

Please note that this is a working version of the conference program. Additions and changes are made until the time of publication, usually the week before the conference. We are making this document available to you as a general guide. Please make sure to check this page regularly for the latest information. Updates will be posted as they occur.

Tuesday

10:15A-11:15A

South Pavilion 1

Implementing the Family and Community Engagement Framework

The Illinois State Board of Education updated the Family and Community Engagement framework with an added lens on equity. This session will review the framework along with strategies to implement equitable engagement in your schools.

Presenter:

Carolina Fabian, Illinois State Board of Education

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 2

Enhancing El Puente Systematic Regiment of Cross Linguistic Strategies

In this session, participants will discover how to deepen their knowledge of El Puente. We'll share a structured regimen of biliteracy and cross-linguistic strategies, along with lessons that seamlessly integrate into the language development block, be it English Language Development (ELD) or Spanish Language Arts (SLA) for both two-way and one-way immersion programs.

Presenters:

Blanca Lilia and Elizabeth González, Savvas Learning, Northbrook

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary, Middle School

South Pavilion 3 and 4

Pathways to Biliteracy: Integrating the Seal of Biliteracy into K-8 Programming

While the Seal of Biliteracy initiative has taken Illinois high schools by storm, the lesser-known Seal of Biliteracy pathway recognitions provides educators with a way to recognize, encourage, and nurture biliteracy in elementary and middle schools. This session provides research-based ideas and recommendations for educators to integrate pathway recognitions into existing language programs, as well as initiate new pathways in schools.

Presenter:

Amy Heineke, Loyola University, Chicago

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School

South Pavilion 5 and 6

Teaching Reading in Spanish a la Spanish in Dual Language

Tailored specifically for teaching reading in Spanish within a dual-language classroom, this session offers a structured framework for teaching Spanish literacy, the Spanish Reading Tapestry. Attendees will play with language, engage in hands-on activities, and apply linguistically authentic strategies. They will leave equipped with practical tools and ready to effectively teach Spanish literacy skills a la Spanish.

Presenters:

Julia Cloat and Rocio del Castillo, Freeport School District 145

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary

Bremen Room

Building Biliteracy: Implications and Applications for Biliteracy Instruction

Foundational literacy is crucial for multilingual learners. We explore the differences and cross-linguistic connections to consider when teaching letter-sound correspondences and literacy in English and Spanish. While emphasizing systematic instruction, manipulatives, and high student engagement, we apply research-based methodologies that honor and respect the unique linguistic features of each language. Learn how biliteracy works!

Presenter:

Silvia Dorta-Duque de Reyes, Benchmark Education

Grade Level: Elementary

Sam Tinley Room

Supporting New Arrival/ Migrant Families through Center and Home-Based ECE Programming

Mary Crane Center actively recruits and enrolls new arrival families to participate in services for pregnant mothers and children birth to 5 years of age. Strategies for engaging families while offering needed wraparound supports will be discussed. Additionally, classroom and home-based curriculum and supports will be highlighted.

Presenters:

Lisa Penny and Kristina Phillips, Mary Crane Center, Chicago

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary

North Pavilion 1

Secondary Newcomer and SLIFE Program

This presentation is an overview of the Rockford East High School program built for Newcomer and SLIFE (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education) students who have just arrived in America. Operated within a regular high school, it provides intensive academic, and social support for Newcomer students while also integrating them with their American peers for part of the day.

Presenters:

Melissa Lawson and Sarah Logemann, Rockford SD 205

Grade Level: Middle School, High School

North Pavilion 2 and 3

Leveraging Collaborative Leadership: Building a School Improvement Team for Lasting Change

By focusing on collaborative leadership and systems thinking, participants will explore how to lead for sustainable change, promote achievement, and foster equity. In a 21st-century school setting, where principals play diverse roles—from visionary to facilitator—this workshop will highlight how to utilize the collective strengths of all stakeholders.

Presenters:

Pamela Manning and Patrick Rice, Black Educational Advocacy Coalition

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 4 and 5

Empowering Multilingual Learners' Instructional and Assessment Pathways

How might you empower students by ensuring their access to equitable learning opportunities in one or more languages? Easy! Enhance instruction and assessment so that multilingual learners help choose their pathways to success through multimodal experiences. In this session, participants exchange ideas and successes that highlight their multilingual learners' strengths and promote their agency.

Presenter:

Margo Gottlieb, WIDA Consortium, Madison, WI

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 6

But They Talk at Home! Understanding Selective Mutism

Selective Mutism is a confusing childhood anxiety disorder where children can talk easily at home and in places where they feel comfortable, but struggle to talk and often to interact in settings outside the home. Attend this session to learn more about Selective Mutism and how teachers and school staff can help children overcome this condition. You will leave this session with resources to continue your learning!

Presenter:

Kathy Slattery, STAR NET Region II/The Center, Arlington Heights

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary, Middle School

Room 1 - Even Hotel

District and University Working Together for Assisting EL Parents

Governors State University has collaborated with various school districts to support parents by offering unique and customizable ESL for parents' program and workforce training pathways. This presentation provides examples of customizations, and participants will learn how districts and a local university partnered together to support multilingual families. We will explore options for offering ESL and other support at participants' districts.

Presenter:

Akiko Ota, Governors State University, University Park

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 2 - Even Hotel

Building Bridges: Empowering Multilingual Learners through Collaborative Communities

This session explores effective strategies for supporting multilingual learners, focusing on building inclusive communities for both educators and students. Attendees will learn practical approaches to enhance language development, foster cultural awareness, and create collaborative environments that empower educators to meet diverse student needs and help multilingual learners thrive academically and socially.

Presenters:

Karen Cano and Ashley Whitaker, Waukegan Community Unit School District #60

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary, Middle School

11:30A-12:30P

South Pavilion 1

New Language Acquisition in an Era of Gaming, AI, and Google Translate

Teachers of multilingual students encounter new roles since digital technologies were rushed out during Covid and further refined with chatbots, translation apps, and AI. What are teachers of multilingual students learning about the surprising ways their students are acquiring and learning languages? How might widespread self-directed language acquisition and translanguaging by young people change our understanding of language acquisition?

Presenter:

Kristin Lems, National Louis University, Chicago

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 2

Supporting ALL Students in MATH Class

Come join us to do some fun math and to learn about a way to plan lessons that make math lessons accessible to ALL students. This includes students in special education, English learners, and any other student in the classroom. We use neurodevelopmental lenses to understand the math and the students as learners and then make plans for meeting their needs.

Presenter:

Matt McLeod, Education Development Center Inc., Chicago

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School

South Pavilion 3 and 4

Supporting English Learners in High School

In this session, we will share the University of Chicago findings from a large study on the attainment of English Learners in high school, including variation in attainment among active English Learners and that of former English Learners, to support their path to high school graduation and access to college.

Presenters:

Marisa De La Torre, University of Chicago Consortium on School Research and Rebecca Vonderlack-Navarro, Latino Policy Forum, Chicago

Grade Level: High School

South Pavilion 5 and 6

Trauma-Informed Practices for Immigrant Families

In this session, we will share best practices in trauma-informed care and explore how to support migrant and immigrant families in non-clinical spaces. Together, we will define resilience and consider ways to attend to the needs of diverse families through community healing practices.

Presenters:

Adelicia Brienzo, Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights, Rae Reed, Refugee One, Chicago and Briana Wright, Lu Rocha Counseling Services, Chicago

Grade Level: All Levels

Bremen Room

Supporting Language Skills Across the Curriculum with Imagine Learning

In an increasingly interconnected world, communicating effectively in multiple languages is valuable. This session is for administrators and language advocates seeking to empower students with the ability to excel in two or more languages. Whether working in a bilingual program or looking to enhance your student's language proficiency, join us as we discuss strategies and insights to foster language skills across all curriculum areas.

