



2025 Innovations in Learning Conference

Wednesday, April 9th

AGENDA

8:15am - 8:45am

Registration, Coffee & Light Breakfast, Visit with Business Partners

Main Hallway

8:45am - 8:55am

Welcome, Overview of Program, & Business Partner Introductions

Salon A/B

8:55am - 10:00am

Opening Panel: Innovations in Trauma: How Increased Stress & Screen Time Impact Students - facilitated by Dr Alison Roy, Psy.D Panelists = Chris Pratt, Superintendent, SAU #06, Tim Conway, Principal, South Meadow School, Kymra Kurinkas, Parent, SAU #01 - MORE PANELISTS TO COME!

Salon A/B

Dr. Alison Roy will facilitate a panel discussion that will explore the broader concept of trauma beyond Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), focusing on factors that currently affect developing brains, such as parental stress, social media, and decreased in-person interactions, and increased screen time. Participants will engage in dialogue about the implications of these changes on attention, impulse control, and overall learning processes. The discussion aims to determine whether educators and caregivers should adapt their approaches or resist the new norms.

10:00am - 10:15am

Refreshment Break & Visit with Business Partners

Main Hallway

10:15am - 11:00am

Concurrent Session Block #1 (see full session detail on pg. 2)

Various

11:00am - 11:15am

Refreshment Break & Visit with Business Partners

Main Hallway

11:15am - 12:00pm

Concurrent Session Block #2 (see full session detail on pg. 2 - 3)

Various

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch Break & Visit with Business Partners

Salon A/B & Hallway

1:00pm - 1:45pm

Concurrent Session Block #3 (see full session detail on pg. 3)

Various

1:45pm - 2:30pm

Closing General Session: Making Sense of the 306 Rules - Prioritization through Collaboration - Christine Downing, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, SAU #32, Angel Littlefield, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, SAU #45, & Erica Pappalardo, Curriculum Coordinator, SAU #02

Salon A/B

The newly adopted ED306 rules for state minimum standards, approved by the State School Board in December of 2024, represent a shift which will impact every district and school in the state. To stay ahead of these changes, work in each district will need to consider policy updates, high school course offerings, graduation requirements, and standard alignment.

2:30pm - 2:45pm

Closing, Raffle, & Adjournment

Salon A/B

2025 Innovations in Learning Conference | Wednesday, April 9th | Concurrent Session Information

Concurrent Session Block #1 | 10:15 - 11:00am

Designing Curriculum with Purpose: Understanding NH's 306 Standards in a Competency-Based System - Ellen Hume-Howard, Executive Director, and Kathleen White, Director of Deeper Learning, NHLI - This workshop is designed to support educational leaders in aligning curriculum with NH's Ed 306 Minimum Standards for Public School Approval within a competency-based learning system. Participants will explore strategies to ensure that curriculum design not only meets state requirements but also fosters student agency, deeper learning, and equity in instruction.

Unlock Math with AI - Jenn Bordis, Curriculum Coordinator, Auburn Village School and Meghan McLain, 5th Grade Teacher, Hooksett Memorial School - Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming education, offering powerful tools to support both teaching and learning. See how we can use AI in our planning and with our students to enhance instruction, foster student engagement, and support differentiated learning. Participants will gain hands-on experience with AI-driven tools, discuss ethical considerations, and develop strategies for meaningful AI integration in their math classrooms.

Scaling Personalized Future-Ready Plans for Hope and Confidence About What Comes Next - Carolyn Eastman, Principal Consultant, EdConnect How can we equip every student with a future-ready plan that builds confidence and a sense of possibility? In this hands-on, interactive session, explore how to scale personalized planning in a way that fosters hope and agency. Participants will engage in activities that help students identify and develop key skills as currencies. Through AI-powered tools, strategic networking, and career-connected learning models, we will uncover practical ways to ensure every student graduates with not just a plan, but the confidence and resilience to navigate their future. Expect to leave with ready-to-use frameworks, hands-on strategies, and a renewed perspective on how to inspire students to take charge of what comes next.

Leveraging Customization to Improve Equity in Education - Julie Reece, CAGS, Director of Teaching & Learning and Stacy Pominville, Program Manager - Partnerships, VLACS - This session addresses the challenges facing education, including rising class sizes and limited resources, and explores customizable, competency-based education models as potential solutions. Participants will learn about diverse learning opportunities, personalized pacing, and strategies to bridge equity gaps through innovative approaches. By examining successful school models, attendees will gain actionable insights to foster more inclusive and effective learning environments in their own contexts.

Leveraging Community Opportunities in Support of Adult Professional Learning - Erica Pappalardo, Curriculum Coordinator, SAU #02, Matt Colby, K-8 Principal, SAU #24 and Laura Thomas, Core Faculty & Director, Experienced Educators Program, Antioch University - Join this session built on the idea of developing shared knowledge around supporting a variety of educators in professional growth through community partnerships. Erica and Matt will talk about their partnerships with Antioch and New England College to support the needs of educators. Workshop model with entrance tickets, brief shares about each program, collaborative needs discussion with participants, Q&A discussion based on participant needs.

