectiveness of the library media program but also positively impacts student success. In this session, learn what data to pull, how to analyze the data, and use the information gathered to make data-driven decisions in the library to increase the impact and effectiveness of the library media program. Participants will learn to write SMART goals and action steps for the library media program in light of data, and strategies to communicate these goals to stakeholders.
Location/Room: 201A
Cristin Dillard

Planning and Paying for College
Review resources and 1-2-3s of Paying for College.
Location/Room: 201B
Kelly Savoie

Developing High-Quality, Technically Sound Items for Math Assessments
In this item writing workshop, math educators will be trained on how to write items to meet quality expectations, including how best to write items to measure the Alabama Course of Study Standards. Writers will be trained in the careful consideration of the standards, which will provide for the critical link between assessment questions and instruction in the classroom. Writers will also be trained to consider other important aspects of item writing, such as item context, assumed student knowledge, cognitive complexity, and depth of knowledge as reflected in the Alabama Course of Study Standards.
Location/Room: 201C
Chris Peterson

Differentiation for Linguistically Diverse Students
English language learners need instruction that is differentiated to meet the needs unique to learning an additional language and grade appropriate content. Participants will approach the idea of differentiation of language from an asset-based perspective, recognizing that language learners bring many contributions to the school community. Participants will collaborate to customize instruction for ELLs utilizing the WIDA ELD framework. This workshop is designed for educators with all levels of experience with the WIDA Standards Framework, including those new to WIDA tools and resources.
Location/Room: 201D
Ellen Parkhurst

PowerSchool SIS
Schools depend on a modern, easy-to-use solution to improve daily operations, improve administrative productivity, identify problem areas, and ensure funding through appropriate reporting. PowerSchool SIS (student information system) covers administrative needs, such as scheduling, attendance, state compliance reporting, data management, faculty management, emergency/medical and health management, registration, and more. This session will introduce how you can power your school operations with innovative, easy-to-use technology that plays a central role in K-12 education.
Location/Room: 202A
TBD TBD

Strategic Thinking for School Improvement.

eProve Strategies Phase 3-Implementation.
The eProve™ strategies platform streamlines the use of the AdvancED tools for continuous improvement. eProve™ strategies replaces the ASSIST platform. Enhancing Strategic Thinking Phases 1 and 2 of the process (Envisioning and Planning) were introduced across Alabama in the Spring of 2019. This is a continuation of the process and is focused on implementation. The Implementing Phase converts plans into actions. Through engaging in this phase, the continuous improvement team determines concrete steps for making progress toward achieving objectives and critical initiatives. Success in this phase depends on regular monitoring and reporting updates to ensure execution of the plan. The work of Implementing can and should involve a degree of evaluation expected and producing acceptable results. This also will inform course corrections when needed. This is a hands-on working session designed to facilitate continuous improvement using the eProve™ strategies platform.
Location/Room: 202B
Barbara-Jane Paris

The Whole Child Initiative: Evidence-based and Sustainable City-Wide Transformation
Whole children, those who are academically successful with positive mental well-being and social health, achieve higher graduation rates, contribute to the community and lead happy, productive lives. The Whole Child Initiative (WCI) offers a decade-long roadmap for school and community transformation that leads to youth and adult success. To be successful, our city schools and community partners must embrace a common vision, language and implementation processes to sustain city-wide transformation. To this end, we describe the research support for the WCI. We also walk through the data, systems, and practices across four transformative shifts—schools, community organizations, families, and neighborhoods. Recognizing that it is vital for students to have access environments that are physically and psychologically safe, healthy, positive and predictable outside of school to help lead to success in school and life, a collaborative network of community agencies, including the Public Schools, the Police Department, Boys; Girls Club, United Way, University researchers, and others joined efforts to bring the framework and implementation plan from schools to neighborhoods with the goal to increase neighborhood engagement in positive behavior supports. We demonstrate how whole child snapshot data are used to route youth to function-based mentoring and to mental health supports. We show how data-based individualization is used to intensify supports provided to youth. Examples of how schools in the district are utilizing these supports and other high yield strategies will be shared.
Purpose: The Whole Child Initiative (WCI) offers a decade-long roadmap for school and community transformation that leads to youth and adult success. We share outcomes across four transformative shifts—schools, community organizations, families, and neighborhoods. Participant Learning Objectives:
1) Understand the “why” (rationale), “how” (change process), and “what” (evidence-based practices) of WCI.
2) Articulate how to launch and sustain school and community transformation efforts.
3) Explain the four transformative shifts of sustainable community change.
Location/Room: 203A
Greg Benner
Right on Schedule: How to integrate tiered academic and behavioral support into secondary school schedules

On paper, Response to Instruction (RtI) is a pre-emptive instructional/intervention framework that offers targeted academic and behavioral support to all students; particularly those students who struggle. But, as many teachers will tell you, how it is rolled out is where it can get complicated. Having a workable schedule for faculty, staff, and students is important in making the essential components of RtI cohesive and feasible to implement. This session addresses concerns secondary schools have about scheduling issues. Participants will be provided with information (including presentations from school personnel) that will clarify existing practices at other schools. The information should be used as a guide as school officials create or modify their schedules for tiered support.

Location/Room: 203B
Christine Spear

Understanding and Using Alabama’s Plan 2020 (P2A) Portal and Accountability Resources

During this session, participants will be provided information relative to Alabama’s Plan 2020 (P2A) Portal. Participants will be allowed to bring their own device and log into the portal to see their data and receive help with the navigation of the portal. Participants will also be given information relative to the resources that the Accountability Section places within the AIM Portal. Participants will use their own device to log into the Accountability Resources tile within the AIM Portal, view the information, and receive help with navigating the resources.

*Time will be allotted for feedback from participants during this session. Due to the ability for participants to view sensitive data, this session is limited to superintendents, central office personnel, and building principals. This session is a “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) session.

