



SUPPORT • APPRECIATE

INVEST • LEARN

SAIL

BACK TO SCHOOL SUMMER CONFERENCE

JULY 28, 2026

**CHARLESTON COLISEUM
AND CONVENTION CENTER**



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



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2026-2027**

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WELCOME TO SAIL

The SAIL Conference brings together West Virginia educators, administrators and service personnel for high-quality professional learning, collaboration and networking. Through keynote speakers, breakout sessions and interactive discussions, participants gain practical strategies, explore innovative practices and strengthen their leadership and professional skills. Attendees will leave energized, informed and equipped with new tools and ideas to support student success.



SAIL Agenda

Time	Sessions	Room
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Registration and Breakfast	Upper Lobby and Grand Ballroom
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Keynote <i>Michele L. Blatt, State Superintendent of Schools</i> Opening Panel Celebrating Education: The Moments That Matter <i>Dr. Erika Klose, Director, Academic Support, WVDE</i> <i>Brooke Bailey, 2026 West Virginia Milken Educator</i> <i>Katlin Grantham, 2026 CTE Teacher of the Year</i> <i>Erica Hampton, 2026 High School Counselor of the Year</i> <i>Brandon Kelley, 2026 School Service Personnel of the Year</i> <i>Tiffany Stephen, 2026 Teacher of the Year</i>	Grand Ballroom

Context is Everything: Unlocking Primary Sources

Becky Berry, Monongalia County

Room 202

Primary sources are powerful tools for engaging students in authentic historical inquiry, but only when students are equipped to read them critically. In this session, educators will explore practical strategies for helping students source documents and analyze them within their historical context. Participants will consider how factors such as time, place, audience, and purpose shape a document's meaning, and why context is essential for deeper understanding.

Wild and Wonderful Artmaking: Foraged Materials and Place-Based Lessons from West Virginia

Emma Romanowski, Wood County

Room 203

This session explores how art educators can use West Virginia's natural resources to create engaging, low-cost classroom lessons that connect students to their environment and culture. Participants will learn four hands-on lesson plans using locally available materials, including turmeric sun printing, oak gall ink, wild clay with kitchen glazes, and natural pigment paints, along with a bonus lesson on nature printing. The presentation also highlights the philosophy of place-based art education, emphasizing accessible materials and guiding educators through lesson facilitation with hands-on practice. Attendees will leave with practical lesson plans, sourcing strategies, and ideas for integrating environmental awareness and Appalachian identity into their curriculum.

The \$0 Engineering Lab: Bridging the Equity Gap in WV STEM Education

Randi Murphy, Mingo County Schools

Room 204

Innovation shouldn't have a price tag. Join this high-energy, interactive leading session to discover how to deliver rigorous, NGSS-aligned engineering (S.7.22/S.8.18) using only recycled paper and household items. We will dismantle the "funding barrier" by modeling a Paper Bridge Challenge that transforms flimsy materials into high-load structures through geometry and physics. Participants will walk away with a ready-to-use Zero-Budget STEM Toolkit, iterative design rubrics, and strategies to foster a growth mindset in high-poverty, rural, and under-resourced classrooms across the Mountain State.

We Can't Fix Everything! Meeting Extreme Behavior with Extreme Compassion

Halie Henkes and Brianna Jones, Mercer County

Room 205

This session will provide realistic scenarios and practical strategies to alleviate common behaviors observed at Take2 Academy. Using drama, immediate feedback, and audience debriefing, this session will address six different areas of impact using the ALC framework.

Unlock Your Curriculum: Designing AI-Powered Escape Rooms with NotebookLM and Gemini

Derek Oldfield, Berkeley County Schools

Room 206

Educational escape rooms are more than just engaging games, they are structured, collaborative learning environments where solving puzzles requires applying academic knowledge and reasoning. When designed well, the puzzles themselves become the learning experience rather than simply wrapping traditional questions in a game format. In this session, participants will learn how to use NotebookLM and Gemini as design partners to rapidly create immersive digital breakout experiences aligned to curriculum standards. Educators will see how NotebookLM can ground escape room design in high-quality instructional resources and learning objectives, while Gemini helps generate narrative scenarios, puzzle structures, and interactive elements that transform lessons into story-driven missions. Participants will explore a practical design process for building escape rooms that combine curriculum alignment, narrative immersion, and varied puzzle types such as logic challenges, pattern recognition, code breaking, and collaborative problem-solving. The session will also highlight strategies for avoiding “reskinned worksheets” by ensuring each puzzle directly requires students to apply the target knowledge or skill.