Presenters:

Leticia Cantu and Susan Jones, Imagine Learning

Grade Level: Elementary

Sam Tinley Room

State Assessment Performance Level Descriptor Feedback Session

Illinois is preparing to conduct a unified standard-setting during the summer of 2025. New cut-scores will be established across general education state content area assessments (ELA, math and science) at all tested grades. Educator working groups are currently developing Performance Level Descriptors to describe performance expectations across the continuum of performance levels. We invite you to review the drafts and to provide feedback.

Presenter:

Angela Foxall, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School, High School

North Pavilion 1

Empowering Multilingual Educators for School Improvement: Find a Seat at MESA

This presentation explores the vital role of multilingual educators in school improvement, focusing on equity, inclusion, and innovation. It offers strategies to empower educators, foster diverse and inclusive communities, and promote multilingual education as a key driver of academic success, aligning with MESA's (Multilingual Educator and Student Association), mission to celebrate and support linguistic and cultural diversity in education.

Presenters:

Emily Gasca, Chicago School District 299, Margarita Lachica, Acero Schools and Brenda Perez-Mendoza, Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 2 and 3

Supporting Newcomers in the Classroom

This professional development session focuses on equipping educators with the knowledge to create positive and welcoming school environments for newcomers and their families. Participants will explore the unique needs and assets of these families, using developed tools to build stronger connections and foster inclusive classroom settings that promote newcomer success.

Presenters:

Jennifer Aragon, Jessica Najjar and Bo Pierson, CPS 299 Office of Multilingual/Multicultural Education

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 4 and 5

Desarrollo de la lengua escrita en español (Development of the written language in Spanish)

Regardless of the instructional methodology, understanding the process in which students understand how the written language works in Spanish provides an ample opportunity to use instructional strategies to advance students in their learning in whichever developmental stage they are. It is also helpful to reach and support students who have educational gaps and students who come to with socioeconomic disadvantage.

Presenters:

Nimia Colon, Elda Mendez, Nadia Moreno, Evelyn Romo, Lori Saunders and Alma Tamayo, Round Lake Area Schools District 116

Grade Level: Elementary

North Pavilion 6

Translanguaging, Raciolinguistics, and Monolingualism

Translanguaging (García, 2009) evolved from describing bilingual language use. It now denies “named languages” and seeks to overcome educational inequities (García et al., 2021). This presentation will argue that literacy benefits from having a common language and that the principal propagator of inequities and racism in language education is monolingualism.

Presenter:

John Evar Strid, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 1 - Even Hotel

Exploring Traditional vs. Online Language Education: A Literature Review and Future Research Directions

This presentation will focus on the differences between online and traditional face-to-face learning. It will mostly discuss the negative sides of online learning and how it influences learning. Some positive aspects will also be addressed, but the main focus is on the effects of three types of interaction in online learning- learner-learner, learner-instructor, and learner-content.

Presenter:

Torki Sahar, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 2 - Even Hotel

ESL and SEL: Growing Both Skills Together

Social Emotional Learning is an important component in our classrooms and crucial to our students' future success. In this seminar, you will learn specific and practical activities that grow your students' language skills while also addressing social and emotional learning.

Presenters:

Amanda Armstrong, Meredith Bardwell and Christina Culbertson, McLean County Unit 5, Normal

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School

Room 3 - Even Hotel

Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) for Family and Community Engagement (FACE)

This session will present our district's journey to building a comprehensive model for family and community engagement (FACE). Learn how to build, maintain, and ultimately sustain a multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) for FACE in your school or your district. Leave with practical tools and strategies to go back to enhance/discover your district's approach to supporting all families!

Presenters:

Ramona Dixon, Rosaland Lee, Sarah McCoy and Krystall Trice, Rock Island-Milan School District #41

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School, High School

01:45P-03:15P

North Pavilion 6

ELACHE Annual Meeting

01:45P-02:45P

South Pavilion 1

Resilience Supportive Schools Illinois: A Roadmap to Resilience and Growth

Schools are one of the most protective systems in our society, with the potential to protect students through SEL, trauma responsive, culturally responsive and mental health practices. Join us to learn about Resilience Supportive Schools Illinois; it guides schools toward options for growing student support in these areas through assessment and access to a spectrum of curated supports.

Presenter:

Mashana Smith, Lurie Children's Center for Childhood Resilience, Chicago

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 2

Strength in Diversity: Innovative Collaboration for Community Success

Celebrate language and culture while discovering how innovative collaboration can boost community success. Explore strategies to embrace diversity, build inclusive partnerships, and honor cultural perspectives. Join us to transform cultural richness into a powerful driver of community growth and unity.

Presenters:

Johanna Ponce-Jordan, Rockford Public School District 205 and Veronica Ramos, ¡WEPA! Libros

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 3 and 4

Building Pathways and Pipelines for Bilingual Education

Elmhurst University received a \$1.98-million dollar Department of Education Hawkins federal grant. We will use this funding to create education career pathways from Hispanic Serving High Schools, affinity groups for students of color, micro-credential Spanish workshops for bilingual preservice candidates, mentoring and coaching for pre-service and in-service bilingual teachers, a summer dual language academy, and \$500,000 in scholarships.

Presenter:

Samina Hadi-Tabassum, Elmhurst University

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 5 and 6

The Vocabulary Toolbox: Strengthening Vocabulary Instruction

This session will equip bilingual, dual language, and ESL teachers with strategies to identify key vocabulary for pre-teaching or teaching in context. This interactive session covers techniques to help students actively engage with new words. Participants will explore practical ways to encourage students to use and retain vocabulary in meaningful contexts, thereby enhancing language acquisition.

Presenters:

Mayra Balderas and Kaitlynd Firek, Queen Bee School District 16 and Sara Knigge, Read en Español, Inc.

Grade Level: All Levels

Bremen Room

Testing for Tomorrow: Making ACCESS Work in High Schools

In this session, we will explore effective testing settings for multilingual learners, focusing on best practices for logistics, and the importance of individual goal setting based on ACCESS results, engaging students in the process. We will highlight our district's students exiting success and cover classroom visits to support ELLs, student passes, creating inclusive environments, and utilizing ACCESS data to track progress and communicate with stakeholders.

Presenters:

Leigh Ann Boncher-Mondrawickas and Sandra Moran, Warren Township High School. District 121

Grade Level: High School

Sam Tinley Room

Bilingual Funds of Knowledge and Teaching Reading in Spanish

This presentation explores the integration of learners' bilingual funds of knowledge into Spanish reading instruction, focusing on translanguaging for biliteracy. Educators will learn practical strategies to enhance phonemic awareness and word knowledge by leveraging learners' cultural and linguistic backgrounds, fostering a deeper understanding of how to support bilingual learners in developing strong literacy skills in both languages.

Presenters:

Sandra Gonzalez-Adamsk and Colleen Hamilton, National Louis University

Grade Level: Elementary

North Pavilion 1

Understanding a Student's Educational Story: English Learner Identification and Placement

A district must know a student's educational background and how to apply the information to successfully place a student. There will be a brief overview of the English identification process by using different resources. Real scenarios districts have faced will be shared and examined by the audience to understand how to meaningfully contribute to a student's ongoing educational story.