Location/Room: 204A
Marcus Vandiver, Paul Bonner, Willie Horn

Justice for Jamari and Jason: Knowing the Rules to Prohibit Bullying in Schools

Justice for Jamari and Jason: Knowing the Rules to Prohibit Bullying in Schools is a 90 minute presentation designed to prepare parents, and school officials to respond to the threat of bullying in the school setting. Specific emphasis will be placed on the signs associated with identifying attacks of bullying, the response to reports of bullying and the profile of an antagonistic bully. Crisis Response Management Steps will also be presented to school officials equipping them accurately and actively respond in the wake of a bully-threatening environment and when faced with a student threatened by a bully.

Location/Room: 204B
Shaundalyn Elliott

Getting it Done Right: Special Education Processes 1-5

Staff from Special Education Services at the Alabama State Department of Education will conduct an interactive all-day session on the five special education processes. This training will help individuals who work with students with disabilities unpack the requirements for referral, eligibility, Individualized Education Program (IEP) development and implementation, reevaluation to determine continued eligibility, reevaluation to determine if changes need to be made to the IEP, annual IEP Team meetings, and IEP meetings to amend the annual IEP. Participants will have an opportunity for in-depth discussion, questions and answers.

Location/Room: Moonlight A
SES Staff

Let’s Get Visual: The Autism Way!

Visual supports is an evidenced-based practice for students with autism. Auditory information is fleeting; it is there and then gone. Visual information stays long enough to process, get reminders and/or go back and get additional details. By utilizing this strategy, you will see more “Oh I understand it now” from your students. Visuals include pictures, objects, color coding, gestures, text and more. Multiple sites and free/inexpensive apps will be shared to discover where to create or locate pre-made visuals. Demonstrations and real-life examples of visuals for academics, behavior, social skills, communication and more will be shared! Don’t miss this fun packed session!

Location/Room: Moonlight B
Mo Buti

Improving Co-Teaching: Elevating the Level of Instruction in the Co-Taught Classroom

Co-teaching is the most often used service delivery option to support students with disabilities in general education classrooms. This session is intended for professionals already familiar with co-teaching basics. We will focus on ways to differentiate content, process, and product and identify how co-teachers may incorporate especially designed instruction (SDI) into the co-taught classroom. We will specifically focus on integrating SDI and evidence-based practices strategically within the three high-yield co-teaching approaches.

Location/Room: Moonlight C
Donna Ploessl

PowerSchool Special Programs Overview

PowerSchool Special Programs manages all areas of special programs including Special Education Case Management, 504 Accommodations, Gifted and Talented, English Language Learners, and Response to Intervention (RTI). Take confidence in a comprehensive solution that meets your needs, is user friendly, and promotes compliance to ensure the alignment of IEPs to state and local goals. Our system is designed to support districts in meeting results-driven accountability requirements that, in turn, positively impact student education and growth. This session will provide an overview of our powerful special programs modules with a focus on special education and how it can benefit your district.

Location/Room: Moonlight D
TBA

Mapping the Schedule - Lessons Learned from Michael Remus

Michael Remus identifies mapping as the process utilized for determining staffing priorities to best meet the needs of students. The process begins by identifying what kinds of supports students need, where that support needs to be, when it needs to take place and then assigning staff (both certified and classified) to meet those needs. It is a continual process. Mapping must be flexible, fluid and reviewed periodically throughout the school year. Mapping involves creating a school schedule based on the needs of students, not personnel.

Location/Room: Moonlight E
Debbie Patterson
ACCESS Counselor Mandatory Refresher

ACCESS Counselors are required to attend a mandatory refresher for this upcoming school year 2019-2020. This refresher will include Student Orientation overview, Registration changes, WIP procedures, Exam Exemptions, and IEP's/504 Plans. This session is also open to administrators.

Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR III

Terri Miles

Evolving the Service Model: School-Based Deaf Therapy

In the field of education, language planning becomes critical to identify risk factors with students who have hearing loss. There is a need to focus on designing towards multi-tier systems of support to provide wraparound services utilizing mental health counselors in the school-based environment. The establishment of sign language as an official language in 1960 encourages an additional perspective to consider the ameliorating effects within language acquisition. There is a need to integrate a multidisciplinary approach considering the psychosocial aspects and functional implications for students with hearing loss transition into the real world. Some of these linguistic patterns and pedagogical framework will be explored from a Deaf therapist perspective with hopes to reduce the language gap that may contribute to social and cognitive deficiencies inside an academic environment.

Location/Room: Riverboat
Jag Dawadi, Kent Schafer

Seal of Biliteracy: Celebrating Bilingualism and Enhancing Career Options

This presentation describes the Seal of Biliteracy and explains how this award, which recognizes proficiency in English and another World Language, can benefit every Alabama student. The Seal of Biliteracy was initiated almost twenty years ago in California with the goal of celebrating English learners' bilingualism and enhancing their career options. Today, it is offered by 37 states and also by schools in several other states. Attendees learn how some Alabama high schools are already offering the Seal of Biliteracy and brainstorm ways for how they can do the same in their own schools. Statewide networking will also be explored.

Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR I
Susan Spezzini

Connecting the DOTS® DHR and ED

Quick and easy snap shot of DHR's revised Education Policy- Revised in January 2017 to capture ESSA requirements. This fun session will lay out step by step DHR/LEA protocols, transportation agreements and referrals for problem solving teams. This session will also provide practical ways to assist DHR's Foster Youth with achieving independence as well as information available to share with your students about attending college for free.

Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR II
Valencia Curry

The Four Faces of "FAPE"

This session will identify and explain each of the four faces, or dimensions, of the IDEA's central obligation--"free appropriate public education" (FAPE). The first two, procedural and substantive FAPE, started in Rowley (1982), with the procedural face taking further form in IDEA 2004 and the substantive face being refined in Endrew F. (2017). The other two, failure to implement and capability to implement, are relatively new and not yet uniformly settled. The explanation will extend to show the difference between the legal standards for each one and professional recommendations for best practice.

