

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

Day 1 Wednesday, June 3, 2026

7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Registration/Check-in


8 a.m.-4 p.m. Exhibitor Hall Hours (Door Prizes: 8:30 a.m.)

9-10:30 a.m. Opening Session – Hall C

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Arnie Williams, Assistant to President and Director of Corporate Responsibility

Mr. Warren Woodrow, Executive Director of S-RESA

Dr. Trenton Gould, Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences, The University of Southern Mississippi 

Robert St. John, Keynote Speaker

10:30-11 a.m. Break (Door Prizes: 10:45 a.m.) - Exhibitor Hall

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. Concurrent Session I

Room D1 Child Find: Understanding Your Legal Responsibilities Under IDEA

Stacy Davis, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D2 Tier It Up! Linking MTSS and Classroom Management for Everyday Impact

Marsha Hodges, Leake Central Junior High School

Room D3 From Chaos to Control

Katie Zehentner, Walthall County School District

Room D4 Feeling Lost? Use This Roadmap for Test Prep Success

Rod Martin, Jumpstart Test Prep

Room D5 Hot Spots and Murky Waters: Mental Health Matters in K-12 Schools

Treenevia Garraway, Lamar County School District

Room D6 Identifying High - Risk Warning Signs and the Literacy Approaches to Address Them

Kelli Crain, Jill Hoda, Valerie Gilbert, and Dr. Amanda Malone, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D7 The State of Literacy Meets the Science of Writing

Michael Harwell, Vantage

Room D8 Highlights of the 2026 Session of the Mississippi Legislature

Kelly Riley, Mississippi Professional Educators

Room D9 IXL for State – Approved Intervention and Core Math Curriculum

Justin Tolbert and Tori Sinco, IXL Learning

Room D10 Why Try? Transformational Behavior / Life Skill Development Tools & Strategies

Royce R. Lott, Jr., Life Coach South – Why Try

Room D11 Statewide Consistency in SCD Determination: Training on the 2026 SCD Guidance and Decision Making-Tool

Denise Harrison, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D12 Strategies and Hacks for Twice – Exceptional Students

Ashley Barefoot and Lorie Sisk, Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies 

Room B1 Designing for Belonging: Building School Systems That Work for Neurodiverse Learners

Dr. Zach Murphy, Innova Preparatory School

Room B2 Behind Closed Doors: How Decisions Are Made At the Capital and How Public School Teachers Can Win!

Nancy Loome, The Parents' Campaign

Room A1 Professional Growth System (PGS) Updates, Strategies, and Resources

Quintana Steen, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room A2 Coaching Through the First Year: Becoming the Teacher You Want to Be
Dr. Rufus Hill and Tremayia Weatherspoon, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room A3 Assessing Three – Dimensional Science Teaching and Learning in the Classroom
Kevin Gaylor, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room A4 Growing Your Own Educational Leaders: A Rural Pipeline Model for Sustainability
Stacy Baudoin and Kimberly Alford, The University of Southern Mississippi 

Room A5 P.A.P.A Can Help Me Read
Arika Williams, West Bolivar Consolidated School District

Room A6 Early Childhood Classroom Management
Natasha Spearman, Lowndes County School District

1:45-2:15 p.m. Break (Door Prizes: 2 p.m.) - Exhibitor Hall

2:15 p.m. Concurrent Session II

Room D1 Planning from Scratch: Making Student Thinking Visible
Dr. Rufus Hill and Tremayia Weatherspoon, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D2 MTSS: A First Look – Building Foundations for Student Success
Marsha Hodges, Leake Central Junior High School

Room D3 Phonics Across the Grade Levels
Kelley Tillis, The University of Southern Mississippi 

Room D4 Glue and Spark: The Secrets to Sticking With Students
Laurie Brewer and Mina Bryan – Lightsey, The Excellence Group

Room D5 Mic Check 1-2: Amplifying Feedback to Move Students Forward
Elise Dickerson, Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, The University of Southern Mississippi 

Room D6 Adolescent Literacy: Reading, Writing, and Thinking Are Found in Every Classroom
Ann Marie Carlyle and Jennifer West, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D7 Moving from Connections to Coherence
Dr. Kristen Condella, Renaissance Learning

Room D8 Teaching for Different Students Needs in Secondary Math
Sara Flowers, Math Nation