From Burnout to Balance: AI Solutions for School Counselors

Alaina Schrader, West Virginia University

Room 210

School counselors juggle countless demands, and burnout is real. This practical session shows how AI can save you time and energy by streamlining program tasks, lesson planning, data, and communication. Participants will explore ethical use, learn effective prompt strategies, and practice with real tools. Participants will also walk away with concrete skills to reduce overwhelm, work more efficiently, and focus energy where it matters most – supporting students.

Fundraising, Crowdfunding & Other School-Level Finance Topics

Uriah Cummings,
School Financial Operations Officer, WVDE

Room 211

The session will provide insight into WVBE Policy 1224.1 requirements with a specific focus on fundraising and crowdfunding expectations. Attendees will understand rules surrounding the fundraising process including expectations in cash collection processes.

Running with the Pack: How a Relentless Middle School Transformed

Jamie Harris,
Principal, Warm Springs Middle School

Room 212

Participants will explore how Warm Springs Middle School's Pack Model connects classrooms, clubs, and community into a unified system of career development. Students rotate through WVDE-aligned Career Clusters led by teachers, participate in career-focused clubs, and engage in authentic learning experiences supported by strong community partnerships. These include collaborations with Gat Creek Furniture, Berkeley Springs FFA Alumni Association, West Virginia Air National Guard, James Rumsey Technical Institute, and Blue Ridge Community & Technical College ensuring students see clear pathways from school to career right in their own backyard.

Reconnecting Students: Strategically Planning for Attendance

Cynthia Sorsaia, Coordinator, WVDE

Room 213

This professional development session focuses on strategically planning for attendance using a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). Participants will learn how to analyze attendance data, identify root causes of absenteeism, and align evidence-based strategies across Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 supports. The session emphasizes connecting attendance to school culture, family engagement, and meaningful classroom experiences, while developing clear, actionable plans that promote prevention, early intervention, and sustained improvement in student attendance.

Part I – Using a Behavioral Approach to Creating Supportive Learning Environments *Please plan to attend part two scheduled at 11:00 a.m.*

Jennifer Carpenter and Taffy Robertson
Coordinators, WVDE

Room 214

This session introduces a behavioral approach to creating supportive learning environments by examining how the environment, neurodiversity, and trauma influence student behavior. Participants will learn to recognize behavior patterns and strengthen their function-based thinking to respond to challenges with effective, student-centered strategies.

Mastering Visual Schedules: From Setup to Success in the Classroom

Jennifer Cox, Jamie Armshaw

Room 215

Visual schedules are more than just classroom décor—they are powerful tools that promote independence, reduce anxiety, and keep learning on track. In this session, you'll learn how to design, set up, and implement visual schedules that truly work for your students. We'll cover practical strategies for introducing schedules, teaching students to use them effectively, and adapting them for different ages, abilities, and classroom settings. You'll leave with the confidence and resources to create a visual scheduling system.

How to Rock Small Group Instruction

Karlee Forren, Raleigh County

Room 216

Learn how to effectively plan, organize, and implement small group instruction in your classroom through collaborative, hands-on learning. You will gain knowledge, insight, and resources that will help you ROCK small group instruction.

WVCCRS-Aligned Non-Evaluative Walkthroughs

**Eric D. Croasmun, Paige Crawford-Cook,
and Amanda Mote**

Room 217

This session introduces the Standards-in-Action walkthrough process, a non-evaluative approach to improving standards-based instruction through brief observations focused on student engagement and rigor. Participants will learn to analyze standards, identify key verbs to gauge cognitive demand, and assess alignment using a structured tool. The session also highlights how reflective feedback supports professional growth, strengthens instruction, and improves student outcomes through closer alignment to standards.

Champions of Learning

Brooke Green, Coordinator, WVDE

North Hall

This session provides an overview of the West Virginia Teacher of the Year, School Counselor of the Year, Principal of the Year, and School Service Personnel of the Year programs, including eligibility requirements, nomination procedures, application components, and the county and state selection processes.

WV Healthy Schools in Action Project: Empowering Schools and Communities Through Wellness & How to Start a Kids Run Club

**Emi Tsuda, Emily Murphy, Leanne Watson,
and India Tarleton Krawczyk**

South Hall

This presentation highlights the achievement of the WV Healthy Schools in Action initiative over the past three years and outlines current efforts to expand these opportunities statewide. Presenters will walk through the steps to become a WV Healthy School in Action and highlight available resources for educators. Presenters will also discuss the past successes of Kids Run Clubs and provide information on how schools can start a Kids Run Club and receive funding through a mini-grant process.