Location/Room: Riverview/Grand Bay
Perry Zirkel

Phonemic Awareness/Phonics (K-1):
A Stepping-Stone to Comprehension

To be ready for reading and writing, children need to understand how speech sounds work. Having fun with sounds, rhyming, saying silly words, or playing with language is a foundational skill young children need every time they read. Once children understand how language works, they are ready for letter-sound correspondences and spelling patterns which they apply in their reading. In this session, participants will learn why phonological tasks and explicit phonics instruction are essential and actively engage in phonemic awareness and phonics activities. This session will be most beneficial for early childhood and elementary teachers, as well as for special education teachers who teach children who are significantly below level readers and writers.

Location/Room: Location/Room: Riverview/Jubilee
Vickie Chappelle

The Laws of Motion: Integrating STEM with Physical Activity!

Numerous studies have shown that children who are active and healthy have a lower risk of juvenile behavior, an increase in academic achievement, and tend to have a much better self-image. This workshop integrates STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math with Physical Activity in the unique Skillastics® format that helps develop healthier, more productive children. Don't miss this opportunity to participate in a one-of-a-kind workshop!

Location/Room: Riverview/Mobile Bay
Suzanne Stone

Vocabulary (2-3): A Stepping-Stone to Comprehension

Many studies have shown that reading ability and vocabulary size are related. In addition, as students encounter vocabulary in text and on assessments, their understanding of text may hinge on their background knowledge of the words. In this session, participants will learn how to select vocabulary words for instruction that students can use across content areas as well as some practical strategies for assisting students in the acquisition of vocabulary.

Location/Room: Riverview/Windjammer
Wendy Warren
Legal Aspects of Special Education: What Successful School Principals and Staff Do (and Need to Know)

This session is based upon and with reference to the ALSDE’s “Help Guide” that was initially designed for school principals. The guide has recently been revised and is relevant for everyone. Julie Weatherly will highlight the top “need to know” legal requirements related to educating students with disabilities. Discussion will include parental rights and safeguards; child-find, evaluation and eligibility; IEP process, content and implementation; and important issues such as discipline and least restrictive environment. A copy of the revised “Help Guide” will be available for each participant.

Location/Room: Schooner
Julie Weatherly

Top Ten Recent Legal Issues/Rulings in Special Education

This session will identify the most legally and practically significant issues, each with at least an illustrative court decision, within the past two years. The coverage extends beyond the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, thus doubly affecting regular as well as special education personnel. For each of the top ten issues/rulings, the presentation will include a user-friendly explanation and the practical implications. For example, the item concerning the Supreme Court’s decision in Endrew F. will explain its scope of “substantive FAPE” and canvas its subsequent interpretations by lower courts and by school personnel.

Location/Room: Grandbay
Perry Zirkel

Financial Fusion: Free resources to help make connections

Want to bring industry experts from across the country into your classroom? Then Maximum Employment Matters is your solution! In the Maximum Employment Matters archived webinar series, industry experts share their insights on the skills that students need to be successful in their future career paths, forecast labor trends and areas of growth, and offer career advice. This session will also highlight free related classroom teaching resources including activities, lessons, infographics, and online interactives. This session will build awareness about labor trends and high-demand jobs throughout the Southeast. We will share classroom activities and resources to complement the archived video that reinforce the industry expert’s points. Activities include a soft skills self-assessment, interviewing skills, listening and following directions, and cost benefit analysis of changing jobs.

Location/Room: 105
Julie Kornegay

Battling Biases: Building Authentic Community Relationships in Culturally Diverse Schools

As educators, we must carefully, critically, and honestly examine our own attitudes for evidence of implicit bias. Every teacher must be brave enough to reflect on their own life experiences and find ways to connect with students, families, and each other. By affirmatively countering negative stereotypes that sustain biases with more accurate facts and perceptions, teachers can be instrumental in demonstrating actions that lead to the disruption of biases in the classroom and school setting. This session will provide purposeful strategies for building relationships and communities that value every student and support inclusive learning environments.

Location/Room: 106B
Paula Johnson

The Smithsonian Rides the Wave Phenomenon: How do Waves Behave When They Interact with Matter

How does the Smithsonian help students understand wave phenomena? What investigations can lead students to make a claim, provide evidence and reasoning as to how waves interact with matter? Join us as we explore these and other questions in this hands-on workshop.

Location/Room: 107A
Caarolyn Pistorius

Teaching/Leading with Trauma: Understanding the Impact of ACEs on Teacher/Leader Performance

With the ever-increasing mental health needs of school-aged children, as well as the busy, overwhelming lives of parents, it is critical that school districts and local mental health agencies form a collaborative relationship to meet the needs of children and their families. Mobile County Public School System has successfully partnered with the children’s component of AltaPointe Health Systems and The Bridge, Inc. to provide students and families with on-site therapeutic opportunities as well as family counseling and preventative mental health screenings. An effective relationship of this type requires ongoing training, understanding of the respective roles, and excellent communication between all parties. It provides a critical element for families and children with mental health issues. Representatives from MCPSS and two of our local agencies would like to present our current agreement as well as tips and suggestions for districts to formulate their own plan and partnership with their local agencies to meet the mental health needs of their students.

Location/Room: 107B
Mandi Logan

Keys to Effective Collaboration between School Districts and Local Mental Health Agencies

How does the Smithsonian help students understand wave phenomena? What investigations can lead students to make a claim, provide evidence and reasoning as to how waves interact with matter? Join us as we explore these and other questions in this hands-on workshop.

Location/Room: 201B
Brenda Fore

PowerSchool Unified Classroom Overview

Get rid of traditional tech silos and give your teachers the ability to efficiently manage the entire instructional processes with the award-winning PowerSchool Unified Classroom™. Focus on each student with easy-to-use technology that connects the classroom and home. Boost student success with a 360-degree view of their performance in a unified software solution that combines Assessment, Gradebook, Learning, and Special Program products.

