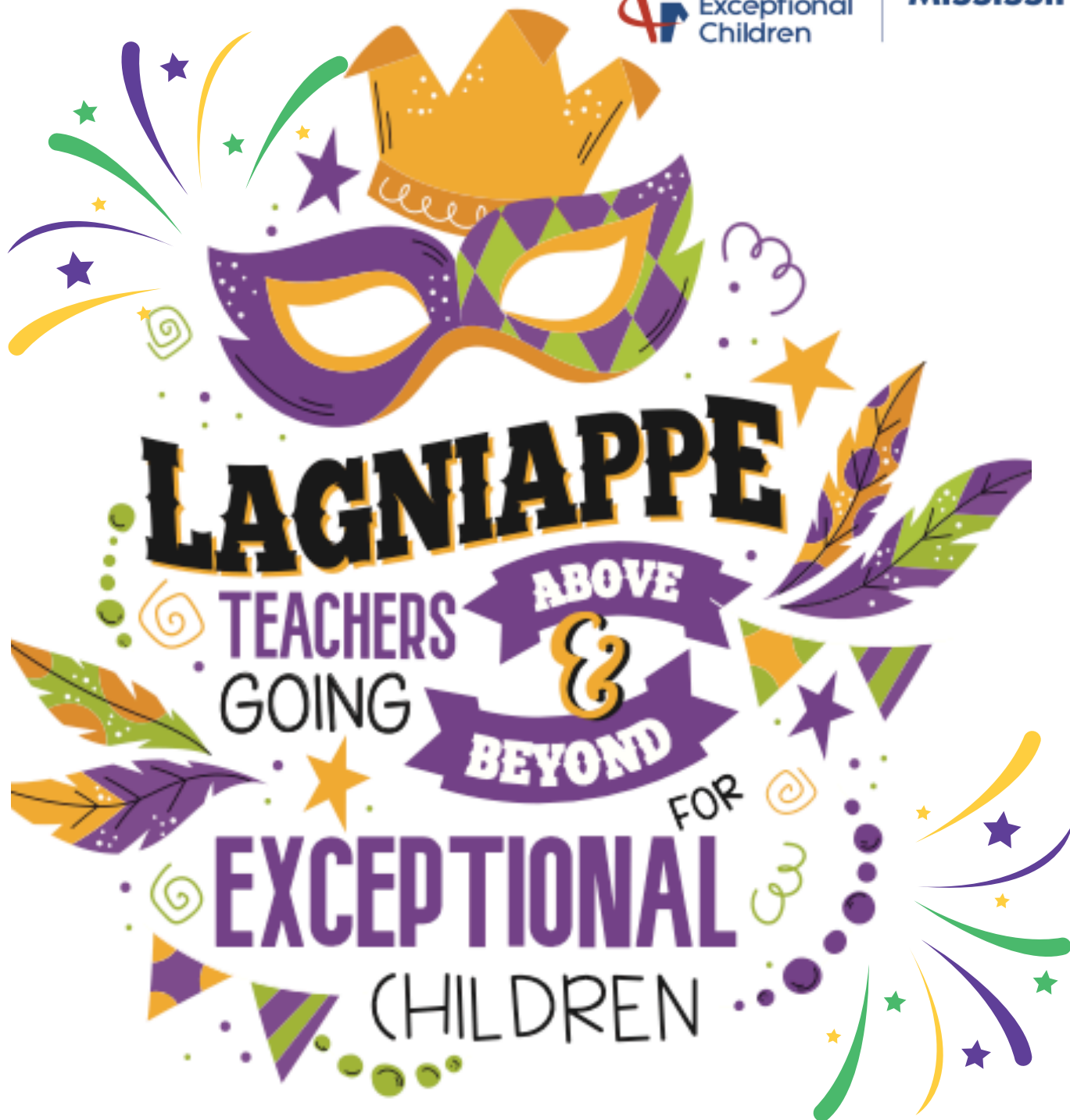




Council for
Exceptional
Children

MISSISSIPPI



SEPTEMBER 23-25



WELCOME TO THE 2024 MS CEC CONFERENCE



Paige Pigott Brown,
MS CEC President-Elect

It is with great excitement and deep appreciation that I welcome each of you to this year's Mississippi Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Lagniappe: Teachers Going Above and Beyond for Exceptional Students. As we gather to learn, share, and grow together I am reminded of the power that educators have in shaping the future for students with disabilities. While much of my career has been spent as a special education teacher in Louisiana, my heart and my aspirations have always remained here-focused on improving the services and supports available to students with disabilities in my home state of Mississippi.

I am now honored to serve as Special Services Director for North Pike School district and as the President-Elect for MS CEC. I have witnessed firsthand the incredible impact that dedicated, passionate educators like yourselves can have on the lives of exceptional students, and it is my deepest hope that this conference serves as an opportunity for all of us to continue going above and beyond in our work.

The theme of Lagniappe, which embodies that little something extra, reflects the spirit with which we approach our students, ensuring they receive not just the minimum, but everything they need to thrive. Together, we can make a lasting difference and build a brighter, more inclusive future for every child in our classrooms.

Thank you for your dedication, your passion, and your commitment to our exceptional students. We hope that you all have fun and get connected with CEC while at this conference. On Tuesday we will have opportunities to build professional connections during the "Lagniappe Hour" where we will make parade swag for the MS CEC Walking Parade with a social to follow.