Concurrent Session Block #2 | 11:15 - 12:00pm

Community Partnerships = College & Career Pathways - Jennifer Chmiel, Superintendent, SAU #27 and Aimee Kereage, Executive Director, Manchester Proud - This session, presented by Manchester School District and Manchester Proud, focuses on the importance of community partnerships in supporting students' educational and career journeys. Come and hear how local organizations, businesses, and educational institutions collaborate to create pathways that connect students to college and career opportunities. Through this session, participants will explore how these partnerships help equip students with the skills, resources, and networks needed to succeed in higher education and the workforce.

Shifting Assessment Practices: Collaborative Grading Conferences - Ariel Maloney, K-12 Curriculum Administrator, Newfound School District Join Ariel to learn about the use of collaborative grading conferences in the secondary classroom, a strategy that disrupts traditional grading practices. Instead of entering each assignment into the electronic grade book and allowing the SIS to determine the final grade, this practice uses course-wide rubrics, structured self-reflection practices for students, the use of evidence-based student portfolios, and teacher-student conferences to determine a student's grade. This process reflects both achievement and growth, allowing for a more holistic method of competency-based assessment and supporting students' ownership over their learning process.

The Power of Arts Integration - Jule Finley, Curriculum Coordinator, and Bonnie Gilbert, Elementary Art Teacher, SAU #18 Jule and Bonnie will share the power of integrating the arts in all subject areas and how project based learning can be enhanced with arts integration. Join them as they share examples and stories of arts integration projects that are cross curricular, co-taught and district wide.

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Concurrent Session Block #2 (con't) | 11:15 - 12:00pm

Innovation Block Overview - Tim Vasconellos, Principal, and Sarah Murray, Digital Learning Specialist, Dunbarton Elementary School - Innovation Block was designed to give students an opportunity to explore hands-on activities, passion projects, and STEAM activities outside of their normal classroom activities. Students come together as grade levels once a week for 45 minutes, this block backs up to their Unified Arts classes. This 90-minute block allows teachers to come together with their adjoining team to work on PLCs. Join Tim and Sarah to learn how to encourage participation, collaboration, and the exploration of different points of view and hands-on tools that students might not have a chance to use otherwise. By providing this unique learning environment, we aim to foster creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills that will serve students well beyond their school years.

Transforming Elementary Classrooms: Innovative STEM learning with Ozobots - Roxanne Molina, Head of School, and Julia LaFontaine, 2nd Grade Teacher, Bedford Academy - Given today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving skills in young learners is paramount. This session will highlight how Ozobots, versatile, engaging coding robots, can transform elementary classrooms through innovative, STEM learning experiences. Attendees will engage in a standards aligned Ozobot-infused science lesson. Then, attendees will explore practical strategies for integrating Ozobots into diverse subjects, while promoting hands-on learning, and building foundational coding and computational thinking skills. As a conclusion to the session, lesson ideas designed to inspire and ignite a passion for STEM in elementary students will be shared.

Concurrent Session Block #3 | 1:00 - 1:45pm

Essential Practices for Teaching Multilingual Learners - Rita DeOliviera, ESOL Consultant, SAU #24 - Through interactive and hands-on activities, attendees will gain tools and strategies to create a supportive learning environment for Multilingual Learners. Especially helpful for core content teachers with MLs in their classrooms, this workshop offers practical strategies to improve learning outcomes for multilingual students.

Hooked on Comics: Using Engaging Decodable Texts to Build Fluency - Brittany McGuire, 4th Grade Teacher, SAU #49 and Co-Founder of 'Hooked on Comics' and Jessica Benson, Editor, Manager, and Co-Founder of 'Hooked on Comics' - Decodable texts are a critical part of structured literacy, yet many of them sacrifice a story or plot for the sake of practicing phonics concepts. Come hear how two educators decided to tackle this problem head-on by creating engaging, kid-centered, decodable comics, and see how your school can get kids hooked on reading by getting them Hooked on Comics.

Navigating Your School's AI Implementation: What if AI Was Your Thought Partner? - Angel Littlefield, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment, SAU #45 and Rebecca Gagnon, Founder, AI Navigator - Explore the evolving landscape of AI in education and discover how it can become a powerful ally, rather than a replacement, for educators. In this session, Angel and Rebecca will introduce an AI implementation spectrum, allowing you to assess your school's current position and envision its future. They will showcase real-world examples of AI being used by teachers, administrators, and students, while also addressing potential community concerns about its integration. This session emphasizes the importance of fostering strong teacher-student relationships, ensuring AI augments these connections rather than diminishes them. Join us to learn how to guide your school towards a focused future where AI enhances, rather than disrupts, education.

What Does Innovative Learning Look Like: How to Support Educator & Student Innovation - Jill Pinard, Ed.D, Teaching Principal, SAU #24 and Jake Morrill, Assistant Principal, SAU #66 - As we strive to foster learner-centered practices in our schools, what we see when we conduct classroom observations may look substantially different. In this session, Jill and Jake will examine a number of student-centered practices and provide resources for supporting and inspiring that work.