Location/Room: 202A
TBD TBD
The Whole Child Initiative:
Evidence-based and Sustainable City-Wide Transformation

Whole children, those who are academically successful with positive mental well-being and social health, achieve higher graduation rates, contribute to the community and lead happy, productive lives. The Whole Child Initiative (WCI) offers a decade-long roadmap for school and community transformation that leads to youth and adult success. To be successful, our city schools and community partners must embrace a common vision, language and implementation processes to sustain city-wide transformation. To this end, we describe the research support for the WCI. We also walk through the data, systems, and practices across four transformative shifts—schools, community organizations, families, and neighborhoods. Recognizing that it is vital for students to have access environments that are physically and psychologically safe, healthy, positive and predictable outside of school to help lead to success in school and life, a collaborative network of community agencies, including the Public Schools, the Police Department, Boys & Girls Club, United Way, University researchers, and others joined efforts to bring the framework and implementation plan from schools to neighborhoods with the goal to increase neighborhood engagement in positive behavior supports. We demonstrate how whole child snapshot data are used to route youth to function-based mentoring and to mental health supports. We show how data-based individualization is used to intensify supports provided to youth. Examples of how schools in the district are utilizing these supports and other high yield strategies will be shared.

Purpose: The Whole Child Initiative (WCI) offers a decade-long roadmap for school and community transformation that leads to youth and adult success. We share outcomes across four transformative shifts—schools, community organizations, families, and neighborhoods.

Participant Learning Objectives:
1) Understand the "why" (rationale), "how" (change process), and "what" (evidence-based practices) of WCI.
2) Articulate how to launch and sustain school and community transformation efforts.
3) Explain the four transformative shifts of sustainable community change.

Location/Room: 203A
Greg Benner

Understanding Alabama's Accountability System Based on Federal and State Guidelines

During this session, participants will be provided information relative to Alabama's Accountability System, including amendments to the state ESSA Plan. Participants will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of the data portals, calculations, and data owners for the data used within Alabama's accountability system that is included in the ESSA Plan. In addition, data sources for each indicator will be highlighted and the importance of LEA's validating data and identifying district level portal owners. Participants will gain insight into state accountability laws and efforts of creating a unified accountability reporting system. In closure, participants will be given strategies on how to use accountability data to positively impact student achievement in Alabama's Schools.

*Time will be allotted for feedback from participants during this session.

Location/Room: 204A
Marcus Vandiver, Paul Bonner, Willie Horn

Ci3T and the Implementation of Tiers One, Two and Three

Ci3T and the Implementation of Tiers One, Two and Three is a comprehensive overview of the Ci3T Model. Special emphasis will be placed on the origin, and outline of the model and its impact on schools.

Location/Room: 204B
Shaundalyn Elliott

State-of-the-Art Classroom Rubric/Tool:
Autism and Intellectual Disabilities

Do you teach or support a classroom of all students with autism or intellectual disabilities and want to have the best program where students will progress making educational, social and behavioral gains? If yes, you have come to the right place! During this session, we will give you a snapshot review of an awesome tool/rubric to guide you through this process, demonstrating strategies, examples and links supporting all areas (e.g., school culture, classroom environment, academics, behavior, social, sensory, health and hygiene, and transition). Come to this fast-paced session and leave with ideas to improve your program!

Location/Room: Moonlight B
Mo Buti

PowerSchool Special Programs Overview

PowerSchool Special Programs manages all areas of special programs including Special Education Case Management, 504 Accommodations, Gifted and Talented, English Language Learners, and Response to Intervention (RTI). Take confidence in a comprehensive solution that meets your needs, is user friendly, and promotes compliance to ensure the alignment of IEPs to state and local goals. Our system is designed to support districts in meeting results-driven accountability requirements that, in turn, positively impact student education and growth. This session will provide an overview of our powerful special programs modules with a focus on special education and how it can benefit your district.

Location/Room: Moonlight D
TBA

Mapping the Schedule - Lessons Learned from Michael Remus

Michael Remus identifies mapping as the process utilized for determining staffing priorities to best meet the needs of students. The process begins by identifying what kinds of supports students need, where that support needs to be, when it needs to take place and then assigning staff (both certified and classified) to meet those needs. It is a continual process. Mapping must be flexible, fluid and reviewed periodically throughout the school year. Mapping involves creating a school schedule based on the needs of students, not personnel.

Location/Room: Moonlight E
Debbie Patterson
Seal of Biliteracy: Celebrating Bilingualism and Enhancing Career Options
This presentation describes the Seal of Biliteracy and explains how this award, which recognizes proficiency in English and another World Language, can benefit every Alabama student. The Seal of Biliteracy was initiated almost twenty years ago in California with the goal of celebrating English learners’ bilingualism and enhancing their career options. Today, it is offered by 37 states and also by schools in several other states. Attendees learn how some Alabama high schools are already offering the Seal of Biliteracy and brainstorm ways for how they can do the same in their own schools. Statewide networking will also be explored.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR I
Susan Spezzini

Title II-A: It’s More Than Just Professional Development!
This session will discuss the purpose of Title II-A. With the new updates from ESSA, Title II is more than using funds for professional development and class size reduction units. Learn about Title II-A and the variety of ways these funds can maximize learning in your school district.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR II
Angela Landry

Global Communicator: Building your professional learning network
This session is open to all teachers and administrators. Join me as we explore the opportunities available when you become a connected educator. Developing a Personal/Professional learning network is one of the most powerful things you can do to improve your teaching and provide better outcomes for your students. This session focuses on 7 steps to building a PLN: defining a PLN, making connections, using Twitter to build a PLN, hashtags and Twitter chats, using blogs, curation tools, and making the time to build your PLN.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR III
Natalie Veazey

What is First Class Pre-K and What Can It Do for Me, My Students, and My School?
Learn about the nationally recognized and lauded statewide First Class Pre-K program administered by the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education. Find out what makes this experience so exceptional for students and teachers! Hear about the material and instructional advantages of participation in the program, the high standards and levels of support, the process for acquiring a grant to fund a pre-k classroom, and the amazing short- and long-term benefits realized from participation in First Class Pre-K for children, teachers, and schools. You will leave knowing why this educational innovation truly is FIRST CLASS!
Location/Room: Riverview/Mobile Bay
Katrina Bowling

Developing Effective Affective Lessons for Gifted Students
In this session we will explore the various affective issues that can complicate the school and home environment. We explore different strategies and create lessons to share to help gifted students cope with their issues. You will leave this session with many lessons plans for gifted students in Grades K-12.
Location/Room: Clipper
Shirley Farrell