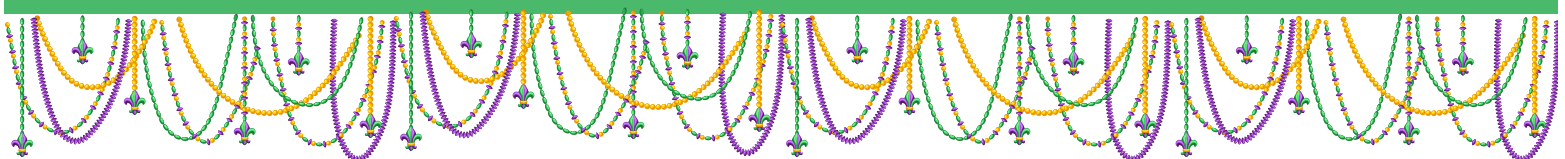
On a final note, we hope that you take some time to learn more about what CEC has to offer and consider joining a division. Division meetings will be held on Wednesday at 8:30 AM. Let's make this conference one to remember!

Your Partner in Education & Beyond,

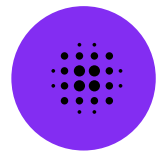
Paige Pigott Brown, MS CEC President-Elect



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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE



THE COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN (CEC) MISSISSIPPI UNIT

The CEC is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the success of children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents.

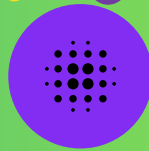
CEC advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides professional development, and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice. CEC is known as THE source for information, resources, and professional development for special educators.

CEC has local Units in all 50 states and Canada, as well as 18 optional Special Interest Divisions focused on a specific topic, specialty area, role, or exceptionality. We also have CEC Student Chapters at hundreds of colleges and universities.

The Mississippi Unit of CEC host a fall conference every year. It is the largest educational conference in Mississippi that focuses on professional learning for special educators and stakeholders. The conference gives teachers, parents, and administrators the opportunity to network, gain current information on trends in instructional practices, policy, and related technology.



ABOUT US



MISSISSIPPI CEC LEADERSHIP TEAM



JULIE ETHERIDGE
2023 PRESIDENT



MICHELLE MCCLAIN
2024 PRESIDENT



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BOBBY RICHARDSON
CEC CHAPTER & CAN
COORDINATOR



DEBBIE HUBBERT
MEMBERSHIPS, GRANTS,
& AWARDS COORDINATOR



AMYE ROWAN
MDE LIASION



EVENT SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Exhibit Setup	Lobby
11:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Participant Registration	Lobby
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Welcome/Keynote	Cherry/Dogwood
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Snack Break/Vendor Visit	Lobby
2:30 PM - 3:45 PM	Concurrent Session 1	Various Locations/See Agenda

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

7:15 AM - 8:00 AM	Breakfast/Visit with Vendors	Arena/Lobby
7:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Participant Registration	Lobby
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Welcome/Keynote	Cherry/Dogwood
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Snack Break/Visit with Vendors	Lobby
9:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Concurrent Session 2	Various Locations/See Agenda
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Snack Break/Visit with Vendors	Lobby
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Concurrent Session 3	Various Locations/See Agenda
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	Lunch/Keynote	Arena
1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Concurrent Session 4	Various Locations/See Agenda
2:45 PM - 3:00 PM	Snack Break/Visit Vendors	Lobby
3:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Concurrent Session 5	Various Locations/See Agenda
6:15 PM - 7:15 PM	Laniappe Hour	Arena
7:15 PM - 8:00 PM	Parade	Arena Sidewalk
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Conference Social	Lounge

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast/Visit with Vendors	Arena/Lobby
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Participant Registration	Lobby
8:30 AM - 8:50 AM	Special Interest Division Meetings	Various Locations/See Agenda
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Concurrent Session 6	Various Locations/See Agenda
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Snack Break/Visit with Vendors	Legal Legal Lobby
10:30 AM - 11:20 AM	Updates	Cherry/Dogwood
11:20 AM - 11:50 AM	Closing Session/Door Prizes	Cherry/Dogwood

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS AND HONORED GUESTS

Casey Watts

Beyond Silos: Creating a Culture of Collaboration to Empower Educators and Students



Casey Watts is the founder of Casey Watts Coaching & Consulting, LLC, and serves as a Team Alignment Strategies and school-based instructional specialist in East Texas. She holds a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus on Elementary Education and a Master's Degree of Education from Stephen F. Austin State University. Leaning into her 20 years of experience as an educator in multiple capacities, Casey works with groups, individuals, and

organizations to create team environments that leave people feeling empowered, inspired, and essential. Her research and work have centered on effective collaboration that fosters collective efficacy, emphasizing the essential components for creating cohesive, vision-driven teams, even amid learning gaps, resistance, and roadblocks. Casey is known for her visionary approach, strategic thinking, and conversational skills, with a talent for asking insightful questions and developing innovative solutions. She spends a great deal of time connecting with other field experts and thought leaders to learn from a variety of perspectives. On her podcast, The Catching Up with Casey Show, she and her guests talk about anything and everything that has to do with building cohesive, vision-driven teams.