Presenters:

Trevor Cottle and Lauren Ligammari, Illinois State Board of Education

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 2 and 3

Crafting Confident Writers: From Insights to Impact

Explore the vital role of writing for multilingual learners in this dynamic session. Discover how writing fosters agency, enhances academic success, and supports proficiency on the ACCESS assessment. We'll delve into making data meaningful, aligning instruction with ELD standards, and implementing strategy-based approaches. Learn effective scaffolds that empower students to organize, elaborate, and refine their writing with precision.

Presenters:

Sonia Esquivel and Danette Meyer, With Partners Education, Arlington Heights

Grade Level: Elementary

North Pavilion 4 and 5

Illinois Committee for Effective Literacy: PreK-12 Bi/Multiliteracy Frameworks

The Illinois Committee for Effective Literacy was formed to support school practitioners and administrators in implementing the Illinois Literacy Plan with their multilingual learner students. This session highlights some of the PreK-12 resources and frameworks that the committee has developed and provides opportunities for participants to review and provide feedback.

Presenters:

Cristina Sánchez-López, Paridad Education Consulting and Betsy Sostak, Aptakisic-Tripp District 102

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 1 - Even Hotel

Purposeful Puente: The Bridge to Metalinguistic Connections

Join us in the purposeful planning and implementation of a Bridging lesson to create powerful and impactful cross-linguistic connections in a Dual Language classroom. Explore the planning, preparation, and implementation while gaining practical and effective resources and strategies that can be used the next day. Watch the multilingualism of your students shine!

Presenters:

Jensen Hoffert, Lauren Klaric and Lauren Ozimek, Cary School District 26

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School

Room 2 - Even Hotel

Parent Perspectives of How Best to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness in and out of the Classroom

This presentation will feature a parent panel discussing effective strategies and best practices to support students experiencing homelessness in schools. The panel will focus on how parents, educators, and school staff can collaborate to ensure educational stability and emotional well-being for students facing housing insecurity. Parent perspectives of how best to support students experiencing homelessness in and out of the classroom

Presenter:

Alyssa Phillips, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 3 - Even Hotel

Visuals! Visuals! Visuals!

Join this session to explore how visuals serve as a powerful, universal, support for students who are multilingual and/or have disabilities. Through research-based insights and practical examples, we will examine the high-impact visuals have on students' ability to make meaningful connections with academic content. Attendees will receive explicit guidance and resources that they can use to design and implement visuals as soon as possible.

Presenters:

Michelle Sharpe, 2024 Illinois Early Childhood Teacher of the Year and Chicago Public Schools

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary

03:00P-04:00P (Featured session)

South Pavilion 2

"Free Write": Conversations, Connections and Compositions to Nourish Our Teaching Practice

Craving creative space where you can connect, generate, and share ideas with a community of colleagues? Hungry for ideas and inspiration to enhance teaching and learning in your culturally and linguistically diverse classroom? Join us for "Free Write", to learn how the experience of writing can help you deepen your practice and discuss ways to nurture inclusive, multilingual learning experiences for our communities.

Presenter:

Olivia Mulcahy, Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights

Grade Level: All Levels

Wednesday

South Pavilion 1

Building Bilingual Champions: A Data-Powered Playground for Thriving Dual Language Programs

This interactive workshop equips attendees with the knowledge and tools needed to craft a data-driven roadmap that closely monitors dual language program effectiveness and adapts to students' ever-changing linguistic and cultural needs. The session presents and guides attendees through the utilization of a digital tool created to support the dual language programs of one of the largest school districts in the country.

Presenters:

Olimpia Bahena and Massiel Zaragoza, Chicago School District 299

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 2

Rutinas de instrucción para desarrollar destrezas fundamentales en español

Únase a nosotros para discutir métodos y estrategias que ayudan a desarrollar destrezas fundamentales en español a través de una instrucción explícita y sistemática. Este método incluye técnicas y rutinas de instrucción claras y estructuradas, siguiendo una progresión de habilidades y conocimientos basados en la investigación, que son auténticos para el idioma español.

Presenter:

Rosa Palafox-Torres, Pacific Learning

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary

South Pavilion 3 and 4

Harnessing AI to Improve ACCESS Outcomes for Multilingual Learners

Unlock the power of AI to elevate multilingual students' language development! In this session, educators and administrators will explore innovative AI-driven strategies to create leveled instructional tools. These tools will empower multilingual learners to advance their English proficiency while engaging with grade-level core content, ensuring they thrive in both language and academic achievement.

Presenter:

Anne Paonessa, Bensenville School District 2

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School, High School

South Pavilion 5 and 6

Utilizing the WIDA Language Development Frameworks: Units, Lessons, and Standards

Drawing on the WIDA language development standards frameworks, this session will support educators in unpacking the Language Expectations and using the Language Functions and Features to drive unit and lesson plans. Educators will walk away with actionable strategies to drive instruction via the use of both Marco DALE and ELD 2020.

Presenters:

Samuel Aguirre and Margo Gottlieb, WIDA at WCER, UW-Madison

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School, High School

Bremen Room

From Abroad to the Classroom: Realities of International Teachers in America

With a nationwide teacher shortage, the U.S. education system has turned to highly qualified foreign teachers to fill roles that many Americans refuse: being in the classroom. From cultural adaptation and isolation to visa issues, this presentation explores the challenges and experiences of international educators in the U.S., highlighting both the rewards and struggles of teaching in America.

Presenter:

José Burgos, Orion Community Unit School District 223

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School, High School

Sam Tinley Room

Bridging Voices and Words: Integrating Oral Language and Writing for Multilingual Kindergarteners

This presentation explores strategies to support multilingual kindergarteners in developing oral language and writing skills simultaneously. It focuses on creating meaningful connections between speaking and writing to enhance language development. Attendees will learn techniques for fostering language-rich environments, encouraging storytelling, and using visual supports.

Presenter:

Jacqueline Bever, Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary

North Pavilion 1

The Impact of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) at Work on Growth for Multilingual Learners

This session is designed for teachers and school leaders to learn about how we approach our work within our PLC with a lens focused on our multilingual learners, and how it positively impacts content and language growth for these students. We will focus on the multilingual lens within the 3 Big Ideas of a PLC: a focus on Learning, creating a culture of Collaboration, and a focus on Results.

Presenters:

Barbara Dziatkowicz and Nikki McDougal, North Palos School District 117

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary, Middle School

North Pavilion 2 and 3

English Learners: Who Are They and How do We Support Them?

English learners face unique challenges in acquiring language skills while also learning academic content. Effective instruction for English learners incorporates language development and content learning. Collaboration between educators, families, and communities is essential in supporting English learners. This presentation provides a comprehensive understanding of all components within Bilingual Education programs.

Presenter:

Jorge Macias, Latino Policy Forum, Orland Park

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 4 and 5

Sustainable Scaffolds and Strategies: Low-Prep/No-Prep Strategies that Make an Impact

Linguistic scaffolds and supports don't have to take up all of your planning time. Let's explore some quick, easy, go-to strategies that are SUSTAINABLE for today's busy teacher. Tri-level stem/frame banks, in-the-moment WPSQ banks, 3PS, and Coffee Talk Templates will be some of the featured resources we'll discuss!

Presenter:

Carly Spina, Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 6

Promoting the Core Goal of Socio-Cultural Competence through Culturally Relevant Literature

A diverse learner teacher created culturally relevant literature for her one-way dual language special education classroom to enhance understanding of diverse themes. Inspired by her cultural background, she developed studies that promote diversity and acceptance. Through literacy, students express their feelings about these themes, facilitating open conversations that foster empathy and appreciation for individual differences.