Elementary Rainy Day Recess....Problem Solved ...And So Much MORE!
In this session attendees will learn of a new innovative way to engage students academically during rainy day recess and still allow for that much needed physical movement. This extremely versatile activity is based on the perfect balance of academic/physical/collaborative elements and completely captivates students during play. By using our 26 alphabet letters as individual game pieces the academic possibilities are truly limitless. Students from the youngest non-reader to the highest reading level can enjoy this fast paced game by simply changing the complexity of the word/task cards. Your students will be watching the weather for rainy days!
Location/Room: 106A
Carol Cranford

Battling Biases: Building Authentic Community Relationships in Culturally Diverse Schools
As educators, we must carefully, critically, and honestly examine our own attitudes for evidence of implicit bias. Every teacher must be brave enough to reflect on their own life experiences and find ways to connect with students, families, and each other. By affirmatively countering negative stereotypes that sustain biases with more accurate facts and perceptions, teachers can be instrumental in demonstrating actions that lead to the disruption of biases in the classroom and school setting. This session will provide purposeful strategies for building relationships and communities that value every student and support inclusive learning environments.
Location/Room: 106B
Paula Johnson

Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics – A Time for Peer Discussion
Opportunities and activities will be provided for peer discussion around topics within the training. Topics include: The Transition Year, The Implementation Year, Grade K-5 Resources, Equity and Acceleration Opportunities, What is New-Revised-Eliminated, Significant Changes in High School, and Training Opportunities.
Location/Room: 107A
Todd Beers

How to Develop College / Career Ready Leaders
In today’s market, businesses from around the world are sharing one common challenge, being able to hire leaders who have the habits, principles, and practices of creating success both independently and interdependently as a team. At the Leader In Me our focus is to develop life-ready leaders, by equipping students grades K through 12th grade with these habits, principles, and practices in applying these necessary skills to truly be successful in any industry across the globe. Please join us to best understand the process of developing such leaders and ensuring they are well equipped for graduation.
Location/Room: 107B
Lonnie Moore
I Have My Data, Now What? Purposeful Planning with Scantron Performance Series Data

Participants will engage in job-embedded professional learning to improve their current data analysis practices with Scantron Performance Series data. They will develop prescriptive, Tier I and individualized lessons and formative assessments that address deficits identified in their class or school data. The following components of the Scantron engine will be used in this training: Standards Detail Report, Edgenuity, Suggested Learning Objectives, and Achievement Series. Participants will need their login information for Scantron and Edgenuity and a fully-charged electronic device for this session.

Location/Room: 203A
Courtney Giles

Centering on Central Office Support: The Role of Central office in Supporting Response to Instruction (RtI) Implementation

Successful implementation of RtI at the school level hinges on whether the district superintendent and central office staff embrace and facilitate the use of the RtI framework as a method for determining instructional and behavioral needs of all students. Collaboration among central office staff is not only encouraged, but is essential as decisions are made regarding implementation of the RtI framework. Hear how one central office staff rallied together to revitalize their RtI methods beginning at the district level.

Location/Room: 203B
Richjetta Branch

Understanding Alabama’s Accountability System Based on Federal and State Guidelines

During this session, participants will be provided information relative to Alabama’s Accountability System, including amendments to the state ESSA Plan. Participants will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of the data portals, calculations, and data owners for the data used within Alabama’s accountability system that is included in the ESSA Plan. In addition, data sources for each indicator will be highlighted and the importance of LEA’s validating data and identifying district level portal owners. Participants will gain insight into state accountability laws and efforts of creating a unified accountability reporting system. In closure, participants will be given strategies on how to use accountability data to positively impact student achievement in Alabama’s Schools.

*Time will be allotted for feedback from participants during this session.

Location/Room: 204A
Marcus Vandiver, Paul Bonner, Willie Horn

Title IV, Part A, Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grant (SSAE)

This 3 hour presentation will provide an overview of the Title IV, Part A, Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grant (SSAE) Grant. The session will focus on providing guidance to LEAs for allowable activities to support a Well-Rounded Education, Safe & Healthy Students and Effective Use of Technology.

Location/Room: 204B
Ayanna Long
Visual supports is an evidenced-based practice for students with autism. Auditory information is fleeting; it is there and then gone. Visual information stays long enough to process, get reminders and/or go back and get additional details. By utilizing this strategy, you will see more "Oh I understand it now" from your students. Visuals include pictures, objects, color coding, gestures, textand more. Multiple sites and free/cheap apps will be shared to discover where to create or locate pre-made visuals. Demonstrations and real-life examples of visuals for academics, behavior, social skills, communication and more will be shared! Don't miss this fun packed session!
Location/Room: Moonlight B
Mo Buti

Getting to the Business of Planning for Co-Teaching
Co-teaching is a service delivery option in which a general education teacher and a special education teacher share instructional responsibility and accountability for a diverse group of students with the goal of improving outcomes and reducing the achievement gap for students. However, even when professionals are committed to co-teaching, barriers often arise related to the logistics. One frequently mentioned concern pertains to co-planning. This includes arranging common planning time, keeping to the task of co-planning, and lacking necessary tools to support co-planning. The presenter provides a useful structure along with tools to assist teachers to co-plan for effective co-taught lessons.
Location/Room: Moonlight C
Donna Ploessl

Using IEP Facilitation to Transform Relationships with IEP Team Members
The Alabama State Department of Education, Special Education Services, provides facilitators for IEP Team meetingsFREE of charge. Participants will learn the benefits of having an IEP Facilitator attend meetings to improve communication, make participants feel comfortable, and build relationships to solve current problems and prevent future problems.
Location/Room: Moonlight D
Amanda Bradley

Cultivating Resilience in Traumatized Deaf Youth:
Social Roles and Cultural Context
Missing Language in a student disrupts their lifetime development. In dealing with metacognitive development, sign language influences, and memory is something that service providers and educational interpreters will advance towards in cultivating resilience for a deaf traumatized student. We will use a deaf therapist perspective and a school psychologist framework with hopes to reduce the language gap that may contribute to social and cognitive deficiencies inside an academic environment. The audience will engage in a couple case studies regarding deaf students in an educational environment.
Location/Room: Riverboat
Jag Dawadi, Kent Schafer