Chris Chism

AI in Education - Uses from the Board Room to the Classroom



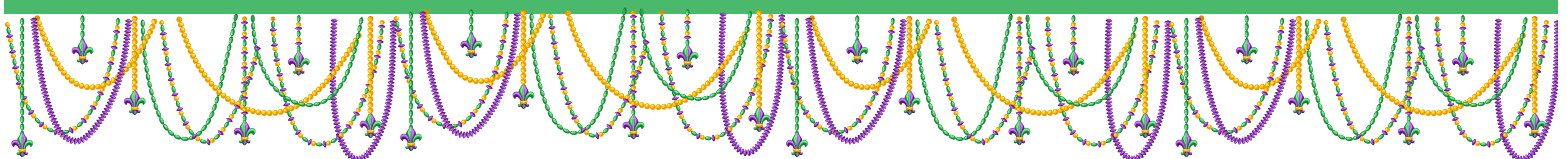
With a dynamic career in educational leadership spanning 29 years, Chris Chism stands as a transformative figure in the Pearl Public School District. As a Mississippi State University alumnus with a deep expertise in educational technology and data-driven instruction, Chris has carved a niche in educational excellence. His commitment to data utilization and artificial intelligence in education is evident in his speaking engagements, where he has delivered over 100 presentations state-wide, influencing policies and practices from the classroom to the boardroom.

Lindsay Britt, PhD

Passion or Profession? Rediscovering the Heart of Being an Educator



Lindsay Britt is the Director of Community Partnerships and Middle School Curriculum for Lee County Schools. She and her character, "Gladys", have presented at different conferences, churches, and schools across the state of Mississippi. She taught theatre for 12 years and served as the ESL Director for Tupelo Middle School. For nine years, she served as a principal at Plantersville Middle School where her team was able to transform the culture of a failing school, increase teacher retention, and partner with the community for various grants and programs.



KEY NOTE SPEAKERS & HONORED GUESTS

Lance Evans, PhD

Conference Opening Message to Special Educators



Dr. Lance Evans began serving as Mississippi's State Superintendent of Education in July 2024. In his 24-year career as an educator, he has served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, elementary principal, high school principal, and superintendent of schools for the New Albany School District. During his seven-year tenure as superintendent in New Albany, the district experienced continuous growth in all academic areas while implementing a districtwide workforce development program. New Albany School District received an A rating for the past five years, is ranked among the top 10% in Mississippi in overall academic performance and has increased its graduation rate by 13.5% to its current rate of 95.5%. Dr. Evans' awards include the 2023 Mississippi Superintendent of the Year and the 2015 Mississippi Principal of the Year. He has served on the boards of Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (MASS), the Mississippi Association of School Administrators (MASA), and the Governing Board for the American Association of School Administrators (AASA). Dr. Evans earned his doctorate degree from Delta State University, his master's degree from the University of Mississippi, and his bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University. He and his wife Brandy have two children, Katie, a college junior, and Landon, a high school sophomore.

KaShonda Day, J.D.

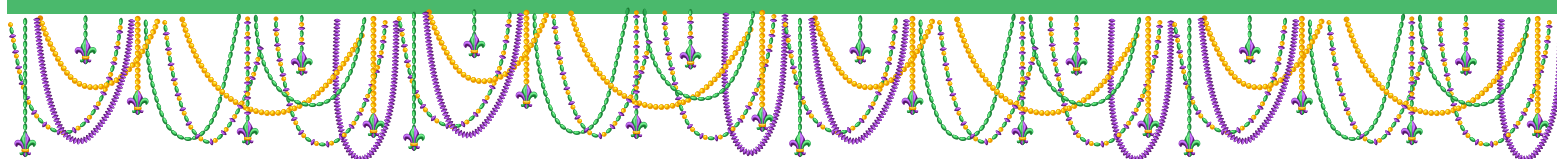
Legal Updates In Special Education



KaShonda L. Day is a partner with Adams and Reese law firm. She began her career as a teacher and educational consultant. Later after earning a Juris Doctorate, J.D., degree from Stetson University College of Law in 2005. She served as Assistant District Counsel for the Jackson Public School District for seven years, where she provided routine legal advice and assistance to the administrative staff. She also represented the District in various litigation and administrative matters. KaShonda previously worked as a judicial law clerk with the 13th Judicial Circuit Court of Hillsborough County, FL. KaShonda Day currently provides legal counsel to numerous school districts.



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BREAK OUT SESSIONS

Accounting Manual Coding System

Presented by: Letitia Johnson

There are numerous fund numbers, functions codes, object codes, etc. in the Accounting Manual for School Districts. Do not be afraid! The purpose of coding is to accurately record accounting transactions, conform to generally accepted accounting principles, reflect transparency, and make your life easier. We will discuss funds established as state and/or federal funds. The use of functions codes and what role they play. At the end of this session, you will learn how the budget string tells the story of who's making a purchase, what is being purchased, and for whom the purchase is made.

AI and Behavior

Presented by: Alice Stringer

Show how to use different AI programs that are designed specifically for Special Education to design and implement behavioral goals or plans within the classroom. Also, showing the differences between multiple AI programs that can be used for behavior within the classroom.

Assessment Insights: Navigating the Reevaluation Process

Presented by: Stacy Davis

In this session, the participants will identify the LEA's reevaluation requirements, examine the requirements in conducting a reevaluation, and review the MDE Child Find Reevaluation Monitoring Tool.