Deep and Meaningful Primary Source Analysis in the Age of AI

Adena Barnette-Miller, Jackson County

Room 202

This session explores how to transform traditional document analysis into an engaging, accessible, and skill-centered daily practice. Participants will learn why rethinking the primary source analysis process is essential to meeting students at their varied levels of knowledge and comprehension. Participants will be introduced to practical, classroom-ready strategies, including DBQ scavenger hunts and scaffolded analysis techniques that build confidence and historical thinking skills.

Up and Move - Review: Engaging, Content Focused Movement Strategies

Eric Kincaid, Monongalia County

Room 203

Participants will learn why movement is a valuable component of effective instruction and how to implement it with purpose. Participants will engage in at least three movement-based strategies that keep students focused on content while reviewing vocabulary, promoting academic discussion, and experiencing productive struggles. This engaging, high-energy session goes beyond theory, providing practical approaches teachers can immediately apply in the classroom. Walk away with ready-to-use ideas and resources to boost student engagement and make learning more engaging, dynamic and fun.

A Guided Experience Through the STEAM TAC Pipeline Pathfinders Immersion

**Erica Skorlinski and Samantha Couch,
WVU/WVDE STEAM TAC**

Room 204

In this session, participants will engage in hands-on activities from the Pipeline Pathfinders immersion — a lesson generously sponsored by and developed alongside EQT Corporation. This lesson explores how scientists use technology to collect and analyze wildlife data. Just as biologists track animal movements with remote sensors, students will use Micro:bits as simulated game cameras to detect and record sightings of three animal species. GIS tools then bring their findings to life, allowing students to map and interpret animal distribution. Finally, students apply their data to a real-world engineering challenge by evaluating the environmental impact of a natural gas pipeline and determining the most responsible route. Additionally, discover how the STEAM TAC and the West Virginia K-12 Speakers Bureau work together to strengthen career-connected learning by pairing engaging STEM experiences with authentic interactions with industry professionals. Together, these programs help educators inspire students to explore future opportunities and make meaningful connections between the classroom and real-world careers.

Built for 80%: Designing Tier I for Mastery

**Melissa Harrah, Britini Wolfe,
and Eleanor Gandee, Fayette County**

Room 205

Too often, schools respond to low proficiency by expanding intervention systems rather than strengthening Tier I instruction. What if 80% of students mastered grade-level standards through core instruction before intervention was needed? This session explores a practical framework for designing Tier I instruction around clear mastery expectations, using frequent formative assessments to guide instruction, and aligning assessments to measure true understanding. Participants will learn to deconstruct standards, define mastery, use real-time data to adjust teaching, and shift from content coverage to intentional mastery. Leaders and instructional teams will leave with practical tools to strengthen core instruction, reduce reliance on intervention, and increase student proficiency.

Strong Start, Strong Future: Onboarding and Coaching for CTE Teacher Success and Retention

Donna Van Metre, Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative

Room 206

What happens in a CTE teacher's first year often determines whether they stay in the profession, or leave it. Focusing on building prepared and effective CTE program staff through intentional onboarding, mentoring, and coaching practices impact retention of CTE teachers. Participants in this session will examine scalable strategies for supporting new CTE teachers—particularly those entering through nontraditional pathways—during their first few years in the classroom. Attendees will learn how to implement structured onboarding systems, strengthen mentor-mentee relationships, and provide just-in-time instructional and professional support that improves teacher effectiveness and retention. This session is designed for CTE administrators, school and district leaders, instructional coaches, and teacher leaders responsible for onboarding, mentoring, and supporting CTE educators. It features interactive reflection, peer discussion, and collaborative problem-solving to help participants assess current practices and identify next steps. Participants will leave with practical, adaptable resources, including an onboarding checklist, mentoring frameworks, and actionable strategies that can be applied across schools, districts, and CTE centers to strengthen instructional quality and sustain high-quality CTE programs.

What's Next for College Access: Statewide Innovations Through CFVW

**Heather McChesney,
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission**

Room 210

West Virginia is evolving its statewide approach to college access through strategic updates to its CFVW initiatives, including the lessons learned from the expansion of CFVW Champions and their milestone programs, enhanced family engagement through texting, and the reimagining of the 21st Century Scholars program. Attendees will gain insight into how statewide alignment, cross-agency collaboration, and intentional communication strategies are driving impact. Participants will leave with practical ideas and adaptable approaches to enhance college access efforts within their communities and buildings.

Purchasing Procedures: WVBE Policy 8200

Uriah Cummings,
School Financial Operations Officer, WVDE

Room 211

The session will provide an in-depth discussion on purchasing policy procedures as well as anticipated changes to the policy that will be forthcoming. Attendees are encouraged to understand their role in the purchasing process and develop a profound knowledge base of these requirements that are critical to a county's fiscal success.

