

2024 SAM Administrators Institute Session Resources

Follow the links below to access the conference resources:

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2024 SAM Administrators Institute Pre-Conference & Day 1 Resources (7-22-24)

Next Gen Teacher's Assistant, Putting AI at Your Service in the Classroom Jason Neiffer

Although it is important to focus on the profound changes that artificial intelligence will bring to teaching, learning, and work, the fast-evolving toolsets provide extraordinary opportunities for teachers and administrators to do their jobs faster and better! Join Jason for a quick update on the status of generative artificial intelligence, and then how AI can serve as an advanced teaching assistant, advancing the way educators approach instruction, communication, and workflows. Jason will recommend specific toolsets, discuss ethical considerations, and share some insight on the “weirdness” of AI.

[Jason Neiffer's Professional Bio](#)

Resources: [*Putting AI at Your Service in the Classroom*](#)



[Session Recording](#)

Clarifying Engagement, A Tangible Breakdown for Classroom Success Brian Miller

Engagement is often an elusive yet critical component to educators. We know it is essential, but what does it mean, exactly? What does it look like? This session will break engagement into six categories, offer tangible insights and practical tools, and empower educators and students. Join us as we unravel the intricacies of engagement and chart a course toward enhanced classroom dynamics and academic achievement.

[Brian Miller's Professional Bio](#)

Resources: [*Clarifying Engagement*](#)

Every Student a Reader: Leveraging Universal Screening to Enhance Tier 1 Reading Instruction

Genevieve Thomas

The Montana Dyslexia Screening and Intervention Act requires schools to administer reading screenings to identify students at risk of not meeting grade-level reading benchmarks. However, reading screening done well can play a much more significant role in school improvement efforts. In this session designed to build capacity to leverage data to improve Tier 1 reading instruction, participants will learn about the qualities of effective reading screening tools, consider the questions screening can help answer, and explore enabling conditions for effective universal screening practices.

[Genevieve Thomas's Professional Bio](#)

Resources: **[Every Student a Reader](#)**

IEFA Implementation

Jenny Combs & Devon Flamm

IEFA was a part of each district's ISAP this spring. This session will discuss and support participants in staying compliant with IEFA funding and thoughtful planning with relevant resources for K-12 classrooms, plus how to gather the evidence and documentation needed for funding allocation. The presentation is facilitated by Hardin's curriculum director, Devon Flamm, and Alliance for Curriculum Enhancement's executive director, Jenny Combs

[Jenny Combs' Professional Bio](#)

Resources: **[IEFA Implementation](#)**

Opening Keynote - Two Strategies to Level Up Your Leadership **Pete Hall**

[Pete Hall's Personal Bio](#)

Resources: **[Two Strategies to Level Up Your Leadership](#)**



[Session Recording](#)

Creating Administrator Digital Warriors

Jon Konen & Bea Kaleva

With an increase in social media, AI, and digital problems in our society, school administrators are plagued with solving a plethora of issues in our schools. Let's dive into some real world situations, discuss the legal ramifications, and what we can do as administrators. We will give several strategies to proactively keep you, your staff, and students safe, as well as giving some ideas to be proactive. In addition, we will have participants share stories and get advice from their own experiences.

[Jon Konen & Elizabeth Kaleva's Professional Bios](#)

Resources: **[Creating Administrator Digital Warriors](#)**

Transitioning to a 4-Day School Week? What to consider and how to collaborate creatively for your community

Rachel Wanderscheild, Tim Brurud & Christina Hartmann

For schools considering or having recently transitioned to a four-day school week. We will discuss options and ideas for collaborating with other community partners such as out-of-school programs to ensure that kids are cared for and have a safe place to go on the fifth day.

[Rachel, Tim and Christina's Professional Bios](#)

Resources: [4 Day School Week](#)

Innovative Solutions for Transforming Educational Environments: A Focus on Whole Child Learning and Safety

Erin Lipkind & Jessica Johnson

MTPLC in partnership with STOPit Solutions and MSSA is working to administer the Stop School Violence Grant (SSV). The SSV Grant encompasses three components (Montana Cares, MHRN, and E-Therapy). The targeted population includes, MSSA member schools and tribal schools. Services include (but are not limited to): Montana Cares (Available to ALL districts) FREE services provided to MSSA and tribal districts who are onboarding Montana Cares: E-Therapy Mental Health Resource Navigator (MHRN) Free MANDT Training Character Strong Curriculum

[Jessica Johnson's Professional Bio](#)

Resources: [Montana Professional Learning Collaborative](#)

Proficiency-Based Education: Shift Toward a Student-Centered Model
Genevieve Thomas

At the state level, Montana is shifting toward Proficiency-Based Education (PBE) through new accreditation requirements and the provision of transformational learning grants. In this introductory session, school leaders will learn the key components of a PBE model, describe organizational shifts required by PBE, and consider the next steps related to PBE within their local contexts.