Autism, Behavior, and Sensory Integration

Presented by: Rebecca Pitalo-Parker

- Presentation discussing the definition and description of Sensory Integration in children with Autism.
- Identify the types of Sensory Integration to include Tactile, Vestibular, and Proprioceptive Systems.
- Discuss types of sensitivities associated with sensory deficits and how they look and feel to a person with Autism.
- Identify how individuals with Autism experience Sensory Processing issues.
- Accommodations/Interventions that can be made for children with sensory issues.
- Identify techniques for coping with sensory overload.
- Other techniques utilized as interventions for behaviors associated with Autism.

Being a Parent Whisper: The Value of Authentic Relationships and Active Listening

Presented by: Amy Stampley

This session will cover the topic of parent support and engagement and forging meaningful, sustainable relationships with parents. In the world of supporting students today, it takes a village to collaborate and define the best solutions and support. Through developing authentic relationships and practicing active listening,, we can work with families to be more effective in focusing on the best outcomes for students.

Comprehensive Assessment of Preschoolers Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Presented by: Dr. Courtney Turner and Haley Rishel

This presentation will outline current IDEA Part B evaluation recommendations for preschoolers who are deaf or hard of hearing according to the National Association of State Directors of Special Education Educational Service Guidelines for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, within the context of the Mississippi Department of Education eligibility determination guidelines. Potential IEP services and accommodations will be discussed briefly with an opportunity for questions related to individual cases.

Cooking with Math in the Secondary Community Based Classroom

Presented by: Denise Harrison

Culinary math includes counting portions, increasing a recipe yield, determining a ratio, calculating a plate cost, or establishing a food budget. Cooking can be challenging for students with a disability. Basic cooking principles are kitchen safety, task analysis, and multi-sensory instruction. This session includes using the Mississippi Alternate Math Elements Standards to teach basic cooking principles in the classroom and recipe creation for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Participants will need to bring an electronic device to this session.

Cut Your Planning Time in Half!

Presented by: Christine Bostic and Hannah Lawler

Collaborative lesson planning is not a new approach, but traditionally, it has been used by subject specific, grade-level departments. IDEA Teachers in Ocean Springs have found a way to apply the collaborative approach to grade level IDEA lesson planning. This model has provided wide ranging benefits including: enhanced teacher collaboration, cut planning time in half, maximized the strengths of different teachers, promoted consistency in student instruction, developed a growing tool box of resources, and more. Our presentation will identify the key components needed for this model (of which all are free), provide the steps needed to get started, and explain real life examples of the benefits noted above.

Data Collection, Documentation, and PWNs

Presented by: Theresa LaPrade

How to maintain a handle on the data coming your way, especially in secondary schools. Charts and ideas on keeping up with test scores, ACT, accommodations and then correlating OSS and Absences. These processes help to push conversations/ IEP meetings to make sure that there is a constant stream of communication between the school and the parents. With the data in hand, how do we document? With effective PWNs, writing and documenting the IEP meetings .

Engaging Families with Disabilities: Perspectives from Parents and Administration in Early Learning Centers

Presented by: Shamaria Mosley

This session will explore the importance of inclusion in early childhood education (ECE), with a focus on supporting children with disabilities. The presentation will cover key aspects of inclusive practices, challenges and perspectives from existing research, and recommendations for improvement. Additionally, the session will address the importance of collaboration between educators and families to ensure comprehensive support for children with disabilities. Real-world examples and case studies will be provided to illustrate successful inclusive practices and highlight areas needing further development.

Enhancing a Culture to Foster Academic and Behavioral Growth for Diverse Learners

Presented by: Barbara E. Cage, Ed.S

This training session is designed to provide educators and school administrators with the knowledge and tools necessary to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment that fosters both academic and behavioral growth for diverse learners. Participants will explore effective strategies and best practices for addressing the unique needs of students with varied backgrounds and abilities. By the end of the training, participants will be equipped with actionable strategies and a deeper understanding of how to enhance their school culture to support the academic and behavioral growth of diverse learners. They will leave with practical tools and resources to implement these practices in their own educational settings.

From Goals to Growth: Implementing DBI for Academic IEPs

Presented by: Jessica Reynolds

Discover how to revolutionize your approach to measuring student progress with the latest guidelines from the National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII). This engaging session explores the Data-Based Individualization (DBI) process, a powerful tool for enhancing the effectiveness of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

If You Didn't Document, Did It Even happen?

Presented by: Megan Franks and Catherine Moxley

Discussing the who, what, when, and how to document students behavior, inclusion, and intervention. Participants will leave with a better understanding of documentation and a plethora of free resources to take back to their home sites; both digital and paper/pencil based documentation to fit the needs of anyone.

Improving Inclusivity and Learning Outcomes for Students with Disabilities

Presented by: Stacy Todd

In this interactive session, participants will explore practical ways to support all students in general education classrooms through specially designed instruction (SDI). Topics covered will include scheduling and caseload management, elements and examples of SDI, collaborative planning and data-based individualization.

It Takes Two To Make A Thing Go Right

Presented by: Nina C. Roberts, MEd

Exceptional students achieving excellence with co-teaching, small group instruction, and data supports.

Leadership to Support Student Achievement; Scheduling to Support Success & Making Sense of Accommodations

Presented by: Paige Pigott Brown

This comprehensive training equips administrators with the insight and tools to design inclusive learning environments that enhance student achievement. Participants will explore leadership strategies that prioritize effective scheduling and the appropriate allocation of special education resources. This session will also cover practical strategies for structuring implementation of common accommodations which serve as a catalyst for student independence, self-efficacy and student achievement.