You're the new homeless liaison, now what?
This session is for newly "appointed" homeless liaisons or those with 2 years or less of experience. We will explain how to identify homeless students and families, develop your procedures at the district and school level, collaborate as a team to train school staff, district personnel, and administrators, as well as coordinate services within your community. As a bonus, we will review referral paperwork and discuss helpful tips that helped us improve our programs.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR I
Nicole Johnson

Changes to Requirements for Students in Foster Care under ESSA
The reauthorization of ESEA by ESSA resulted in some significant changes for requirements related to students in foster care in both the McKinney-Vento Act and Title I of the ESEA/ESSA. In this session participants will learn about those changes, will review related guidance, and understand the relationships between the laws affecting students in foster care. Available resources, and where to find them, from the U.S. Department of Education and other sources will also be discussed.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR II
David Holbrook

ACCESS Counselor Mandatory Refresher
ACCESS Counselors are required to attend a mandatory refresher for this upcoming school year 2019-2020. This refresher will include Student Orientation overview, Registration changes, WIP procedures, Exam Exemptions, and IEP's/504 Plans. This session is also open to administrators.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR III
Terri Miles

Top Ten Recent Legal Issues/Rulings in Special Education
This session will identify the most legally and practically significant issues, each with at least an illustrative court decision, within the past two years. The coverage extends beyond the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, thus doubly affecting regular as well as special education personnel. For each of the top ten, the presentation will include a user-friendly explanation and the practical implications. For example, the item concerning the Supreme Court’s decision in Endrew F. will explain its scope of “substantive FAPE” and canvass its subsequent interpretations by lower courts and by school personnel.
Location/Room: Riverview/Grand Bay
Perry Zirkel

Linking the Social and Academic Child in the Classroom
When children display behaviors that are challenging, our first reaction is to tackle the behavior, but we forget that the behavior "why". Looking at the child through the lens of their connections to peers, family, teacher, school and looking at the skill that is missing such that behavior becomes an issue creates solutions that will be long-term and build neural pathways in the brain.
Location/Room: Riverview/Mobile Bay
Joy Winchester
Legal Aspects of Special Education: What Successful School Principals and Staff Do (and Need to Know)
This session is based upon and with reference to the ALSDE’s “Help Guide” that was initially designed for school principals. The guide has recently been revised and is relevant for everyone. Julie Weatherly will highlight the top “need to know” legal requirements related to educating students with disabilities. Discussion will include parental rights and safeguards; child-find, evaluation and eligibility; IEP process, content and implementation; and important issues such as discipline and least restrictive environment. A copy of the revised “Help Guide” will be available for each participant.
Location/Room: Schooner
Julie Weatherly

Year or Two in Review of Case Law under the IDEA and Sec. 504/ADA
This session will provide a fast-paced and systematic compilation of recent published court decisions from across the nation, with special emphasis on Alabama and the Eleventh Circuit, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the corresponding pair of federal civil rights statutes--Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The focus will be on current and emerging trends in this litigation, including the practical implications of both the settled and unsettled issues for this jurisdiction. The presenter welcomes active Q/A with the participants.
Location/Room: Grandbay
Perry Zirkel

Independent Educational Evaluations
This session will provide a systematic checklist of the IDEA regulations, U.S. Department of Education policy interpretations, and court decisions specific to independent educational evaluations (IEEs) at public expense. It will also address the legal meaning of the other Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirement for IEEs, which is that districts “consider” them. The checklist is comprehensive and current, yet compact, thus being useful whenever a parent requests or submits an IEE in the IDEA context.
Location/Room: Grandbay

Create a Culture of Mathematical and Critical Thinking
Learn how the game of chess can provide increased complexity for differentiation in building essential mathematical skills, critical thinking skills, life skills, and meta-cognitive processes. These are all qualities sought by businesses in today’s graduates. You do not need to know how to play chess to enjoy this session!
Location/Room: 106A
Jerry Nash

A Positive Response to Poor Attendance
We will discuss when school truancy constitutes Child Find and a denial of rights under Section 504; how a 504 plan can improve attendance through positive behavior support; how a district can respond to homebound requests due to excessive absences; how to consider and apply legal mandates from ESSA, Erin’s Law, Jason Flatt Act, Annalyn’s Law, and Jamari William’s Act. The goal is to help schools meet A-F Report Card requirements while also doing what is right for kids! "It is a Right not a Privilege!"
Location/Room: 106B
Lana Tew

The Whole Child Initiative: Evidence-based and Sustainable City-Wide Transformation
Whole children, those who are academically successful with positive mental well-being and social health, achieve higher graduation rates, contribute to the community and lead happy, productive lives. The Whole Child Initiative (WCI) offers a decade-long roadmap for school and community transformation that leads to youth and adult success. To be successful, our city schools and community partners must embrace a common vision, language and implementation processes to sustain city-wide transformation. To this end, we describe the research support for the WCI. We also walk through the data, systems, and practices across four transformative shifts—schools, community organizations, families, and neighborhoods. Recognizing that it is vital for students to have access environments that are physically and physiologically safe, healthy, positive and predictable outside of school to help lead to success in school and life, a collaborative network of community agencies, including the Public Schools, the Police Department, Boys & Girls Club, United Way, University researchers, and others joined efforts to bring the framework and implementation plan from schools to neighborhoods with the goal to increase neighborhood engagement in positive behavior supports. The Whole Child Initiative (WCI) offers a decade-long roadmap for school and community transformation that leads to youth and adult success. We share outcomes across four transformative shifts—schools, community organizations, families, and neighborhoods. Participant Learning Objectives:
1) Understand the “why” (rationale), “how” (change process), and “what” (evidence-based practices) of WCI.
2) Articulate how to launch and sustain school and community transformation efforts.
3) Explain the four transformative shifts of sustainable community change.
Location/Room: 107B
Greg Benner