Grow Your Pre-Apprenticeship to Apprenticeship Programs in Manufacturing

Carol Howerton, Director for Workforce Development Programs, Marshall Advanced Manufacturing Center
Heather Cooper, Director of Apprenticeship Works, Marshall Advanced Manufacturing Center
Macel Adams, Director, Ralph R. Willis Career and Technical Center

Room 212

Learn about the statewide partnership with Marshall Advanced Manufacturing Center to help support and grow pre-apprentices and registered apprenticeship programs for the state. All students in manufacturing programs (and a few non-manufacturing) have an opportunity to earn advanced credits toward a registered apprenticeship. Marshall will discuss the program and Logan County's Ralph R. Willis Career and Technology Center will discuss how their program is participating and the work students are doing. Hear from a student and their experiences.

Reconnecting Students: Strategically Planning for Attendance

Cynthia Sorsaia, Coordinator, WVDE

Room 213

This professional development session focuses on strategically planning for attendance using a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). Participants will learn how to analyze attendance data, identify root causes of absenteeism, and align evidence-based strategies across Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 supports. The session emphasizes connecting attendance to school culture, family engagement, and meaningful classroom experiences, while developing clear, actionable plans that promote prevention, early intervention, and sustained improvement in student attendance.

Part 2 - Using a Behavioral Approach to Creating Supportive Learning Environments *This is a two-part session with part 1 taking place at 9:45 a.m.*

Jennifer Carpenter and Taffy Robertson,
Coordinators, WVDE

Room 214

This session introduces a behavioral approach to creating supportive learning environments by examining how the environment, neurodiversity, and trauma influence student behavior. Participants will learn to recognize behavior patterns and strengthen their function-based thinking to respond to challenges with effective, student-centered strategies.

Little Moments, Big Impact: SEL Driven Circle Time Practices

Jeanna Williams, West Virginia Behavior/Mental Health
Technical Assistance Center

Room 215

Circle time can be one of the most meaningful parts of the preschool day—but only when it actively engages young learners. This interactive session explores practical, developmentally appropriate strategies for designing shorter, more purposeful large-group experiences. Participants will learn how to increase engagement, incorporate movement, encourage active participation, and reduce challenging behaviors. Through reflection and planning, educators will redesign a typical circle time routine and leave with ready-to-use strategies for creating more effective and engaging group learning experiences.

Galaxy of Growth: Small Groups That BOOST Math Mastery #27

Marissa Schomaker, Brittany Blankenship

Room 216

Unpack the structures, routines, and materials that help small groups run smoothly and support strong math growth for diverse learners.

Engaging with Computer Science Across K-12

Janalee Thorn, CodeWV

Room 217

Explore how computer science can be integrated from kindergarten through 12th grade. Participants will experience sample classroom activities, learn about professional development opportunities, and discover resources to support instruction. Attendees will also be invited to join the West Virginia CS Educator Community.

What You Need to Know About Child Safety Restraint Systems on School Buses

Jimmy Lacy, Director, School Transportation, WVDE
Peggy Stone, Lincoln County

North Hall

There are many types of child safety restraint systems. Knowing which system works best to meet each student's needs is more than a guessing game. There are many factors that must be considered and addressed to make all students' rides the safest and best experiences possible.

Instant Activities for Elementary PE

Brooke Bias

South Hall

This presentation will demonstrate different engaging warm-up activities and instant activities for elementary physical education teachers. Come prepared to be active.

Lunch | 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. | Grand Ballroom

Fireside Chat

Led by Tim Irr

**Students, Social Media, and Safety:
The Bryce Tate Story**



During this lunchtime fireside chat, attendees will learn about the growing threat of sextortion and its devastating impact on young people and families. WSAZ-TV Anchor Tim Irr will moderate a conversation with Adam Tate and Kanawha County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Sgt. Jeremy Burns, sharing the story of Bryce Tate, a Nitro High School student who tragically lost his life after being targeted through online exploitation. Through Bryce's story, attendees will learn to recognize warning signs of online exploitation, explore prevention strategies, and discover resources to help protect and support students.

Students, Social media and Safety: Follow-up Discussion

For those who wish to have follow-up discussions with the presenters from the fireside chat, you may join them for a breakout session to learn more details and ask questions about the threat of sextortion and how to help keep children safe.