Presenter:

Milagros Otero, Chicago School District 299

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary

Room 1 - Even Hotel

Improving Multilingual Student Achievement through Literacy

Attendees will explore evidence of multilingual students' growth in graduation rates, ACCESS scores, and 9th grade on-track metrics, highlighting the impact of ML interventions on school improvement. Attendees will also gain insight into specific interventions, including effective literacy strategies applicable to WIDA domains and ACT preparation.

Presenters:

Patty Grow, Sabrina Langlois, Blaire Pritchard and Jennifer Steermann, Township High School District 214, Arlington Heights

Grade Level: High School

Room 2 - Even Hotel

Wordless Books Speak Volumes

Working to gather books in a variety of languages can be a difficult task. Wordless books speak volumes no matter the language. Let me show you options that bridge languages, provides opportunities for rich language, questions and engaging activities.

Presenter:

Sophia Garcia-Smith, Des Plaines Community Consolidated School District 62

Grade Level: Elementary

Room 3 - Even Hotel

Biliteracy Trajectories: One District's Journey towards Viewing Students Holistically

Tired of stakeholders viewing MLs through a monolingual lens? This session showcases one district's holistic approach to biliteracy. Presenters will take you step-by-step through McHenry D15's creation of biliteracy trajectories. Learn how to create trajectories for your district in order to encourage holistic, data-driven decisions. Participants will gain actionable steps to kickstart their own biliteracy trajectory journey.

Presenters:

Maureen Cassidy and Alise Gaughan, McHenry School District 15 and Amy Mosquera, Adelante Educational Specialists Group

Grade Level: Elementary

11:30A-12:30P

South Pavilion 1

Teacher Leaders as Agents in the Education of Multilinguals

This session shares research on the roles of teacher leaders and their experiences and perspectives of leadership in the educational programming of multilinguals. Situated in Illinois, this longitudinal case study reveals that teacher leaders were believers in bilingualism and biliteracy, cultivators of trusting relationships, policy negotiators, and advocates. Implications for policy and programming will be provided.

Presenter:

Erin Mackinney, Roosevelt University, Chicago

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 2

What Do the Guiding Principles of Dual Language Say About Translanguaging?

Dual language has come under scrutiny for adhering to strict language separation. A key policy document, *The Guiding Principles of Dual Language* (2018), reinforces language separation. This presentation will analyze how language separation and translanguaging are threaded throughout the Guiding Principles and offer ideas for pushing beyond restrictive policies and practices to leverage the linguistic potential of all students in dual language.

Presenter:

Joseph Elliott, Elmhurst University

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 3 and 4

Providing a Welcoming Environment for Newcomers in the School System

The presenters will discuss the orientation program for our newcomers in Addison School District 4. We help identify needed supports in the areas of language, outside resources, academic supports, social emotional needs, parent engagement and other areas of need to provide success to the families, and share how we provide these supports to our families.

Presenters:

Noemi Gálvez and Keri Karpman, Addison School District 4

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 5 and 6

New and Continuing Multilingual Directors' Alliance

There may be nothing as important to your success as a new multilingual director as developing relationships and growing your professional network. You are not alone! In this session, we will engage in interactive experiences that will help you to know your director colleagues and also serve as model experiences you can bring back to your district to foster relationships among staff.

Presenters:

Barbara Marler, Marler Consulting and Advisory LLC, Chicago and Danette Meyer, With Partners Education, Arlington Heights

Grade Level: All Levels

Bremen Room

Native Histories: Maximizing this Mandate for Multilingual Learners

As of 2024-2025, instruction on Native American history in Illinois public schools is required by law. We'll share resources and explore how Indigenous histories, practices, and ways of knowing enrich any classroom and can specifically support multilingual learners.

Presenter:

Olivia Mulcahy, Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights

Grade Level: All Levels

Sam Tinley Room

Restructuring High School Multilingual Services ... A Road Map

This session will focus on the process our district took to implement a new approach to Emergent Multilingual services at the high school level. From conducting a needs assessment, to implementing a new department and services approach, to obtaining the historically highest ACCESS exit rate...and all the things in between. Through our journey as a 9-12 district, we hope to inspire and support other high school leaders!

Presenters:

Lindsey Rose and Michelle Vargas, Evanston Township High School District 202

Grade Level: High School

North Pavilion 1

Biliteracy Trajectory: No More Measuring Bilingual Students Against Monolingual Norms

Participants will learn about U-46's journey in developing and implementing a Reading Biliteracy Trajectory across 28 elementary Dual Language schools using Dr. Kathy Escamilla's research. Participants will understand the purpose of a Biliteracy Trajectory at a deeper level by learning about the successes and challenges U-46 faced through the process. Key resources will be shared to be adapted and used.

Presenters:

Patricia Makishima, Griselda Pirtle, and Marty Renteria, Elgin U-46

Grade Level: Elementary, High School

North Pavilion 2 and 3

English Learners and State Assessment Supports

This presentation will look at supports and accommodations available to English learners on Illinois state assessments.

Presenter:

Barry Pedersen, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School, High School

North Pavilion 4 and 5

Raising Mathematics Achievement for All Learners

Participants will learn about research based methods and their impact on student achievement in K-6 Tier 1,2,3 and Middle School 7/8th grade implementation will be discussed. Hear the story of how Forest Ridge School District 142 has successfully identified students for mathematics intervention as well as strengthening the core. Walk away with quick wins and strategies to easily implement in your district, school and classroom.

Presenters:

Catherine Duncan, Blue Streak Education, Inc, Frankfort and Lori Leppert, Forest Ridge School District #142, Oak Forest

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School

North Pavilion 6

Utilizing Say-Tell-Do-Play to Build Oracy

Say-Tell-Do-Play further develops the linguistic repertoire of young multilinguals receiving special education services by integrating total physical response, peer interaction, and the modeling and prompting of verbalizations of targeted vocabulary. Through the “stacking” of strategies, multilingual students receiving special education services allow for various modes of expressing their knowledge in one or more languages.

Presenters:

Natalie Garcia and Melissa Rivera, Addison Early Learning Center

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary

Room 1 - Even Hotel

Training Wheels to Success: Intentional Scaffolding for Multilingual Learners

In this session, educators will explore and experience the power of intentional scaffolding strategies to empower multilingual learners. Just like training wheels on a bicycle, scaffolding provides learners with the stability/support they need to practice and build confidence, gradually enabling them to “ride” independently without support.

Presenters:

Xiomara Bustamante and Sarah Fromius-Hough, J. Sterling Morton High School District 201

Grade Level: High School

Room 2 - Even Hotel

From Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI) to Transitional Bilingual Education(TBE)

This presentation will focus on how a Central Illinois school district navigated the process of transition from a TPI program to a TBE program.

Presenter:

Leslie Webb, McLean County Unit District 5, Normal

Grade Level: Elementary

Room 3 - Even Hotel

Empowered Together: Building Home-School Connection through a Parent Mentor Program

Explore McHenry D15’s "Mentor Mom" program, empowering Latino mothers to volunteer in One-Way DL classrooms. Funded and supported by the Parent Engagement Institute and the Youth and Family Center of McHenry, Mentor Moms gain workforce skills while providing linguistic support to students. The program strengthens native language development, teacher support, family engagement, and empowers parents.

Presenters:

Maureen Cassidy, Amanda Cohn, Keil Mitchell, McHenry School District 15 and Guadalupe Ortiz, Youth and Family Center of McHenry

Grade Level: Elementary

01:45P-04:00P

South Pavilion 1

An Autobiographical Photography Exhibit by Young Immigrants

Dare I say immigrant students have more to teach us than we do to teach them? Their biographies are filled with loss, trauma, resilience, courage and strength. During this session, you will experience a photo gallery that will bring the photographers’ stories to life, and will leave the viewers contemplating what they’ve witnessed for a long time to come.