Planning and Paying for College
Review resources and 1-2-3s of Paying for College.
Location/Room: 201B
Kelly Savoie

PowerSchool Special Programs Overview
PowerSchool Special Programs manages all areas of special programs including Special Education Case Management, 504 Accommodations, Gifted and Talented, English Language Learners, and Response to Intervention (RTI). Take confidence in a comprehensive solution that meets your needs, is user friendly, and promotes compliance to ensure the alignment of IEPs to state and local goals. Our system is designed to support districts in meeting results-driven accountability requirements that in turn positively impact student education and growth. This session will provide an overview of our powerful special programs modules with a focus on special education and how it can benefit your district.
Location/Room: 202A
TBD TBD
State-of-the-Art Classroom Rubric/Tool: Autism and Intellectual Disabilities
Do you teach or support a classroom of all students with autism or intellectual disabilities and want to have the best program where students will progress making educational, social and behavioral gains? If yes, you have come to the right place! During this session, we will give you a snapshot review of an awesome tool/rubric to guide you through this process, demonstrating strategies, examples and links supporting all areas (e.g., school culture, classroom environment, academics, behavior, social, sensory, health and hygiene, and transition). Come to this fast-paced session and leave with ideas to improve your program!
Location/Room: Moonlight B
Mo Buti

Using IEP Facilitation to Transform Relationships with IEP Team Members
The Alabama State Department of Education, Special Education Services, provides facilitators for IEP Team meetingsFREE of charge. Participants will learn the benefits of having an IEP Facilitator attend meetings to improve communication, make participants feel comfortable, and build relationships to solve current problems and prevent future problems.
Location/Room: Moonlight D
Amanda Bradley

The Unaccompanied Homeless Children and Youth; Who Why and How
The McKinney-Vento Act requires school districts to enroll homeless children and youth in school immediately, even if they lack required enrollment documents. The absence of an available caregiver must not impede enrollment. This presentation will provide best practices for reviewing and revising district policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment of unaccompanied children and youth.
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR I
LaDonna Rudolph

National Board Certification: A Distinction That Matters
Are you interested in pursuing National Board Certification, but not sure what it's all about? Are you already a candidate and wondering what supports are available? The Alabama Education Association (AEA) is here to help! National Board Certification is one of the most respected professional certifications available in education and provides numerous benefits to teachers, students, and schools. During this session, participants will explore the process of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT); NBCT resources; the ALSDE NBCT Scholarship Grant; and ATLAS, a library of accomplished teaching videos. Join us to learn about National Board teacher certification – a distinction that matters!
Location/Room: Riverview/Bon Secour BR II
LaTonya Barnes

When the Wheels are Turning, the Students are Learning!
This session will help those who are new to coding get up to speed! Appropriate for middle or high school students, this session will bring coding and hands-on together as you learn how to program a robotic vehicle with a TI graphing calculator (called the TI-Innovator Rover) to perform different challenges. Code your rover to navigate an obstacle course, travel from one place to another, or make it investigate a model of Martian terrain just like Curiosity! No coding experience is necessary.
Location/Room: Riverview/Mobile Bay
Donald Tunstall

Riding the Waves: Supporting the Mental Health Needs of the Gifted Population
Join us in learning how to identify the unique concerns of the gifted and talented population. Participants will learn eclectic strategies to support the mental health needs of individuals with gifts and talents. We will discuss how normal developmental conflicts and anxieties intersect with conflicts and anxieties related to giftedness, and learn how to help students transform a turbulent and chaotic crisis into an opportunity for growth. We will work together to develop objective systems for student self-evaluation, a technique that can be used to help reduce anxiety and depression symptoms in the gifted and talented population, and well as increase self-confidence. We plan for you to leave this workshop with information, resources and strategies you will be able to implement in your own community.
Location/Room: 204B
Natalie Frazier

Building trauma-sensitive schools: An introduction to practices and staff development
This presentation will introduce the concept of building trauma-sensitive schools and assist participants in creating strategies to plan a school-wide training process.
Location/Room: 106A
Dallas Rabig

How Alabama Science In Motion(ASIM) will enhance science instruction in your school
Alabama Science in Motion(ASIM) is a service provided free of charge to all Alabama Public High Schools through the ALSDE. ASIM provides teacher training and labs resources for Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Physical Science. These inquiry-based labs are aligned with the Course of Study and allow teachers access to materials that may otherwise be unavailable in the classroom. This session will provide an overview of ASIM, how it is used, and how your school can participate. Participants will experience two ASIM lab activities and will leave with an understanding of what ASIM can provide to their high school science classrooms.
Location/Room: 107A
Charles Holloway

Data Driven Advocacy & Planning for the Library Media Center
Library Media Specialists make data-driven decisions daily that impact not only the effectiveness of the library media program but also positively impacts student success. In this session, learn what data to pull, how to analyze the data, and use the information gathered to make data-driven decisions in the library to increase the impact and effectiveness of the library media program. Participants will learn to write SMART goals and action steps for the library media program in light of data, and strategies to communicate these goals to stakeholders.
Location/Room: 201A
Cristin Dillard
Let’s Talk About ACCESS for ELLs!
Do you want to know about WIDA? ACCESS for ELLs? Alternate ACCESS for ELLs? If so, join us for this introductory session that will answer all of your burning questions! This is a good session for new educators or coordinators who would like to know what these assessments are all about - or even for those seasoned educators who need a refresher. Attendees will become familiar with the WIDA and WIDA AMS websites where there is a treasure trove of information!
Location/Room: 201C
Susan Beard

Accessibility, Accommodations, and Universal Design for the Here and Now and Beyond.
This presentation will help educators make appropriate decisions regarding selecting accessibility and accommodation supports for instruction and state assessments. Definitions, descriptions as well as scenarios will be shared with participants.
Location/Room: 201D
Nannette Pence

PowerSchool Performance Matters Overview
This session will introduce you to how PowerSchool Performance Matters Analytics can help you identify strengths and weaknesses of educators and students with streamlined analytics. Interpret data to connect student growth opportunities with professional learning and make data-informed decisions that improve learning outcomes.
Location/Room: 202A
TBD TBD