Lobby near registration tables



Tour of the West Virginia Capitol | 1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Those interested in attending a tour of the West Virginia Capitol must sign up during registration from 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

The Thinking Classroom Equation: West Virginia Educators' Guide + The Mathematical Habits of Mind = Deep Math Understanding

Anna Stull, Wayne County

Room 202

How do we move beyond procedures to build deep, lasting mathematical understanding in high school math classrooms? In this session, participants will explore how the five mathematical representations - Physical, Visual, Symbolic, Contextual, and Verbal - from the West Virginia Educators Guide for Algebra 1 can be intentionally aligned with the practices from "Mathematics Tasks for the Thinking Classroom (6-12)" by Peter Liljedahl. Through an engaging, high-cognitive-demand task, attendees will experience a Thinking Classroom in action while identifying and making connections across the five representations and the eight Mathematical Habits of Mind within a single lesson. Participants will leave with practical strategies for designing and facilitating lessons that promote reasoning, discourse, and conceptual understanding for all learners in Grades 9-12.

AI in Your Teaching Toolkit *Audience: Middle and High School Only*

Cliff Sullivan, Coordinator, WVDE

Room 203

Jennifer Brown and Peter Doherty, Prodigy Learning

This one-hour session, co-led by Microsoft Education and Prodigy Learning, introduces educators to the power of Copilot Teach tools, highlighting how they can support everyday instructional practices. Participants will see real examples of how Copilot can assist with curriculum planning, adapting existing materials, and creating homework and assessments. The session will also showcase how to design engaging learning activities that save time while enhancing student learning and engagement.

Using Formative Assessment to Engage Students and Meet Learning Targets

Kevin Colistra, Monongalia County

Room 204

Participants will learn how to integrate formative assessment into daily instruction to meet learning targets by incorporating visible thinking routines and cooperative learning structures throughout the three phases of learning. Participants will engage with several research-based impact strategies they can easily incorporate in their own classrooms to monitor student learning. Participants will learn to integrate formative assessment into their instructional design to meet learning targets, utilize visible thinking routines and cooperative learning structures to engage all students and assess their understanding, and understand how formative assessment supports the three phases of learning.

A Guided Experience Through the STEAM TAC Pipeline Pathfinders Immersion

Erica Skorlinski and Samantha Couch,
WVU/WVDE STEAM TAC

Room 204

In this session, participants will engage in hands-on activities from the Pipeline Pathfinders immersion — a lesson generously sponsored by and developed alongside EQT Corporation. This lesson explores how scientists use technology to collect and analyze wildlife data. Just as biologists track animal movements with remote sensors, students will use Micro:bits as simulated game cameras to detect and record sightings of three animal species. GIS tools then bring their findings to life, allowing students to map and interpret animal distribution. Finally, students apply their data to a real-world engineering challenge by evaluating the environmental impact of a natural gas pipeline and determining the most responsible route. Additionally, discover how the STEAM TAC and the West Virginia K-12 Speakers Bureau work together to strengthen career-connected learning by pairing engaging STEM experiences with authentic interactions with industry professionals. Together, these programs help educators inspire students to explore future opportunities and make meaningful connections between the classroom and real-world careers.

Augmenting Classroom Instruction with Technology

Michael McCormick, Cabell County

Room 206

This presentation explores how classroom technology can go beyond Microsoft 365 and learning management systems like Schoology by incorporating MakerSpace tools and creative digital workflows into everyday instruction. It shows how elements like large format printing, laser engraving, 3D printing, and AI-generated student rewards can increase engagement, support project-based learning, encourage problem solving, and make student achievement more visible and meaningful. Rather than treating these tools as extras, the presentation frames them as practical extensions of classroom goals: creating incentives, recognizing achievement, producing authentic student products, and even repairing or improving classroom equipment. It also emphasizes that maker-centered learning supports creativity, iteration, and real-world problem solving when aligned to instructional outcomes and classroom routines.

Beyond the Numbers: How School Counselors Use Data to Drive Student Success

Lauren Hensley, Wayne County

Room 210

School counselors collect a wealth of information, from attendance reports and grade data to student surveys and pre/post assessments, but many struggle with how to translate that information into meaningful action. This session will demonstrate practical, realistic strategies for using data to identify student needs, implement targeted interventions, and communicate measurable results. Participants will learn how to select meaningful data points, design simple pre/post assessments, and connect their work to measurable student outcomes. Using real examples from a middle school counseling program, the presenter will walk through the process of setting SMART goals, collecting baseline data, implementing interventions, and analyzing results to demonstrate program effectiveness. Attendees will leave with ready-to-use strategies for collecting and presenting data that strengthens school counseling programs, supports student success, and clearly communicates impact to administrators, stakeholders, and school communities.