Leading with Light

Presented by: Ellen Hill and Tami Harrell

Are you struggling to lead the classroom, school and/or district with positivity in a negative world? This session is for you! In today's educational landscape, the role of leaders in fostering positive environments cannot be overstated. This presentation explores the transformative power of leading with light and positivity in classrooms, schools, and districts. By emphasizing the importance of 5 focus areas that great leaders do to promote positivity, you can begin to create thriving communities where students, teachers and administrators can flourish. Come be refreshed, inspired, and renewed for the 2024-2025 school year!

Learning Full Circle to Serve Full Circle

Presented by: Dr.Emily Harber Williams

"Fair isn't everyone having the same thing. Fair is everyone getting what they need in order to be successful." -Anonymous

Topic 1: Academics (Micah's Mission Homeschool Curriculum)

Topic 2: Character Development and Leadership while Partnering with Air Force Auxiliary (We are Squadron MS-109)

Topic 3: Partnership Resources (Micah's Mission Dyslexia Department and Jullia's Place with Good Shepherd)

Let's Talk... How to Support Students with Communication Differences in the Classroom

Presented by: Bethanne Cheney and Hillary Black

This presentation aims to bridge the gap between the speech therapy room and the classroom by offering practical, simple ways for teachers to support their students with communication differences. We will help you identify red flags your students may exhibit in the areas of speech, language, and fluency. As Speech Therapists working in the schools, we know your time in the classroom is packed full of academic demands. Our goal is not to add one more thing to your to-do list, but instead, to provide you with a few pieces of equipment from our speech toolbox to help make some real progress with our students.

Mastering the Maze: Navigating IDEA MOE Compliance LEA, Collaboration, and Strategic Financial Management

Presented by: Michael Gibbons and Mary Knight

In this dynamic session, dive into the complexities of IDEA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) compliance and eligibility, essential for sustaining critical special education funding. Discover how building a strong, collaborative relationship between LEA business managers/CFOs and special education directors can streamline communication and ensure fiscal responsibility. Additionally, gain practical insights into the Mississippi Comprehensive Automated Performance-based System (MCAPS) and learn why timely drawdowns and the First-In, First-Out (FIFO) method are vital for optimizing your district's financial health. Whether you're new to these processes or a seasoned professional, this session will equip you with the tools and strategies to confidently navigate the financial landscape of special education funding.

Matchy-Matchy-Matchy

Presented by: Susan Adam

Your inheritance of IEPs is shared in August, yet without checks and balances, the return of full benefits in May is uncertain. How's the match of goals to deficits? Deficits to instruction and checks for understanding? Adjustments based on the data? Without "matchy-matchy-matchy", an IEP plan may not be strong enough to demonstrate growth and accelerate progress to grade level. Are there enough skills included? The right ones? How do you know? This session explores real examples that demonstrate the importance of doing what is needed for students based on need, with enough elevation to meet student growth from year to year. Let's find that balance, MS!

My District is Being Monitored...What Does that Mean For Teachers?

Presented by: Julie Etheridge

My presentation will focus on the Integrated Monitoring System used by the MDE Office of Special Education. I will discuss the different types of monitoring with a focus on the Self-Assessment and the components of IDEA that are looked at through the Cyclical Monitoring process. We will examine how this impacts teachers and how teachers can use the results to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

MY WAY!!! Happy Relaxed and Engaged (HRE)!! Teaching Tolerance, Delay, and Communication With Skills Based Training (SBT)!

Presented by: Jacquelin Thweatt-Burton, M.Ed, BCBA, LBA

Skill-based treatment (SBT) is a treatment approach in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) that helps teach communication, contextually appropriate behaviors, and tolerance to replace severe problem behaviors. SBT is trauma-informed, meaning it recognizes the impact of trauma on individuals and integrates this understanding into the treatment process. SBT consists of progressively teaching communication, tolerance for frustration, and a range of contextually appropriate behaviors (CABs). Repeated practice is essential to building these skills, along with reinforcement on an unpredictable and intermittent schedule. SBT is also known as the "My Way" program developed by Dr. Greg Hanley.

Navigating the Neurostorm of the Adolescent Brain

Presented by: Elise Brooks

In this dynamic session, dive into the complexities of IDEA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) compliance and eligibility, essential for sustaining critical special education funding. Discover how building a strong, collaborative relationship between LEA business managers/CFOs and special education directors can streamline communication and ensure fiscal responsibility. Additionally, gain practical insights into the Mississippi Comprehensive Automated Performance-based System (MCAPS) and learn why timely drawdowns and the First-In, First-Out (FIFO) method are vital for optimizing your district's financial health. Whether you're new to these processes or a seasoned professional, this session will equip you with the tools and strategies to confidently navigate the financial landscape of special education funding.

Promoting Equity: Understanding the Rights of Students with Disabilities

Presented by: Erin Clements Hendricks, Ed.S

In this session participants will establish their current practices around equity and inclusion. This session will explore ways to expand on opportunities for inclusion to increase student's time in their least restrictive environment as well as provide participants an opportunity to create an individualized plan for increasing the equitable practices within their classroom.

Special Ed Connection Tips & Tools to Free Up Your Time and Get You Answers Fast!