Presenter:

Mark Poulterer, West Chicago Community High School District #94

Grade Level: All Levels

01:45P-02:45P

South Pavilion 2

Shhh...Let the Students Talk!!

Discover effective strategies for fostering language development through interactive opportunities. Educators will engage in various cooperative learning activities designed to enhance their ability to support language acquisition across the four domains: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Experience these strategies firsthand and take home practical methods to adapt and apply across content areas. Come to elevate your teaching practice!

Presenter:

Lindsey Lurie, Glenview Community Consolidated School District 34

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 3 and 4

Responding to Students' Math Challenges: A Bilingual Intervention Math Program

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math scores, in both 4th and 8th grades, were lower in 2022 than in 2019. Multilingual learners need a proven bilingual intervention aligned with their Math program that both addresses their gaps and ends their struggles.

Presenters:

Hanan Matari and Nelly Robles, Chicago School District #299 and Margarita Ramos, Medina-Ramos Global Education Group

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School

South Pavilion 5 and 6

How Three Districts with Super Diverse Populations Meet Newcomers' Needs

Three super-diverse districts begin with the belief that newcomers' SEL (Social Emotional Learning) needs differ from non-newcomers. Learn how they address the challenge of meeting newcomers' adjustment, acclimation, and orientation needs in ways that embrace their language and cultural groups, integrate within their existing TBE/TPI programs, and respond to unique and local challenges. Walk away with proven practices to apply in your situation.

Presenters:

Barbara Marler, Marler Consulting and Advisory LLC, Janine Gruhn, Lyndsey Incandela, and Sandra Luna, West Northfield School District 31, Erin Sterling, East Maine School District 63 and Allison Stein and Nicole Merryfield Coy, Hawthorn School District 73

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School, High School

Bremen Room

Early Literacy in a Bilingual World

Discover how translanguaging and family partnerships can foster early literacy in emergent bilinguals. Explore the benefits of leveraging students' full linguistic repertoire and building strong connections with families to support their literacy journey. Learn practical strategies for implementing these approaches in your classroom.

Presenters:

Joana Andrade, East Maine School District 63, Des Plaines and Berenice Diaz, Early Childhood Teacher of the Year, East Maine School District 63, Des Plaines

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary

Sam Tinley Room

Flexible Small Group Instruction for Multilingual Learners

Maximize multilingual learners' success with flexible small group instruction rooted in academic and linguistic needs. This session explores how to use frequent formative assessments to tailor instruction, adjust groupings, and target both language development and content mastery. Learn practical strategies to dynamically meet students where they are and drive growth in diverse, multilingual classrooms.

Presenters:

Stephanie Just and Douglas Smithenry, North Shore School District 112, Highwood

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary

North Pavilion 1

Using Language Acquisition Scores to Explore Academic Performance Indicators

Given the importance of quantitative indicators of language acquisition in the recent federal legislation, the analysis of state accountability assessments becomes essential. In this session, we will use ACCESS for ELLs scores to explore the language development and its impact on state measures of academic proficiency, such as the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). Tables and graphs to show the relationships between language development and academic variables will be included.

Presenters:

Pablo Diaz Gonzalez and Ricardo Espinosa, Elgin U-46

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School

North Pavilion 2 and 3

Navigating Tensions between Separation of Languages and Translanguaging

In this presentation, we introduce seven cross-linguistic pedagogies and a continuum for instructional language use that will help participants navigate the tension between separation of languages and pedagogical translanguaging in dual language programs. Participants will be provided with a reflection template that they can take back to their schools for continued discussion with colleagues.

Presenters:

Elizabeth Howard, University of Connecticut and Shera Simpson, Dual Language Connections, LLC

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary

North Pavilion 6

Competing in National History Day with Multilingual Students

Competing in National History Day is a great way to give students choice and ownership in their learning. All academic and life skills are on display as students dive into a topic that fits their interest within the larger theme with a chance to advance to successive rounds.

Presenter:

David Jacobson, Adlai E. Stevenson High School District #125

Grade Level: Middle School, High School

Room 1 - Even Hotel

How BUFF is your BUF?

You have your BUF written, now what? In this workshop we will discuss ways to enhance your BUF. You can see examples of "BUFF BUFs" and walk away with a checklist that can help you evaluate and strengthen your current work.

Presenters:

Sonia Enriquez and Emily Weller, DeKalb School District #428

Grade Level: Elementary

Room 2 - Even Hotel

Language Learning with a Growth Mindset

Join the conversation about connecting with students while empowering language learning with a growth mindset. Explore actionable and relevant ideas to help educators learn 1) how to create a culture that empowers students to embrace and overcome productive mistakes, challenges, and misunderstandings, and 2) activities that help students practice, apply, and analyze growth mindset skills.

Presenter:

Erik Youngman, Zion 6 Elementary School District

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 3 - Even Hotel

Read, Draw, Write: Unlocking Math Word Problems for All Learners

This one-hour presentation explores the *Read, Draw, Write* strategy to enhance problem-solving in math word problems for grades 3-5. Emphasizing support for multilingual and diverse students, we'll align the strategy with Common Core standards to build comprehension, critical thinking, and math fluency through visual and written expression.

Presenters:

Elizabeth Buglio and Rebecca Ehman, Sauk Village CCSD 168

Grade Level: Elementary

Room 4 - Even Hotel

Empowering Newcomers: Engagement Strategies for Success

Discover and discuss how to engage newcomer students by developing positive relationships and creating a welcoming environment. This session will explore strategies for providing meaningful language input and output opportunities that support language acquisition. Practical approaches to foster connections, encourage participation, and create an inclusive classroom that helps newcomer students thrive academically and socially will be offered.

Presenters:

Jennifer Jump, Teacher Created Materials

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary, Middle School

03:00P-04:00P

South Pavilion 2

Sticky Note Solutions: Low Prep, Highly Interactive Language Activities

Grab those sticky notes! This session will explore how educators can use sticky notes to support language practice in both expressive and interpretive modes of communication across all content areas. We'll share ideas that don't take much prep time, but can have a high impact on various types of interactions with students.

Presenters:

Rachell Plote and Michele Yanong, Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights

Grade Level: All Levels

Thursday

10:15A-11:15A

South Pavilion 1

A Taste of the World Cafe Dialogue Model

How can we ensure that students, educators, and families all feel a deep sense of belonging in our schools? In this interactive train-the-trainer session participants will engage in small group discussions, capturing key insights. As groups rotate, ideas build, leading to the emergence of collective wisdom. By the session's end, your community will have generated actionable, innovative solutions to enhance belonging to take back to your schools.

Presenter:

Rachael Mahmood, 2024 Illinois Teacher of the Year

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 2

Design-Thinking as a Strategy to Increase STEM Equity

Design thinking, a human-centered problem-solving methodology, offers a powerful framework for fostering equity and inclusion in STEAM education. This presentation will explore design-thinking classroom activities to create a more inclusive and equitable learning environment. Through interactive exercises, participants will experience a design-thinking challenge to understand its potential for increasing student engagement and equity.

Presenter:

Daniel Bates, 21st CentEd

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 3 and 4

Dual Language Sequential Literacy

Our presentation will describe our innovative Language Workshop model that supports literacy development in the L1 in our district-wide dual language program. Through hands-on experiences and examples, participants will not only learn about our structure but will also learn key strategies that support language development.

Presenters:

Tina Clement Ami Engel and Rita Guzman, East Aurora School District 131

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary

South Pavilion 5 and 6

Resources for PreK-3rd Grade Transitions

Looking for resources to help shift your program's focus to a more language-focused approach to early childhood transitions? Join us as we explore resources from WIDA and ECPL along with best practices for transitions across PreK-3 settings.