Room D9 Envisioning an Inclusive World – Lessons Learned from an Innovative Post – Secondary Transition Program
Dr. Brian F. Geiger, The Horizons School

Room D10 Integrating Social – Emotional Learning into School Culture
Dr. Freda Braddock, Columbia Southern University

Room D11 Army ROTC: Broadening Opportunities for Higher Education Bound Students
Allie Campbell, 6th Brigade Army JROTC Army JROTC Recruiting Operations Specialist

Room D12 Building Blocks of Literacy Success: Connecting Core Instruction, Data, and Student Engagement
Dr. Kiana Pendleton, Curriculum Associates

Room B1 All the World is a Stage – Don't Be a Boring Teacher! How to Bring Your Lessons to Life
Dr. Cassandra Weiss and Kara Simon, William Carey University

Room B2 Who Polluted Education
Katie Zehentner, Walthall County School District

Room A1 Procedural Safeguards in Special Education: Critical Parental Rights Every Staff Member Should Understand
Mona Spells Adou, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room A2 Big Results in Small Places: Transforming Rural Elementary Education
Dr. Lauren Haslauer, Hancock County School District

Room A3 Teaching Hope: Practical Strategies to Build Resilient, Future - Focused Students
Shea Hutchins, Canopy Children's Solutions

Room A4 Bringing Text to Life: Tableau and Arts Strategies That Make Learning Stick

Stacy Vance, Mississippi Whole Schools

Room A5 PERS 101 and Retirement Readiness – How Ready Are You?

Rich Massingill and Craig Finn, Mississippi Deferred Compensation and Cheyann Washington, PERS of MS

Room A6 From Lyrics to Literacy: Leveraging Music and Reading Strategies to Build College & Career Readers

Celeta Devine and Brittney Broadwater, Diverse Learning Practices

3:30-4 p.m. Door Prizes: 3:45 p.m. - Exhibitor Hall

Day 2 Thursday, June 4, 2026

7:30 a.m.-Noon Late Registration/Check-in

8 a.m.-4 p.m. Exhibitor Hall Hours (Door Prizes: 8:30 a.m.)

9-10 a.m. Keynote Speaker - Hall C

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Alvin Williams

10:15 a.m. Concurrent Session III

Room D1 Accessibility Features for Students Who are Low Vision and Blind

Dr. Antonio Magee, Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

Room D2 Future – Ready Teens: Building Executive Functioning Skills

Hollie Filce, Center for Research to Practice in Education at The University of Southern Mississippi 

Room D3 Ability to Access? Rethinking What Limits Learning

Donielle Stephens and Andrea Krell, The University of Southern Mississippi 

Room D4 One Click Away from Classroom Improvement

Jennifer Williams, Cleveland Career Development & Technology Center

Room D5 From Behavior to Belonging: Tier 1 & 2 Strategies That Work

Jana' Slay, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D6 Beyond the Literacy Night: Practical Family Partnership Strategies for School Leaders

Kristy Wheat, Wayfinder Initiative

Room D7 Neurodiverse Studies: Transformative Research & Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Dr. Angela Gill and Dr. Christy Liverett, William Carey University

Room D8 Understanding Dyslexia: Myths, Methods, and Meaningful Support

Penny Bethany, Erica Bridges, and Anecia Washington, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D9 Bloom's Taxonomy in Education? Does It Still Matter?

Clay Norton, Belhaven University

Room D10 MS K-12 Workforce Development Model: Building Career Awareness and Readiness from K-12

Amanda Tullos, Elizabeth Simmons, and Bret Robinson, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D11 Beyond Discipline: Conducting Meaningful and Compliant MDRs

Dr. Sarieta Pollard, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D12 Regrowing Success: How MTSS Helps Students Recover and Thrive