Presented by: Kelly Whiting

Did you know that the MS Department of Education provides every LEA in the state with FREE access to Special Ed Connection®? Special Ed Connection® is your one-stop-shop for guidance on all of your special education challenges – and the only source you need to keep current on education policy and legal developments. This valuable resource empowers you to successfully address the legal and implementation issues of serving students with disabilities. With Special Ed Connection® you have the ability to implement appropriate and effective services, learn lessons from case law, tackle every day compliance issues, lead and support staff, and so much more! Come learn how to use Special Ed Connection® to free up your time and get you answers fast!

Supportive Strategies for Reluctant Writers

Presented by: Amy Jackson

Writing is a process. Reluctant writers need support throughout the writing process in order to be successful. From planning to publishing, this interactive session will focus on strategies that remove demands, facilitate processes, and create success. Strategies, accommodations, and resources will be addressed. Bring paper and your favorite pen!

Transition Planning- Tools for Planning with a Purpose!

Presented by: Brooke Shoup

Schools and families can help students be more prepared for life after high school and improve their future outcomes by helping them increase their expectations and improve their understanding of the importance of transition planning. As a system, let's move beyond our biases and silos and embrace partnership and collaboration in the spirit of fulfilling futures for those we serve. During this session, we will focus on the important considerations children, youth, and young adults with disabilities and their families need to be aware of, and prepared for to maximize their potential as they enter and move through the K-12 school system. Attendees will also gain access to resources to help make transition planning stronger and more successful for all students.

Understanding Autism in the Inclusive Classroom

Presented by: Denise Harrison

The focus of this session is to enable participants to identify the characteristics of Autism and to provide strategies to help students succeed in the general education classroom and school environment.

Objectives:

- Participants will describe the characteristics of students with Autism.
- Participants will be able to describe strategies to help students with Autism to succeed in the school environment.

Unleashing the Power of Collaboration: Why Special Education Directors Need a Consortium

Presented by: Jeanie Pigg, Genna McAlpin, and Aletha Simpson

In this dynamic session, dive into the complexities of IDEA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) compliance and eligibility, essential for sustaining critical special education funding. Discover how building a strong, collaborative relationship between LEA business managers/CFOs and special education directors can streamline communication and ensure fiscal responsibility. Additionally, gain practical insights into the Mississippi Comprehensive Automated Performance-based System (MCAPS) and learn why timely drawdowns and the First-In, First-Out (FIFO) method are vital for optimizing your district's financial health. Whether you're new to these processes or a seasoned professional, this session will equip you with the tools and strategies to confidently navigate the financial landscape of special education funding.

Unraveling the Reading Rope for Students with Disabilities: Word Recognition (Part 1)

Presented by: Courtney Sherriff and Miriam Keplinger

Data has proven that utilizing strategies which align with the Science of Reading increases outcomes for students with disabilities. The goal of these sessions is to equip teachers with background knowledge on the Simple View of Reading so that they have awareness and the resources needed to address specific reading deficits for students receiving special education services and/or interventions in reading.

Part 1 focuses on Word Recognition, which is the first strand of Scarborough's Reading Rope. In addition to strategic use of the second strand, Language Comprehension, students must also gain proficiency in Word Recognition which includes decoding, phonological awareness, and sight word recognition.

Unraveling the Reading Rope for Students with Disabilities: language Comprehension (Part 2)

Presented by: Kenny Gibson & Melissa Brown, PhD

Data has proven that utilizing strategies which align with the Science of Reading increases outcomes for students with disabilities. The goal of these sessions is to equip teachers with background knowledge on the Simple View of Reading so that they have awareness, and the resources needed to address specific reading deficits for students receiving special education services and/or interventions in reading.

Part 2 focuses on Language Comprehension, which is the second strand of Scarborough's Reading Rope. In addition to proficiency with the first strand, Word Recognition, students must also gain strategic use of Language Comprehension which includes vocabulary, background knowledge, language structures, literacy knowledge, and verbal reasoning. We will explore using language strategies at the word level, sentence level, and between sentence levels to understand how readers create a mental model of the text.

Using MTSS to Support Students Reach Above and Beyond

Presented by: Sandra C. Elliott

If you want to learn more about the components of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and how it can work to support ALL students, then this presentation is for you! In this session participants will learn about the components of MTSS and how it can be used to support the different needs of all students.

Visually Speaking: Let's Talk About Supporting our Students with Autism

Presented by: Kristen Heering, Erika Hanskiewicz, and Audrey Wylie

This session will help participants describe current Autism research trends to support advocacy towards the practical use of visual supports and strategies for students with Autism across school settings.

The presenters will share a variety of visual support systems and methods to address common need areas for autistic learners to equip attendees with ready-to-go tools and strategies to improve behavior and social-emotional outcomes for their learners with autism. Some common needs that may be addressed will include transition times, restricted interests, physical aggression, communication, verbal outbursts, elopement, and more.

Word Choice Matters

Presented by: Jitka Elizarraras

The language people use to describe others and themselves matter, and this can affect the interactions people share. Educators interact regularly with learners of various backgrounds, and the words that educators use to describe a learner or a population can shape the relationship between them, both positively and negatively. Historically, people who belong to various minorities (i.e., cultural backgrounds, race, socioeconomic status, disabilities, etc.) have expressed the kind of language they feel is and is not respectful. When teachers, early interventionist, or other professionals work with individuals with differences, it's important to consider their specific preferences when interacting with them as this can affect how the individual receives the service (i.e., curriculum, speech therapy, etc.). The current presentation discusses the impact of language preferences and learner outcomes and strategies that professionals can implement in their work that honors how individuals feel respected.