Presenter:

Tammy King, Early Childhood Professional Learning, Arlington Heights

Grade Level:

Bremen Room

The EJC Journey to Improved Outcomes for All Students

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is committed to promoting and supporting educational equity in school districts across Illinois through the Equity Journey Continuum (EJC) by utilizing the information, data, and resources to improve education outcomes for the students in Illinois. Presenters of this session will share the development, implementation, and data for informed decision-making and use of the EJC to improve student success.

Presenters:

Sergio Hernandez, and Paula Powers, Illinois State Board of Education, Chicago

Grade Level: All Levels

Sam Tinley Room

Empowering Multilingual Voices: Strategies for Effective Speaking Scaffolds

In this presentation, we invite you to explore effective strategies for supporting English learners in the high school classroom. This presentation explores innovative scaffolding methods designed to build confidence, improve fluency, and foster meaningful communication. Discuss and plan actionable strategies to implement with diverse linguistic backgrounds and create an inclusive learning environment that amplifies every student's voice.

Presenters:

Ashley Glickman and Denise Rodriguez, J. Sterling Morton High School District 201

Grade Level: High School

North Pavilion 1

Navigating the Continuum of Services: MTSS and Special Education Decisions

While districts legally must provide a continuum of services, for multilingual students navigating the decision making process, considering and interpreting data and determining if an intervention is warranted can be a daunting task. What constitutes typical/atypical development? How do you determine the language of intervention/progress monitoring? If a sped referral is warranted what are the next steps? Viewing scenarios, we'll explore answers!

Presenter:

Valerie Brosius, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 2 and 3

"Let the Kids Lead": Lessons from Computing Integrated Multilingual Classrooms

How can computing enhance multilingual students' learning? How can educators ensure that when we integrate computing, students' language practices and experiences -- and not the tech -- is at the center? In this workshop, participants will experience creative and critical computing approaches that can guide multilingual learners' to build on their resources as they use computing tools to create and learn.

Presenters:

Sara Vogel, City University of New York and Rosangela Villanueva, New York City Public Schools

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School

North Pavilion 4 and 5

Visual Language Autobiographies: Making Our Full Linguistic Repertoires Visible

Visual Language Autobiographies are an excellent tool to explore and present the full linguistic repertoires of ourselves, colleagues, and students along with their families and communities. Knowing the languages we carry allows us to fully value them. This session will present the project framework, discuss how to adapt it for various groups, and give participants time to create their own.

Presenter:

Sara Vroom Fick, Wheaton College

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 6

Elevating Oracy and Literacy: 10 Key Language Acquisition Strategies

In this session, participants will explore the U-46 10 Key Language acquisition strategies selected and promoted to maximize students' language development, oracy, and language acquisition. Additionally, you will hear ways to elevate language acquisition through instructional delivery. Now, with our 2.0 version, we will explore a multitude of opportunities to support students.

Presenters:

Angelica Ernst, Mario Pestaña and Gloria Verástegui, Elgin U-46

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 1 - Even Hotel

BESO - Engaging Future Bilingual Leaders

This presentation explores the pivotal role of the Bilingual Education Student Organization (BESO) in fostering the development of future bilingual educators and leaders. Attendees will gain insights into how BESO creates a supportive community that promotes cultural awareness, advocacy, leadership, and belonging. Join us to discover how the BESO movement is inspiring the next generation of bilingual educators and leaders.

Presenters:

Judith Saurí and Belinda Schouten, National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)

Grade Level: Middle School, High School

Room 2 - Even Hotel

How to Shift from Using Benchmarking Assessments to Common Formative Assessments to Inform Instruction

Unpack how to transform benchmarking assessments into formative tools for student success! In this session, you'll learn key insights from universal screeners and practical strategies to integrate formative assessments that align with school improvement goals. With this approach, teachers can collaborate by student and by standard, driving instruction more clearly and engaging students in their learning journey for lasting outcomes.

Presenters:

Tabitha Schweer and Kelly Zoellner, Jacksonville School District 117

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 3 - Even Hotel

Translanguaging Repertoires in Assessment

In this panel, four bilingual preservice teachers and their instructor will discuss fieldwork experiences around bilingual assessment practices using a translanguaging framework. We will discuss the assessment practices, curriculum alignment, the use of assessment audits and examples of bilingual assessment practices. We conclude with a discussion on the use translanguaging in assessment practices and the implications of our fieldwork.

Presenters:

Vanessa Giron, Julissa Hernandez, Kaitlyn Ortiz, Elvira Pichardo and Esther Romero, Lewis University

Grade Level: Elementary

11:30A-12:30P

South Pavilion 1

Advancing District Wide Equity and Excellence through Culturally Responsive PD

1st Class Educator led a district-wide "Establishing Equitable Practices" program, advancing equity for marginalized students. This three-year, three-phase initiative included leadership coaching and staff development. This session presents data-driven success stories, demonstrating how this strategic programming assisted Decatur Public Schools in becoming a more equitable district.

Presenter:

Locha Brooks, 1st Class Educator. Arlington, MO

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 2

Incorporate WIDA Language Domains into Your Lessons

In this presentation, we will practice how to integrate the WIDA language domains into every lesson.... each class will now be a language lesson as well. We will write objectives, create graphic organizers, create guided notes, create activities/games, create nightly practice (homework), and create assessments that explicitly engage students in reading/listening/speaking/writing.

Presenter:

Brandon Tucker, Glenbrook High School District 225. Glenview

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School, High School

South Pavilion 3 and 4

Listening to Learn: Effective Strategies for Multilingual Learners

Listening is a primary way learners receive input, yet how often do we prioritize teaching this essential skill? This interactive session explores effective strategies for teaching listening to multilingual learners. Participants will explore best practices that empower all students to enhance their listening skills across diverse contexts. Attendees will leave with practical strategies applicable in any classroom setting.

Presenter:

Jill Bruellman, College of Lake County, Grayslake

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 5 and 6

From Insights to Action: Transformative Equity Blueprints for Illinois School Districts

Join us in this session for a dynamic panel discussion and presentation, where pioneering districts like Elgin, Oswego, and Rockford unveil their blueprint for embedding student voice and belonging at the heart of their equity endeavors.

Presenters:

Lisa Jackson, Elgin U-46, Eric Junco, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Teresa Lance, Kankakee School District 111 and Jadon Waller, Oswego Community Unit School District 308

Grade Level: All Levels

Bremen Room

Building Bilingual Math Minds: Leveraging Native Language and Visual Tools in a Bilingual Preschool Math Talk

This presentation highlights the use of intentional math talk in a bilingual preschool classroom, emphasizing support for Spanish-speaking students. By using thinking maps and visuals, children can express mathematical ideas confidently in both languages. Attendees will learn practical strategies to integrate Spanish into math activities, promoting cognitive development, language acquisition, and an inclusive learning environment.

Presenters:

Yadira Alfaro and Sonia Salazar, Woodridge School District 68

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary

Sam Tinley Room

Turn and Talk Your Way to Accelerate Language Proficiency

Elevate multilingual learners' and dually identified scholars' skills with our "Turn and Talk" approach! This method promotes rapid language acquisition through interactive peer conversations and real-time practice. By engaging in structured dialogues, learners enhance fluency and confidence in diverse contexts. Experience accelerated language growth with this effective, inclusive strategy. Join us to transform your language learning journey!