[Genevieve Thomas's Personal Bio](#)

***Resources: [Proficiency-Based Education](#)
[Proficiency-Based Handout](#)***

Threat Assessments - Planning and Response

Emily Salle, Tina Eblen, Tammy Tolleson-Knee

The session explores why threat assessment is necessary and the impacts of SB 213. Then we take a deep dive into what constitutes a threat, types of threats, building a behavior intervention team, violence prevention and impacts of stress. The presentation concludes with an overview of the threat assessment process.

[Tammy Tolleson-Knee and Tina Elben's Professional Bios](#)

Resources: [Threat Assessment](#)

Innovative Retention Strategies: Reducing Teacher and Leader Isolation in Medium and Small-sized Districts in Montana

Jeff Liberty, BetterLesson

Every year, Montana leaders in medium- and small-sized districts work hard to fill their teacher and administrative vacancies from a pool of candidates that seems to shrink with each passing year. Once hired, these educators can become isolated and stagnant in their practice if they are not given job-embedded opportunities to connect and grow with the support of experienced coaches and mentors. Please join BetterLesson and leaders from Evergreen, Deer Lodge, Froid, and Terry School Districts for this interactive session to learn how districts across the state have built the capacity of their educators, reduced turnover, and created more opportunities and better outcomes for students.

[Jeff Liberty's Professional Bio](#)

Resources: **[Innovative Retention Strategies](#)**

2024 SAM Administrators Institute Day 2 Resources (7-23-24)

Lead Like a PIRATE: Make School Amazing for Students and Staff - Beth Houf

Learn dynamic strategies to dramatically transform culture and build schools where students and staff run to get in, not out. Through a highly interactive and fun session, learn to: Harness PASSION and encourage risk-taking in your school. IMMERSE in the work that makes the biggest impact on student and staff learning. Build RAPPORT and relationships grounded in trust. ANALYZE lessons and ASK great questions in order to provide rich feedback that helps move learning forward. Dramatically TRANSFORM school culture. Lead with ENTHUSIASM that is contagious.

[Beth Houf Professional Bio](#)

Resources: **[Beth Houf Keynote Presentation slides](#)**



[Session Recording](#)

Para Professional Pathways - Patrick Cates & Danni McCarthy

Avenues to certification for para professionals and IDEA professional development for all staff.

[Patrick Cates & Danni McCarthy's Professional Bios](#)

Resources: **[Para Pathways](#)**

Building Safe, Inclusive, & Supportive Environments with Montana's Whole Child Competencies - Melissa Tovaas

Montana's Whole Child Competencies provide an aligned and developmentally appropriate framework for schools to ensure all students develop the skills necessary for success in and outside the classroom. In this session, participants will learn how the Self- and Social-Awareness strands of the Whole Child Competencies can support safe and inclusive school environments. A model for building staff capacity to integrate the competencies into instructional plans will be provided, and leaders will have an opportunity to reflect on the enabling conditions for successful implementation.

[Melissa Tovaas' Professional Bio](#)

Resources: [Whole Child](#)

Growing Teacher Leadership Through Collective Efficacy- Barbara Frank

We will learn the research behind and strategies for developing collective efficacy within a school by implementing systems for empowering teacher leadership.

Success Criteria:

- We can summarize the research on collective efficacy.
- We can discuss the power of Teacher Agency on Academic Optimism.
- We can identify strategies for growing collective efficacy in our school systems.

Collective efficacy and academic optimism are essential for developing teacher agency, as they create a supportive and confident school environment where teachers believe in their shared ability to enhance student achievement.

This collective belief in the positive trajectory of the school will cultivate environments where teachers feel confident to take initiative, innovate, and collaborate effectively. As a result, teacher agency grows and student achievement increases. Participants will leave this session with concrete ideas for growing collective efficacy and teacher agency in their settings.