Work Smarter Not Harder - Harnessing the Power of AI in Special Education

Presented by: Dr. Tricia Cox

Join us for an insightful and dynamic session focused on the revolutionary impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the field of Special Education. This event is designed for educators and administrators who are passionate about enhancing the educational experiences and outcomes for students with special disabilities. We will focus on the basics of AI and the potential applications within Special Education. Come learn how to use AI tools to create customized PLAAFPs, Goals, and tools to save you time and effort. Join us for an inspiring session that bridges the gap between technology and special education, empowering educators and transforming the way we utilize our time.



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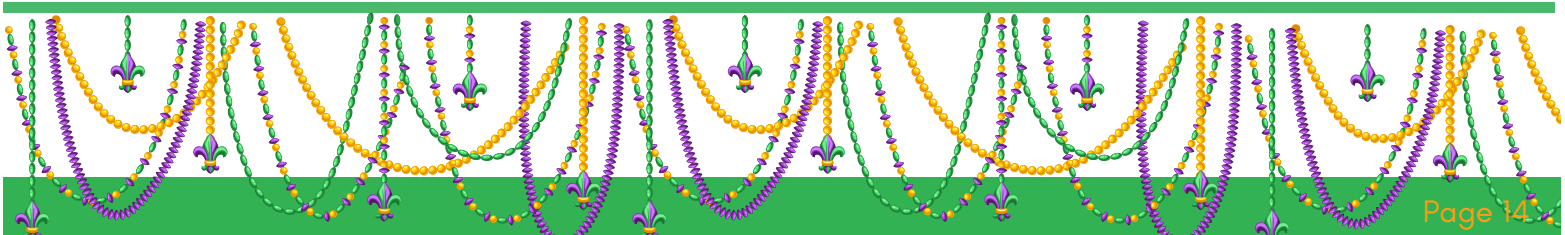
Kelly Earls, Ed.S.
Bailey Education Mississippi
State Director

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF ALL CHILDREN

Bailey Education Group is committed to partnering with all schools and districts to improve the lives of all children through customized professional development and side-by-side teacher coaching. Some specific professional development offered in the area of special education includes but is not limited to the following.

- Train and coach teachers, paraeducators, and school leaders on Specially Designed Instruction related to academic and behavioral growth for students with disabilities
- Strengthen school and district implementation of effective High Leverage Practices (HLPs) in Special Education
- Increase understanding of effective practices that improve outcomes in both general education and special education classrooms
- Provide specialized support for schools and districts in school improvement
- Collaborate with schools and districts to design special education programming that is effective, efficient, and compliant

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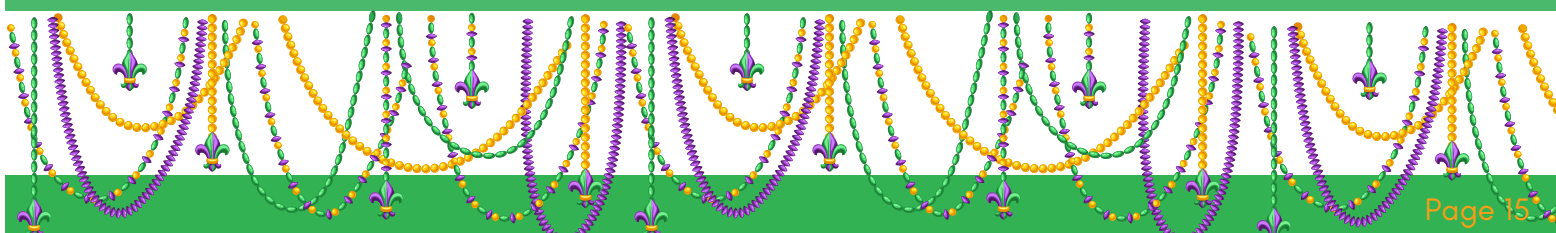
Comprehensive Services

Bailey Education Group is a regional leader in comprehensive school improvement services. We offer customized coaching and development in the following areas:

- ACT Support
- CCEIS Support
- Classroom Management & Behavioral Support
- Comprehensive Instructional Review
- Counselor Support
- Cultural Diversity
- Curriculum Development & Support
- CTE Support
- Data Analysis
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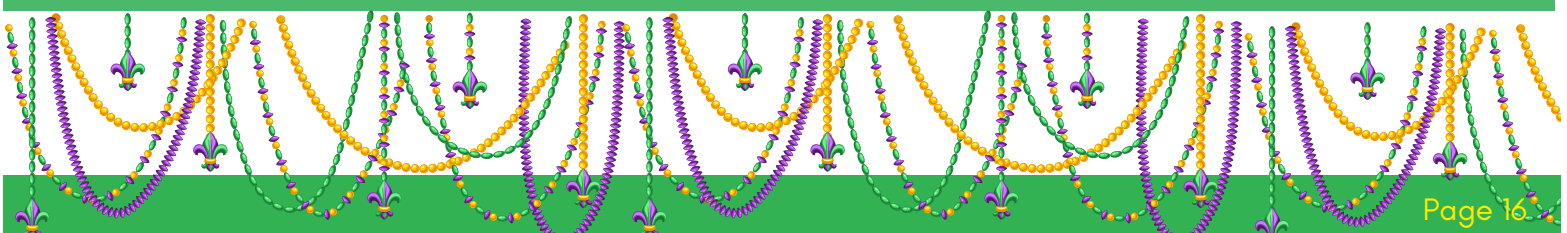
www.renasantbank.com

SUPER SPONSOR: KIDS FIRST EDUCATION, LLC.