West Virginia Wonder Panel Session

Jeffrey Kelly, Associate Superintendent, WVDE
and Christy Schwartz, Coordinator, WVDE

Room 211

This session, from the West Virginia Department of Education's West Virginia Wonder Video Series, walks participants through a short presentation on West Virginia's school sample data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) to demonstrate areas of opportunity for focused support, followed by a moderated panel session with principals from schools featured in the video series. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with these principals, who are not only exceeding West Virginia's Standards for Effective Schools, but are also demonstrating an understanding of such effective instruction that their students are achieving the highest performance and progress in the state.

From Barriers to Breakthroughs: A "How-To" Framework for Engaging Any Student in Any Classroom

Beth Roberts, CTE Health Science Educator,
Webster County High School

Room 212

In today's classrooms, educators face increasing challenges such as limited resources, student disengagement, as well as barriers tied to poverty, geography, and access. Yet, meaningful and impactful learning is still very possible. In this session, the presenter will share a practical, adaptable framework that she developed in a rural, high-need setting to transform barriers into opportunities for student success. Through real-world examples, student stories from her program, as well as proven strategies, she will walk participants through how she designs learning experiences that are relevant, hands-on, and connected to the local community.

SAIL Into a New School Year: Scaffolding Supports Learners – How to Scaffold Instruction During Online Learning Days

Jennifer La Casella,
Virtual Spanish Teacher, WVDE

Room 213

During this session, the presenter will demonstrate how lessons can be scaffolded for online use just as they would be in face-to-face learning. This session will assist participants as they think about virtual and non-traditional learning days.

Accessible by Design: Inclusive Content, Equitable Access, and Legal Compliance

Debbie Adams, Heather Waselchalk
Coordinators, WVDE

Room 214

Creating accessible content is not just good instructional practice. It's legal obligation for today's schools. This practical training session will focus on designing documents, classroom materials, and online content to support every learner while meeting federal accessibility standards.

Play with Purpose: Enhancing Early Childhood Learning Through Guided Play

Dancey Howes, Webster County

Room 215

Discover how guided play bridges the gap between free exploration and structured learning in the early childhood classroom. This session will explore strategies for creating playful, engaging environments where children's curiosity drives learning while educators provide gentle scaffolding. Participants will leave with practical ideas to foster social, cognitive, and language development through intentional, joyful play experiences.

Follow the Yellow Brick Road: A Journey Through the West Virginia Educator's Guide

Kelli Arthur, Kristen Oxley

Room 216

Lions, Tigers, and Strategies - Oh My! Follow the Yellow Brick Road as we journey through the West Virginia Educators' Guide - a resource designed to support teachers in delivering grade-level math instruction to the full intent of the standards. Along the way you will meet familiar Oz characters who will bring the five mathematical representations that develop deep conceptual understanding of math for ALL students to life.

Summers County Educator Support Network- Supporting All Teachers

Christie Shafer, Kristin Richmond,
Kevin Green, and Kelly Mills

Room 217

This session will focus on the menu of services provided by Summers County Educator Support Network. Services include new teachers (traditional and alternate pathways), new to district teachers, long-term substitute teachers, mentor program, and academic coaching.

Reimagining Service Personnel Competencies Through CTE Alignment

Veronica Barron and Tami Maynard,
Coordinators, WVDE

North Hall

This session examines the intentional review and redesign of the Service Personnel Competency Test to align with CTE programs of study while introducing the new Service Personnel Program of Study. Participants will gain insight into how aligning competencies, instruction, and assessment strengthens workforce readiness and creates meaningful career pathways for service personnel. The session emphasizes how programs of study serve as a foundation for consistency, relevance, and long-term career development.

Session 3 | 1:30 p.m.

West Virginia's Clear Future: Statewide Vaping Prevention with the CATCH My Breath Curriculum & Vaping Cessation Resources

Dr. Daniel Doyle, Laura Williams

South Hall

This presentation will describe the three-year accomplishments of the partnership between State Health Department, American Lung Association, Appalachian Pulmonary Health Project, and WV Alliance for Creative Health Solutions to bring the national Catch My Breath curriculum to all 55 counties with special emphasis on Grades 5-8. We will present published evaluation results. We will also offer teachers, principals, and districts the opportunity for participation going forward and vaping cessation resources will be highlighted.

Session 4 | 2:45 p.m.

Bookapalooza-Celebrating Literacy at the Secondary Level

Laura Presley

Room 202

Bookapalooza is a student-centered literacy event designed to promote choice reading, authentic engagement, and oral communication among ninth- and tenth-grade students. Participating students select a book of personal interest and commit to reading and understanding it deeply before creating a marketing-style presentation that includes both an oral component and an interactive visual display. Selected presenters gather in a university setting, transforming the space into a dynamic book fair where peers explore recommendations, ask questions, and connect with literature through student voice. The event emphasizes reading for enjoyment, accountability through presentation, and authentic audience engagement rather than traditional assessment.