Natalie Breithaupt and Rachel Wooten, Kids First Education, LLC

Room B1 Finding True North: Embedding SEL into Daily School Systems

Aaron Lee, Compass Center

Room B2 Army ROTC: Broadening Opportunities for Higher Education Bound Students

Allie Campbell, 6th Brigade Army JROTC Recruiting Operations Specialist

Room A1 Move to Learn – Let's MOVE to LEARN

Larry Calhoun and Kaleigh Hudson, Move to Learn, Bower Foundation, and MDE

- Room A2** **Breaking Barriers with IEP Compliance**
Noleen Clark, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room A3** **Help! My Students Are Out of Control: Tips for Successful Classroom Management**
Dr. Angela Lowery and Dr. Tiffany Ridgeway, The University of Southern Mississippi 
- Room A4** **How Knowledge Connects Classroom Practices and Transforms Student Achievement**
Dr. Karen Venditti, Amplify Education
- Room A5** **Retiring from PERS – The Partial Lump Sum, Income Options, and the 13 th Check**
Ronald Kyzar, Jill Nations, and Tracy Dearing, Ronald Kyzar Financial Services
- Room A6** **Adolescent Literacy in Action: Reading, Writing, and Thinking in the ELA Classroom**
Mandy Hackman, The Mississippi Department of Education

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch (Door Prizes: 11:45 a.m.) – Exhibitor Hall

1 p.m. Concurrent Session IV

- Room D1** **Do You UnderSPED? What SPED Parents and Students Would Like to Know**
Dr. Anthony O’Neal, Perry County School District
- Room D2** **Practical Application of School Safety Strategies for Individual Educators**
Dr. Joel Lofton, Walthall County School District
- Room D3** **Oral Language Supports Written Expression for Students with Dyslexia**
Donna George, William Carey University
- Room D4** **Goals That Go Somewhere: Connecting IDEA to Student Futures**
Morgan Jones, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room D5** **From Deficits to Assets: A Strengths – Based Approach to MTSS**
Christina Cumbest, The University of Southern Mississippi 
- Room D6** **Teach. Lead. Inspire: The MSCEE Master Teacher Programs**
Julie Ingram, Mississippi Council on Economic Education
- Room D7** **Show Up, Stay Engaged: Best Practices for Attendance and Learning**
Bryan Marshall and Michelle Rhodes, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room D8** **Experience Dyslexia – A Learning Disabilities Simulation**
Dr. Alexandra Day and Chelsea Colip, DuBard School for Language Disorders, The University of Southern Mississippi 
- Room D9** **Beyond the Broadcast: How Mississippi Public Broadcasting Is Powering Teaching and Learning**
Leslie Hebert and Jake Kealhofer, Mississippi Public Broadcasting
- Room D10** **Statewide Updates from the Mississippi Office of Career, Technical, and Workforce Education**
Amanda Tullos and Brett Robinson, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room D11** **You Can’t Intervene Your Way Through**
Lakesha Doyle, Mississippi School for the Blind
- Room D12** **Ride the Wave: Guiding Students Through Changing Writing Expectations with Into Literature and myPerspectives**
Nicole Cooley and Tiffani Chandler, Kids First Education, LLC
- Room B1** **Back to the Future Escape Room: Our Family Journey Through Time**
Alicia Merritt, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room B2** **AI Is Here. Now What Do We Teach?**
Dr. Candace McClendon, Harrison County School District
- Room A1** **Move to Learn – Let’s MOVE to LEARN**
Larry Calhoun and Kaleigh Hudson, Move to Learn, Bower Foundation, and MDE
- Room A2** **Debugging SPED: The Do’s and Don’ts of IDEA and SBP 74.19**
Julie Jones, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room A3** **Write Like a Historian, Think Like an Editor**
A1 Wheat, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room A4** **The Handwriting Connection**

Bethani Welch, Britany Dewease, and Sarah Rollins, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room A5 **More Than a Number: Utilizing MTSS to Provide Structured Support to Educate the Whole Child**
Katrina Baines, Reading Horizons

Room A6 **Adolescent Literacy in Action: Reading Writing, and Thinking in the Science Classroom**
Mandy Hackman and Dr. Kevin Gaylor, The Mississippi Department of Education

2:30 p.m. Concurrent Session V

Room D1 **The Impact of Free Orton – Gillingham Training Provided by Brainspring**
Esther Moreau, Brainspring

Room D2 **Every Student, Every Classroom: Implementing HLPs and SDI to Transform Inclusive Instruction**
Stacey Todd, The Mississippi Department of Education


Room D3 **Inclusions Across All Grade Levels**
Jennifer Fortenberry, Neshoba Central High School