KIDS FIRST Education LLC was founded by career educators, Chuck Poer and Cellie Scoggin, to work directly with PreK-12 schools to improve outcomes for KIDS. Chuck and Cellie have worked together for more than a decade, leading teams of educators to make a lasting impact on instructional practice and student achievement. They are joined by an experienced team of educational leaders, coaches, and specialists with a heart for KIDS and a passion for teaching and learning.

www.kidsfirst.llc





LAGNIAPPE HOUR: CONNECTION & CREATIVITY FOR EDUCATORS

SPONSORED BY MISSISSIPPI PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS



A fun and interactive session designed to help educators relax, socialize, and build connections while tapping into their creativity! During this session, participants will work together on team building activities by creating and decorating vibrant parade banners for the upcoming walking parade. In addition, attendees will have the chance to express their Mardi Gras spirit by decorating festive masks and umbrellas. In addition, attendees will have the chance to select colorful throws to toss during the parade, which kicks off at 7:15 PM.



WHY MPE?

- PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY PROTECTION OF \$2,000,000 w/\$3,000,000 MAX
- LEGAL ASSISTANCE RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT OR PROFESSIONAL MATTERS PER MPE POLICY
- \$10,000 ACCIDENTAL DEATH & DISMEMBERMENT COVERAGE
- \$2,500 ASSAULT RELATED PROPERTY DAMAGE
- CONSISTENT AND ECONOMICAL DUES
- IDENTITY THEFT COVERAGE
- GRADUATE & UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED ANNUALLY
- CLASSROOM GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
- NBCT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED ANNUALLY
- NON-CERTIFIED SCHOLARSHIPS
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- BRIGHTVIEW CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP
- WORKING ADVANTAGE MEMBER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

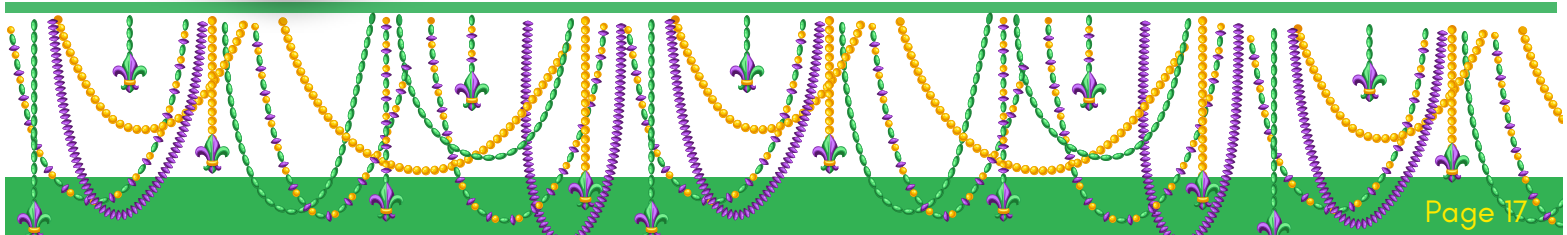
www.mpe.org

MARDI GRAS MARCH FOR EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATORS

SPONSORED BY ROSEMONT EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS, LLC.



Step out in style and show your passion for going above and beyond! Show off your creations from the Lagniappe Hour and let's celebrate the exceptional dedication of our educators and the bright future of our students. Walk with us in the Lagniappe Walking Parade, where every step honors the extra mile we take for exceptional children. Bring your enthusiasm, showcase your spirit, and let's make this parade an unforgettable show of support!





Mississippi Council for Exceptional Children

presents

LAGNIAPPE TEACHERS

Going Above and Beyond
for Exceptional Children

Walking Parade

Sept. 24th 7:15 PM

Cadence Bank Arena
Tupelo, MS

Step out in style and show your passion for going above and beyond! Let's celebrate the exceptional dedication of our educators and the bright future of our students. Walk with us in the Lagniappe Walking Parade, where every step honors the extra mile we take for exceptional children. Bring your enthusiasm, showcase your spirit, and let's make this parade an unforgettable show of support!

PARADE SPONSOR



PARADE ROUTE

The walking parade route is on the sidewalk around the Candance Bank Arena.

Signs will designate parking area.

<http://mississippi.exceptionalchildren.org>



MISSISSIPPI

BRING THE KIDS OUT
TO CATCH A
THROW!



THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS

the
excellence
group LLC



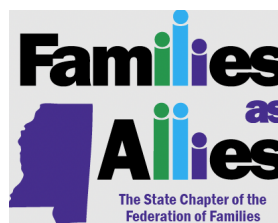
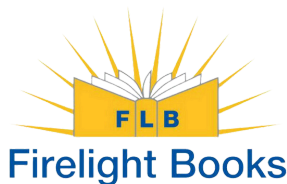
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