Creating Cross-Curricular Opportunities between Math, ELA, and the Fine Arts

Corey Jones

Room 203

This session is designed to help middle and high school math, ELA, and fine arts educators integrate instruction across disciplines by blending music, theatre, and visual arts with core academic content to enhance engagement and deepen learning. By incorporating creative approaches, teachers can sustain student interest, present authentic, real-world challenges, and provide multiple ways for students to demonstrate understanding. Participants will gain practical strategies for structuring cross-curricular lessons that align with academic standards while supporting diverse learning styles. In addition to showing how math and ELA teachers can incorporate the arts, the session will explore how fine arts educators can meaningfully integrate math and literacy skills into their own instruction.

Grow, Guide, Thrive: Our Educator Support Model

Kaiti Hillman

Room 204

This session provides an overview of our comprehensive educator support system, including academic coaching, mentoring, and the New Teacher Academy. Grounded in our district's strategic plan, each component is intentionally aligned to ensure consistency, coherence, and impact across all schools. Participants will explore how coaches, mentors, and new teacher supports work together to build instructional capacity, reinforce priority initiatives, and promote high-quality, standards-aligned practices. By focusing on shared language, common goals, and aligned professional learning, we are creating a unified system where all educators are moving in the same direction and engaging in the same critical work. This session highlights how a cohesive approach strengthens teacher effectiveness, supports retention, and ultimately improves student outcomes.

Canva: Creating Learning That Sticks

Derek Oldfield, Berkeley County Schools

Room 205

Over the last century, technology has transformed nearly every aspect of society, from transportation and communication to the way we access information. Yet in many classrooms, the products students create to demonstrate learning look remarkably similar to those from decades ago. This session explores a powerful question: What happens when we redesign the products of learning? Using the PICRAT framework and insights from cognitive science, participants will examine how creative digital products can shift learning experiences from simple substitution to creative transformation. When students synthesize ideas through visual storytelling, multimedia design, and symbolic representation, they engage cognitive processes like dual coding, mental imagery, attention, and narrative structure. This strengthens long-term learning. Through examples of student work created in Canva across multiple content areas, this session demonstrates how creative design projects can deepen thinking, increase engagement, and help knowledge “stick.” Participants will walk away inspired to transform traditional assignments into rich learning experiences that leverage technology to amplify, not replace, student thinking.

School Counselors’ Guide to Earning RAMP: Doable, Data-Driven, and Actually Fun!

Heather Pack and Felicia Lester

Room 210

Earning Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) status may sound intimidating, but it’s truly one of the most energizing and rewarding professional journeys a counseling team can take. This session is designed to make the process approachable, purposeful, and yes—maybe even a little fun. Join us as we share how our school counseling team turned the RAMP process into a celebration of what was already working in our program while using data and reflection to strengthen what wasn’t.

Lose Students OR Lead Change: Why Virtual Programs Are No Longer Optional

Valery Harper, Kanawha County Schools

Room 211

Across West Virginia, declining enrollment is impacting funding, staffing, and program sustainability, with only two counties avoiding losses this past year. As student needs evolve, traditional models alone are no longer enough to keep students engaged and enrolled. The KCS Virtual Program offers a proven solution. Serving over 1,600 students across our county and six partner counties, our program maintains a 90%+ success rate by meeting students where they are: academically, socially, and emotionally, while keeping them connected to their home schools. This session will highlight how a strong virtual program can stabilize and even increase enrollment by providing flexible, high-quality learning options. Participants will explore practical strategies, scalable structures, and partnership models that allow districts to expand opportunities without overextending resources. Join us to learn how your county can retain students, strengthen funding, and adapt to the future of education.

Simulated Workplace: A Decade of Innovation for Career-Ready Classrooms

James Coble, Coordinator, WVDE

Room 212

With over a decade of innovation, Simulated Workplace has evolved into a powerful classroom management and career readiness tool. This session explores how Simulated Workplace is not a one-size-fits-all program, but a flexible framework that can be adapted to meet the unique needs of your classroom and your students' career pathways. Participants will discover how to "find their fit" by aligning workplace structures, expectations, and experiences to their instructional goals, helping students build real-world skills while strengthening classroom culture.

Utilizing 3Es Experiences to Support College Career Ready Students

Meredith Dailer,
Principal, Wheeling Park High School

Room 213

Strong community partnerships play a critical role in exposing students to local industries and career possibilities while encouraging exploration and engagement. Through its Innovation in Education (WV) designation and in collaboration with the Education Alliance, Wheeling Park High School has developed initiatives such as the Speaker Series, Lunch and Learn, and Project Partners. Together, these programs serve as a model for delivering intentional, high-quality 3 E's experiences that prepare students for life beyond high school.