Presenters:

Laura Heneghan, Patricia Salzman and Kelly Zimmerman, Berkeley School District 87

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School

North Pavilion 1

Walking on the Footprints of Giants: Lessons from the BUENO Center

This presentation discusses the building of pathways to educational opportunities for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse learners. As diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives are being threatened across the nation, we will situate the importance of lessons from the BUENO Center, for its relevance to the current socio-political educational context where outreach, advocacy, and committed leadership continue to be tantamount to the never-ending struggle for equity and justice.

Presenter:

David Nieto, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 2 and 3

Hot Off the Press: Libros de Feria Internacional de Guadalajara

In this session, we will share the newest SPANISH books from Latin America and Spain! Come learn about and explore fiction, non-fiction, picture, and chapter books for elementary school students. Books del Sur attends the largest Spanish book fair in the world in Guadalajara, Mexico to curate books like these to bring your Spanish language arts curriculum to life! Come and share the joy with us!

Presenters:

Carolina Duque and Heather Robertson-Devine, Books del Sur, Antioch

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary

North Pavilion 4 and 5

Optimizing Multilingual Learners' STEAM Learning through AI Integration

In this workshop, presenters first introduce a practical teaching framework for teaching STEAM for multilingual learners (MLs). Informed by the framework, presenters then share strategies and examples of how to leverage technology and AI tools to design and facilitate learning experiences for MLs. Finally, participants collaborate with others to develop and apply learning into their own context.

Presenters:

Xiaoning Chen, National Louis University, Lisle and Eun Kyung Ko, National Louis University, Wheeling

Grade Level: Elementary

North Pavilion 6

Biliteracy Recognitions: A Meaningful Journey towards the Seal of Biliteracy

Participants will learn about U-46 Dual Language (DL) students' meaningful journey towards the Seal of Biliteracy from kindergarten to graduation. Hear about the different equitable ways that U-46 recognizes and promotes multilingualism. Additionally, learn how we are working towards increasing the number of students awarded with these distinctions.

Presenters:

Nohelia Cruz Alcocer, Mario Pestaña,, Griselda Pirtle and Jacob Vandemoortel, Elgin U-46

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 1 - Even Hotel

Supporting Arabic Bilingual Students: Understanding the Differences from Spanish Bilingual Education

This presentation is designed for educators, administrators, and stakeholders involved in schools working with Arabic bilingual students. The session will explore the unique challenges and opportunities in educating Arabic-speaking students and highlight key differences from Spanish bilingual education. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the linguistic, cultural, and instructional aspects that impact Arabic bilingual learners.

Presenter:

Assma Daifallah, American Institute for Research, Chicago

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 2 - Even Hotel

Engagement Strategies for Multilingual Learners

This session focuses on various engagement strategies for elementary dual language students. We will share methods that will activate the learner's existing schema, connect to new learning, and affirm student's learning. These methods are geared towards diverse learners, taking into consider their language proficiency levels and learning preferences.

Presenters:

Brenda Calvillo and Nelly Ramirez, Elgin U-46

Grade Level: Elementary

01:45P-02:45P

South Pavilion 1

Equity Impact Analysis - A Tool to Embed Equity

Join Sergio Hernandez, Jr. Equity Lead with the Illinois State Board of Education, to learn about the Equity Impact Analysis Tool, 6 questions that you can apply to embed equity in your educational policies, programs, practices and paperwork.

Presenter:

Sergio Hernandez, Illinois State Board of Education, Chicago

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 2

E2: Equity and Excellence Framework - A Pathway towards Advancing Educational Equity

Considering there is a national equity focus, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy engaged in a process of participatory action research to institutionalize equity and excellence, ultimately addressing educational inequities. This resulted in the development of the E2: Equity and Excellence Framework, a comprehensive, research-informed, inclusive pathway towards advancing educational equity that is scalable and adaptable.

Presenters:

Adrienne Coleman, The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, Aurora

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 3 and 4

Empowering Newcomer Families: Equity Support throughout School District U-46

Join us for a dynamic session showcasing how the Family Welcome Center and Project Access (McKinney-Vento) are empowering newcomer families with equitable support and resources. Engage with practical strategies, hear inspiring success stories, and explore innovative solutions to help every student succeed, no matter their background. Together, we'll embrace the belief that every day is a good day to learn!

Presenters:

Patricia Briones, Brenda Escobedo and Lisa Jackson, Elgin U-46

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 5 and 6

Interpreting for Emergent Bilingual Families

Do you facilitate or participate in interpreted meetings? Do you informally interpret at your school? If yes, attend this session for an overview of educational interpreting including the "rules" of language access, how to lead interpreted meetings, interpreter qualifications, ethics, and standards of practice, suggestions for organizing interpreter and translation services, and determining parental satisfaction.

Presenters:

Rita Brusca-Vega and Hector Ontiveros, National Association of Educational Translators and Interpreters of Spoken Languages

Grade Level: All Levels

Bremen Room

Career and Technical Education for ALL students

Career and Technical Education is for all students. Learn about career and technical education and the opportunities for members of special populations, e.g., English learners, migrants, students with disabilities, or homeless.

Presenters:

Marci Johnson and Deja Luckett, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield

Grade Level: High School

Sam Tinley Room

Revisiting HER Words-Ensuring Respect and Regard for Community Cultural Language: A Leader Speaks

Community cultural wealth (Yasso) is the variety of experiences and qualities students bring to schools. Linguistic diversity bears great significance. Failure to understand cultural colloquialisms leads to misinterpretation and communication breakdown. School leaders must ensure pathways to connect community and institutional verbal communication that ensures cohesiveness. This presentation engages dialogue and strategies.

Presenter:

Carole Ayanlaja, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 1

The Language Survey for English Learners with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)

Parents and teachers are responsible for identifying the home and the student's primary language via administration of the Language Survey. Enrollment in the bilingual instructional program, as well as referral to bilingual teams for MTSS (RTI), case study, and IEP development, are based on Language Survey results.

Presenter:

Julieta Rosales Pasko, Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois, Chicago

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary

North Pavilion 2 and 3

Elevating Bilingualism and Biliteracy District Wide

This session highlights the effort of Chicago Public Schools Dual Language Team to elevate the pillars of dual language education. The team will discuss the systems and resources allocated to guide schools in the thoughtful implementation of language allocation structures that incorporate key components of a biliteracy block, along with crosslinguistic and crosscultural connections in all content areas.

Presenters:

Olimpia Bahena, Sarah Cohen, Almudena Coloma Luque and Massiel Zaragoza, Chicago School District 299

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 4 and 5

Strategies for Doubling (and sustaining) Your Proficiency Rate

Participants will gain a deep understanding of effective strategies and innovations tailored to supporting the linguistic growth of multilingual learners, with a specific focus on dramatically increasing proficiency rates. They will leave with practical insights and actionable steps to implement within their own educational contexts to support the language development and academic success of multilingual - and ALL - students.

Presenters:

Jackie Griffin, Hal Schmeisser and Jessica Torres, East Prairie School District 73

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 6

Leading Dual Language and Monolingual Classrooms in the Same Building

It can be a challenge to lead two programs in one building, especially when they speak two different languages. Dual and monolingual can seem to have distinct goals and methods. In this session we will share how we build community and address the needs of both monolingual and dual language students, families and teachers.

Presenters:

Amy Grieve and Rachel Owens, LaGrange SD102

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary

Room 1 - Even Hotel

Musical Journeys: Exploring Diversity through Illustrated Children's Songbooks

Participants will explore traditional songbooks from Spanish-speaking cultures, providing an approachable way for children to understand diversity in nature and the real world. Engaging in musical activities supports holistic child development, facilitates language acquisition, and promotes the preservation of students' home languages and cultures.