Room D4 **The Social Emotional World of the Gifted Studies**
Lorie Sisk, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D5 **Pen, Paper, Progress: Writing Strategies that Support English Learners**
Sandra Elliott, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D6 **From Classroom to Wall Street: The Stock Market Game**
Julie Ingram, Mississippi Council on Economic Education

Room D7 **Engaging Students Through Relationships and Relevance**
Bryan Marshall and Michelle Rhodes, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D8 **Beyond the Screeners: Digging Deeper into Early Identification of Dyslexia and Oral Language Disorders**
Lauren Robinson and Rachel Ryan, DuBard School for Language Disorders, The University of Southern Mississippi 

Room D9 **Alternative Education: Raising The Bar**
Diana Ravencraft, Walthall County School District

Room D10 **Connecting the Dots: Building a K12 Career – Connected Ecosystem Through Workforce and College...**
Amanda Tullios, Jana' Slay, and Brett Robinson, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D11 **From Pencil to Paper: What Fidelity Really Looks Like in the Classroom**
Britney Dewease and Kathy Duke, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room D12 **Bringing the Standards for Mathematical Practice and Effective Teaching Practices to Life**
Amber Palmer and Penny Allen, Kids First Education

Room B1 **Putting the ED Back in SPED: Bridging Compliance, Compassion, and Classroom Practice**
Frank McGriggs Jr., Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and Blind

Room B2 **Economies of Scale in Education**
Heather Houston, Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, The University of Southern Mississippi 

Room A1 **Teaching Students with VI: An Introduction**
Kristi Higginbotham, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room A2 **Narrative Writing: Daily Routines for Developing Ideas**
Robin Atwood, South Mississippi Writing Project

Room A3 **Boosting Efficacy of Classroom Instruction Delivery to Promote Student Engagement**
Taylor Hebert, Jessica McKay, Breanna Hamlin, and Clinton Rolle, The University of Southern Mississippi 

Room A4 **Classroom Compliance: Practical Strategies for Supporting Students with Disabilities**
Dr. Lori Wilcher, Mississippi Council for Exceptional Children

Room A5 **Creating Access Through Art: Adaptive Approaches for Diverse Learners**
Limeul Eubanks, The Mississippi Department of Education

Room A6 **Adolescent Literacy in Action: Reading, Writing, and Thinking in the Social Studies Classroom**
Mandy Hackman and Al Wheat, The Mississippi Department of Education

3:45-4:15 p.m. Door Prizes: 4 p.m. - Exhibitor Hall

Day 3 Friday, June 5, 2026

7:30-8:45 a.m. Late Registration/Check-in

8 a.m. Prayer Breakfast – Mitch Williams, Prayer Breakfast Sponsor - Curriculum Associates

9 a.m. Concurrent Session VI

- Room D1 Behavior Strategies for THAT Student 2.0
Dr. Melanie Wells, Rankin County School District
- Room D2 From Practice to Performance: The ELA Playbook for Grades 6-10
Javelin Clark and Cassandra Ringo, Vicksburg Warren School District
- Room D3 What About Self – Contained?
Tomeca Ingram, Rankin County School District
- Room D4 Balancing Play and Precision: Integrating Play – Based Learning in Early Childhood Classroom
Dr. Krystal Porter Bradley, Bellevue Elementary School
- Room D5 Beyond the Test: Supporting Students Before, During, and After Assessment
Kimberly Ray and Treenecea Garraway, Lamar County School District
- Room D6 Tutorial / Resource Is Not A STUDY HALL
Brenda Price, Madison County Schools
- Room D7 Maximizing Impact: Determining Educational Benefit in Special Education
Erin Clements Hendricks, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room D8 Small Moves, Big Impact: Transforming Engagement Every Day
Melonie Goolsby, Southaven Intermediate School
- Room D9 Everyone is a Reading Teacher
LaMarlon Wilson, Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
- Room D10 Wired and Wild: Supporting Student Behavior in a Tech – Driven World
Melanie Nixon and Kathy Head, Yazoo County School District
- Room D11 Practical AI use for K-12 Teachers and School Leaders
Dr. Dax Glover, North Tippah School District
- Room D12 Innovative Instruction, Shared Vision: Reveal and Respond to Learning Gaps Through Technology
Emily Sumrall, Biloxi Public School District
- Room B1 Bridging Communication Gaps: Tools for Engaging Hard – To – Reach Families
Dr. Ashten Yost, Biloxi Public School District
- Room B2 Features of High - Quality Instruction for Students with Autism and Developmental Disabilities
Tim Morse, The University of West Florida
- Room A1 Integrating the Arts into MTSS for Student Well – Being and Success
Jana' Slay and Limeul Eubanks, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room A2 If Everyone Needs Intervention....It's a Tier 1 Problem
Mikaela Anderson and Amarah Sweaks, The University of Southern Mississippi 
- Room A3 Identifying, Supporting, and Re – Engaging At – Risk Students
Terissa Williams and Danny Rochelle, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room A4 Effective Implementation of Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs) In the Classroom
Keara Hill, Hillary Romoser, and Clinton Rolle, The University of Southern Mississippi 
- Room A5 Making MTSS Work in High School: From Overwhelmed to Organized
Aaron Williams, Simpson County School District
- Room A6 Out of the Box Support for Developing Learners
Jennifer Felton, Scott County School District