Specially Designed Instruction: (SDI): the Heart of Special Education

Whitney White, Manager, WVDE
Mimi Browning, Coordinator, WVDE

Room 214

Bringing awareness to SDI initiative led by the Office of Special Education to impact student outcomes statewide. Resources will be shared with participants.

Introducing Group Coaching of The Big 5 Pyramid Model Practices

Amy Carlson, West Virginia Behavior Mental Health
Technical Assistance Center, Marshall University

Room 215

This interactive session explores practical tier 1 strategies that improve daily activities and decrease disruptions in preschool classrooms. Participants will learn how a group coaching model is a professional development delivery model that focuses on implementation through working in a small group. Attendees will leave with information on how to implement this professional development model within their own county or agency.

Using Behavioral Skills Training to Teach De-Escalation Routines to Young Children

Nicole Shepard, Ashley Whitlatch,
Brianna Hutchinson, and Erika Anderson

Room 216

Behavior Skills Training (BST) is an effective and research-based strategy for teaching new skills to young children with and without disabilities. This presentation reviews the teaching steps of BST along with effective elements of a calm down routine so participants learn to design and implement calm down routines in the school environment. Emphasis is placed on teaching these routines proactively and practicing them regularly, using visuals to support routines, and making adaptations to make calm down routines portable for the schoolwide environment. Additionally, ways to teach students to initiate de-escalation routines and successfully reintegrate after de-escalating are addressed along with possibilities for data collection procedures.

From Support to Success: Building Strong Teachers in Wayne County

Tonji Bowen, Melissa Maynard

Room 217

Wayne County Schools' Master Teacher Program is a strategic, job-embedded approach to strengthening instruction by supporting new and struggling teachers where it matters most—inside the classroom. This session highlights how the district leverages experienced, high-impact educators as Master Teachers to provide targeted coaching, model effective practices, and build teacher capacity through ongoing, side-by-side support. Grounded in a focus on standards, student engagement, and evidence-based instruction, the program aligns with key priorities such as PLC effectiveness, walkthrough feedback, and the Science of Reading. Attendees will leave with practical ideas for designing, implementing, and refining similar systems to improve teacher effectiveness and student outcomes.

AI in Your Teaching Toolkit *Audience: Middle and High School Only*

Cliff Sullivan, Coordinator, WVDE

North Hall

This one-hour session, co-led by Microsoft Education, introduces educators to the power of Copilot Teach tools, highlighting how they can support everyday instructional practices. Participants will see real examples of how Copilot can assist with curriculum planning, adapting existing materials, and creating homework and assessments. The session will also showcase how to design engaging learning activities that save time while enhancing student learning and engagement.

Increasing Engagement in Middle and High School PE

Jeremy Bennett

South Hall

This session focuses on practical strategies to motivate all students to participate actively and enjoy movement. This session explores inclusive game design, student choice, and creative use of small-sided activities to boost involvement and increase MVPA Come prepared to be active!

Closing Remarks from Gov. Patrick Morrisey

3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | North Hall

VENDOR LIST AND INFORMATION TABLES

Accountability	Office of Communications
Amplify.	Office of Educator Development
Amtek Company	Office of School Finance
ArtCart	Office of Special Education
Behavior Mental Health	Office of Student Enrichment
Certification	Pearson Career Ready
Code-Ed	People First, Always LLC
Collaborative Classroom	Prodigy Learning
Davis Visual Art Publications	Project Lead The Way (PLTW)
Engaging Families WV	Sadlier
Forest Scientific Corporation	School Specialty Sound Pedagogy, LLC
FOSS/School Specialty Science	Success for All
Grand Canyon University	Supreme Court of Appeals
Harmony Academy Powered by National University	West Virginia Air National Guard
Imagine Learning	West Virginia Professional Educators, Inc.
Imagine Sonday System	West Virginia School Counselor Association
Jumpstart Savings Program, West Virginia State Treasurer's Office	West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network
Libera	WV ACTE
Marshall Advanced Manufacturing Center's Apprenticeship Works	West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission - CFVV
Marshall University School Health Technical Assistance Center	WV State Treasurer's Office
McGraw Hill	WVABLE Savings Program - West Virginia State Treasurer's Office
Mountain Care Network	WVSDB Outreach Center
Mountaineer Challenge Academy	WVU College of Applied Human Sciences
Office of Academic Support	Youngstown State University
Office of Adult Education	Zaner-Bloser

Notes



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West Virginia Superintendent of Schools

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