[Barbara Frank's Professional Bio](#)

Resources: [Growing Teacher Leadership](#)

K12 Education Priorities for 2025: A Panel Discussion with MT Constitutional Players Committee - Shannon O'Brien (Legislature), Scott Walter (Board of Trustees), Christy Mock-Stutz (OPI), Madalyn Quinlan (Board of Public Education)



[Session Recording](#)

2024 SAM Administrators Institute Day 3 Resources (7-24-24)

Becoming a Literacy Leader - Danielle Thompson & Maria Pace: MT Reading League

Leading in education demands that we understand what it takes to create for change in literacy outcomes; however, a leaders plate is full so exactly what does a literacy leader need to know and what moves should they make? In this session we'll dive into the importance of reading legislation across the nation, what the upswell of the Science of Reading (SOR) is all about, how it has changed the landscape of leading and teaching, and what you can do to make leader moves that effectuate change based on implementation science and the science of reading.

Resources: [Keynote slides](#), [Diamond](#), [Assessment Matrix](#), [Instruction Model](#), [Leadership Transformation](#)



[Session Recording](#)

Building Partnerships Between Schools & DLI - Sarah Swanson

Resources: *(slides coming soon)*

Data Modernization - Anna Hoerner & Sarah Singer

The Office of Public Instruction and PowerSchool will provide updates to the Data Modernization Project. The OPI will provide general updates on the state of the project and what the next steps are for the agency and for schools. PowerSchool will provide a brief demonstration of their product for schools to see the functionality.

[Anna Hoerner & Sarah Singer Professional Bios](#)

Resources: [PSOPI](#)

Teacher Crisis - Jenny Combs & Andrea Meiers

With the exponential growth of provisional and emergency licenses for teachers, school districts should consider ways to quickly launch new teachers' effectiveness. This session provides essential topics and support to teachers as they launch their careers through a high quality mentoring program that will accelerate teacher effectiveness and increase student achievement. Learn more about how ACE is hosting an Early Career Teacher Bootcamp and piloting the Montana Statewide Mentoring Program.

[Jenny Combs & Andrea Meiers Professional Bios](#)

Resources: [Teacher Crisis](#)

The Indigenous Whole Learning Framework & Strategies to Create Inclusive, Indigenous Environments - Michele Henson & Crystal Hickman

A student's ability to learn is greatly impacted by both the learning environment and relationships a student has with the school, educators, other students, and the content he or she is learning. The Office of Public Instruction's Indigenous Whole Learner Relational Framework provides educators with guidance to serve Indigenous learners in a holistic way by centering around multi-dimensional relationships and recognizing the unique components of an Indigenous whole learner approach: Mind-Knowing; Spirit- Being; Heart-Belonging; Body-Doing. The Framework seeks to provide educators with a better understanding of Indigenous worldview and ways of knowing. Whole child approaches in education are rapidly gaining popularity as they have been shown to increase student attendance, foster learning, and support student wellness. In this session, participants will learn about the Indigenous Whole Learner Relational Framework (IWLRF), which expands on the Office of Public Instruction's Whole Child Skill Development competencies, and be introduced to the perspectives of Montana students in relation to creating inclusive school environments. Participants will also learn about ways staff at the Office of Public Instruction are utilizing student input and leveraging the IWLRF to create educational opportunities for Montana's Indigenous youth and about resources developed by OPI to aid educators in implementing uniquely Indigenous whole-learner strategies and create inclusive learning environments. The IWLRF creates opportunities for educators to leverage the unique strengths in Indigenous epistemology and incorporate student voice to support Indigenous learners and benefit all students and staff.

Michele Henson & Crystal Rondeaux Hickman's Professional Bios

Resources: [Indigenous Whole Learner Framework](#)

Accreditation Process for 2024-25 - Crystal Andrews, Michelle Price and Ellery Bresler

We will present an overview of the information that will be required for all school districts to submit for the 2024-25 Accreditation Process. Please note- the BPE will not have yet approved the process (September 2024) however we know that the information presented will be part of the process.

Crystal, Michelle & Ellery's Professional Bios

Resources: [Accreditation](#)

Closing Speaker: Reaffirming our Commitment to IEFA - Mike Jetty

This workshop will provide an overview of resources and strategies to support ongoing implementation of IEFA in your district/school. This is a historic effort, and it is an ongoing collaborative journey. From a Dakota perspective we like to think ahead 7 generations, some day we will all be ancestors and what kind of legacy do we want to leave for our descendants. The changes we are making now will have positive impacts for future generations of all Montanans. Wopida Tanka – A big thanks for all you do to support this effort.

Mike Jetty's Professional Bio

Resources: [Closing Keynote](#)



[Session Recording](#)