10:15-10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Concurrent Session VII

- Room D1** **Make it Make Sense: Transforming Every Classroom into a Literacy Powerhouse**
Dr. La'Tonya Jackson, Vicksburg – Warren School District
- Room D2** **A Fine – Tuned Classroom Equals a Successful Year**
Angie Abbey, Stringer Attendance Center
- Room D3** **The Landscape of AI**
Tara Poolson, Pearl River County School District
- Room D4** **High School English Tools That Work**
Leigh Anne Jenkins, Itawamba County Agricultural High School
- Room D5** **When Behavior is Really Communication: What Counselors Want Teachers to Know**
Kimberly Ray and Treenevia Garraway, Lamar County School District
- Room D6** **Teaching Without Self – Erasure: Staying Effective Without Burning Out**
Dr. Furlinda Travis, Simpson County School District
- Room D7** **Educator Conduct: How YOU Can Change YOUR School's Culture**
Nason Lollar, Madison County Schools
- Room D8** **Get Your Head in the Game: Coaching Teachers to Thrive in Today's Classroom**
Tremain Johnson, Holmes County Consolidated School District
- Room D9** **Making Learning Stick: Providing Multiple Pathways to Understanding**
Shauna Gregg and Kim Pierce, Tate County School District
- Room D10** **Culture Over Everything: Igniting Hope, Lifting Morale, & Ensuring All Students & Staff Thrive**
Rhett Ladner, Hancock County Schools
- Room D11** **If You Teach a Child a Word**
Patricia Hankins, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room D12** **Enhancing the PK-2 Learning Environment for Students with Disabilities**
Dr. LaTisha Hunt and Brenda Price, Madison County Schools
- Room B1** **The Data Roadmap: Navigating Student Progress from BOY to EOY**
Dr. Jeremy Knott, Mississippi School of the Deaf
- Room B2** **From Textbook to Truth: Teaching Real History in Today's Classroom**
Feneiker McBride, Shenicki Davis, and Eleazarus Greenleaf, Jefferson County School District
- Room A1** **Metamorphosis in Motion: Coaching Teachers Through Resistance**
Missaha Thompson and Bobi Coleman, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room A2** **They're Not Showing Up, Now What? A Practical Guide to Truancy and School Refusal**
Amarah Sweaks, Mikaela Anderson, and Dr. Emily DeFouw, The University of Southern Mississippi 
- Room A3** **School Improvement, Unpacked: What It Means for Teachers and Students**
Lakeisha Williams and Kendetric Bradley, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room A4** **Race to Innovate**
Chinelo Graves and Sherra Carr, The Mississippi Department of Education
- Room A5** **Crunching the Numbers: Using Student Data to Strengthen Math Instruction**
Thalia Jones and Tiffany Rideway, Marion County School District
- Room A6** **Every Teacher Is A Literacy Teacher: Evidence – Based Strategies for Supporting Struggling Readers in Grades 4-12**
Rachel Wooten and Melissa Fayard, Kids First Education

11:45 a.m.-12:25 p.m. Closing Keynote and Door Prizes – Hall C

Keynote Speaker

Lauren Zarandona, Teacher of the Year

Final Door Prizes

Warren Woodrow, S-RESA Executive Director

12:25-12:45 p.m. Turn in Attendance Cards at the Check-in Desk