At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program - The Food Connection to Students Overall Success
Children are constantly growing mentally and physically throughout their elementary through high school years. Nutrition plays a critical role in their lives and education and students who are well nourished are ready to learn! The ALSDE At-Risk Afterschool Program provides reimbursements for snacks and/or meals served to children in eligible areas where at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. The sponsors must provide regularly scheduled enrichment activities or education programs in a structured environment. Join us for a discussion of the program benefits and the connection to students overall success.
Location/Room: 202B
Kimberlei Ruggles

Teaching/Leading with Trauma: Understanding the Impact of ACEs on Teacher/Leader Performance
This presentation will focus on helping participants understand the impact that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can have on teacher performance. Our presentation will introduce what ACEs are, how ACEs impact resiliency and stress, and the impact of ACEs on the brain. Participants will review an ACE test and learn what an ACE score might reveal about responses, stresses, and potential health risks. Participants will leave the session with ideas about how to transfer their new learning to the workplace and personal life.
Location/Room: 203A
Mandi Logan

Follow the Arrow - Using Alabama’s Insight Tool with Performance Series Reports.
In archery, “follow the arrow” is a way of adjusting the site to properly hit the target. After your students have taken the Performance Series assessments, reports allow instructors to view summary and detailed reports of all the standards students have attained. Using that data along with the Alabama Insight tool can provide guidance for developing plan to target instructional needs.
Location/Room: 203B
Meg Lowry

Creating the Ideal Science Program in the Early Childhood Classroom
Children are full of wonder at the world around them. They use their senses to explore and investigate what is in the world where they live. This exciting hands-on training will give youth the skills and information you need to create opportunities for young children to develop science process skills through learning centers. Goals for the workshop will include: Really defining what science is. Setting up a Science Investigation and Learning Center in an early childhood aged classroom. How to plan for formal and informal science learning activities. Teaching students the basic process skills they can discover through science activities. Become familiar with the general science areas. Implementation of science throughout your classroom. Developing a science-based theme in your classroom. You will walk away with the tools to create a top-notch science discovery center in your own classroom.
Location/Room: Riverview/Mobile Bay
Kara Cosby

90 Tips In 150 Minutes
Back by popular demand, this lightning-fast session will provide participants with 90 practical tips in 150 minutes on all things legal, from A to Z, in the field of special education. Tips and topics covered will begin with child find, then move to evaluation, eligibility, IEP/placement, procedural safeguards, discipline and Section 504/ADA. In addition and at the end, a few “mental health/attitudinal” tips for educators are thrown in for good measure!
Julie Weatherly

Building trauma-sensitive schools:
An introduction to practices and staff development
This presentation will introduce the concept of building trauma-sensitive schools and assist participants in creating strategies to plan a school wide training process.
Location/Room: 106A
Dallas Rabig

Leading Students to Explain the Phenomenon of Energy Transfer
How can I help students understand the phenomenon of energy? What kinds of investigations can students perform to collect evidence and make a claim about energy transference? Join ALSDE and Carolina to experience new lessons from the Building Blocks of Science 3D units, which uses print, digital and hands-on investigations to build explanations of energy phenomenon.
Location/Room: 107A
Maria Young
What the Artistic Literacy Consortium Can Do for You to Support a Well-Rounded Education

Alabama has a brand new statewide initiative designed to support access and funding for the arts for every student in our state. Come learn about the achievements made by the Artistic Literacy Consortium that benefit classrooms and communities through collaborative arts programming. We will share how you can be part of this statewide initiative to make lasting, positive change in the lives of your students, your community, and your own teaching practices.

Location/Room: 201A
Sarah Strada

Down and Dirty Assessment Data Analysis in Excel

This session is for System Test Coordinators, Accountability Coordinators, and others in your system that are tasked with analyzing data using Excel. It will primarily appeal to those who consider themselves Excel beginners. We will look at several de-identified student assessment data files and explore ways to check the data for errors or omissions and to analyze the data to get a picture of student achievement and growth for a particular school or system. The tips and tricks you'll learn in this session should prove useful for any data analysis task that comes your way.

Location/Room: 201C
Kathy Padgett

PowerSchool Unified Talent: Perform and Professional Learning

Effective educator development strategies are a key component of maximizing student growth and driving teacher retention. Improve teaching and learning in the classroom by going paperless with digital evaluation. Please join us for a demonstration of our market-leading PowerSchool Unified Talent™ (TalentEd) Professional Learning product and a thought-provoking discussion on how to insure that your PD strategy is tied to student success.

Location/Room: 202A
TBD TBD

RTI - Response to Instruction or Relationships to Improvement?

RTI is an effective process to assist students with academics. However, we have to look at every aspect of a student's life in order to effectively help them be successful. In our role as the RTI Specialist, we make home visits, conference with students, meet with parents, and help make referrals to outside agencies that can offer added assistance at home and at school. All of these things are very beneficial to a student. However, our first priority is forming a relationship with that student and those parents in order for the child to have ALL of his/her needs adequately determined and met. We will show how we use RTI not only to offer academic interventions but also as a way of forming relationships to improve every area of the student’s life. Our goal is to see consistent and steady improvements and opportunities.

Location/Room: 203A
Wendy Arnold

When the Wheels are Turning, the Students are Learning!

This session will help those who are new to coding get up to speed! Appropriate for middle or high school students, this session will bring coding and hands-on together as you learn how to program a robotic vehicle with a TI graphing calculator (called the TI-Innovator Rover) to perform different challenges. Code your rover to navigate an obstacle course, travel from one place to another, or make it investigate a model of Martian terrain just like Curiosity! No coding experience is necessary.

Location/Room: Riverview/Mobile Bay
Donald Tunstall

Prepare Today for Tomorrow’s Jobs: Career Exploration & Employability Skills

Gain a hands-on understanding of several tools for teaching personal finance, career exploration and employability skills. Explore interactives, infographics, project-based lessons, and guided learning activities designed for preparing your students for their futures. The session will also feature related classroom activities focusing on interview and soft skills.

Location/Room: 105
Julie Kornegay