Presenter:

Yolanda Borrás, Lectorum Publications

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary

Room 2 - Even Hotel

Empowering Educators of English Learners to Integrate Computer Science into Instruction

As English Learners (ELs) continue to rise in Illinois, it's imperative to address the disparities they face in accessing computer science (CS) education. Data reveals a trend: ELs rarely have the opportunity to engage in CS learning. This session introduces an innovative professional development program, Computer Science for Every Learner (CSEL), designed to revolutionize K-5 education by integrating CS concepts into learning.

Presenters:

Silvia Rogel and Diana Silvas, Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights and Abril Vela, CS for Success

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary

Friday

10:15A-11:15A

South Pavilion 1

Managing a Large System of School Improvement

Elgin U-46 has over 20 schools in targeted and comprehensive status that were identified in the past two years. We have since developed a system for training leadership teams, supplying resources, managing budgets and ensuring that all schools grow to their maximum capacity while meeting compliance measures.

Presenters:

Annette Acevedo, Matt Raimondi and Julie Shumaker, Elgin U-46

Grade Level: All Levels

South Pavilion 2

Ignite to Inspire: Unleashing Our School's Full Potential

Leading school improvement involves setting a clear vision, fostering a collaborative culture, and implementing evidence-based strategies to enhance student outcomes. It requires engaging educators, students, and the community in continuous professional development and data-driven decision-making. By prioritizing best practices and maintaining high expectations, leaders can drive meaningful change and elevate the entire school environment.

Presenter:

Kayla Woods, Creve Coeur District 76

Grade Level: Elementary

South Pavilion 3 and 4

A Journey from Comprehensive to Commendable

A High School Principal and Superintendent share the journey of transforming a chronically underperforming high school into a thriving educational community. This session will provide actionable insights into the challenges faced, the strategies employed, and the key lessons learned along the way. Attendees will leave with practical tools and inspiration to effect meaningful change in their own educational settings.

Presenters:

Devon Hawks and Sharon Kherat, Peoria Public Schools

Grade Level: High School

South Pavilion 5 and 6

The Core of School Improvement

This presentation will cover the school improvement planning process used by Edison Junior High. Topics will include data analysis, and the use of analysis tools to establish priorities based on data. We will also discuss the action steps taken to improve core instruction, as well as student attendance and engagement.

Presenters:

Lynn Brown and Bill Heisel, Pekin Public School District #108

Grade Level: All Levels

Bremen Room

Diverse Learners, Diverse Approaches: Teaching Multilingual Learners (MLLs) with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs)

This workshop explores the intersection of language acquisition and learning disabilities, offering culturally responsive strategies and differentiated instruction to create inclusive environments. Educators will learn to implement tailored interventions, supporting multilingual students with learning disabilities and promoting equity and academic success.

Presenters:

Jessica Rodriguez and Kellyn Sirach, Illinois Specific Learning Disabilities Support Project

Grade Level: All Levels

Sam Tinley Room

Bilingual and Extra-Ordinary

Attendees will deepen their understanding of bilingual education programs and their impact on student's bilingualism. They will also learn how to better support bilingual students by exploring what it means to be bilingual, how it looks for different people, and its benefits across various areas of life.

Presenter:

Luisa Tabares Betancur, Chicago School District 299

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 1

Supporting Literacy in L1 and L2 in Preschool

This presentation will help participants learn how to identify and use texts in a variety of ways in their Preschool classroom to support and differentiate literacy skills in Dual Language learners. Participants will identify the areas of literacy development and how we can use text to scaffold and support those skills in L1 and L2.

Presenter:

Jodi Eppenstein, East Aurora School District 131

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary

North Pavilion 2 and 3

Energizing Language Practices that are FUN and Meaningful!

Refresh your instruction with some energizing practices, games, and opportunities for students of all grade levels and proficiencies to continue growing in their language journeys! Don't let the winter blues win - grab some fun new tools and strategies to reignite some FUN to language learning!

Presenter:

Carly Spina, Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 4 and 5

Supporting Newcomers Across Grade Levels K-12

Join us for a collaborative session where elementary and high school experts come together to share best practices for supporting newcomer students. This session will offer insights into creating a cohesive and supportive learning environment focusing on language acquisition, academic support, and social-emotional learning. Participants will gain strategies to ensure newcomers thrive throughout their educational journey.

Presenters:

Kimmy Schuelke and Karen Seeberg, Plainfield School District 202

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School, High School

North Pavilion 6

El éxito en el ambiente educativo de un salón dual

En este taller, los participantes aprenderán a estructurar y organizar con éxito un salón de lenguaje dual que facilite el logro de los siguientes objetivos: apoyar el desarrollo del bilingüismo y la biliteracidad; fomentar el desarrollo de las competencias socioculturales de los estudiantes; y lograr altas competencias y expectativas académicas en varios idiomas.

Presenters:

María Chamorro, Sonia Redondo and Leila Tuñón, Elgin #U-46

Grade Level: Elementary

Room 1 - Even Hotel

Creating Equitable Math Spaces for Multilingual Learners

This session will focus on the intersectionality of math and multilingualism. To build upon the assets and meet the needs of multilingual learners in math, educators need specific professional development. We will be discussing language objectives in math, research-based and inclusive pedagogical math practices, inclusion of the biliteracy framework, the importance of building and sustaining a math identity, and a possible structure for math professional development for educators.

Presenters:

Helen Brandon, University of Illinois, Springfield and Kimberly Taber, Bloomington School District 87

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 2 - Even Hotel

Reflections from Multilingual (ML) Instructional Coaching in Transitional Programs of Instruction (TPI) Nonsheltered Courses

Reflections, strategies, and anecdotal evidence from ML instructional coaching in a TPI high school setting will be discussed. Guiding questions include: How am I best supporting ML students in the class, if not all students? How am I best supporting teachers with increasing ML populations?

Presenter:

Kamila Zaremba, Adlai Stevenson High School District 125, Lincolnshire

Grade Level: Middle School, High School

Room 3 - Even Hotel

Rigorous and Ambitious Instruction for ALL Multilingual Learners

This presentation will show how one middle school provides rigorous and ambitious learning opportunities to multilingual learners at all levels in three different types of delivery models. These include dual language, self-contained ELL, and push-in/co-teaching ELL.

Presenters:

Rachel McCoy, Stephanie Noble and Alexander Ryser, Moline/Coal Valley School District

Grade Level: Middle School

01:45P-02:45P

South Pavilion 1

Building a Foundation to Support a Continuous Cycle of Improvement

Implementing school improvement requires a willingness to transform school systems and instructional practices. A shared focus on student learning and growth are at the core of change. This session will explore creating a school improvement foundation and how data can become meaningful when educators understand the story that numbers can tell while incorporating analysis and insights into a continuous cycle of school improvement.

Presenter:

Beth Rock, Lowpoint-Washburn Community Unit School District 21, Washburn

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School, High School

South Pavilion 2

Change the Narrative, Improve the Culture

Join visionary leader Dr. Kimberly Kimbrough as she shares her journey in transforming school culture by harnessing the power of community narratives. Through engaging examples and practical strategies, participants will learn how to use stakeholder perspectives to drive change, improve morale, and build a positive environment. This session offers actionable steps to foster high standards, inclusivity, and lasting school improvement.

Presenters:

Tameka Caldwell and Kimberly Kimbrough, Sauk Village CCSD 168

Grade Level: Middle School

South Pavilion 3 and 4

9th Grade: 90%+ On Track

High expectations led to a significant increase in the 9th Grade on Track rate. Zion-Benton Township High School District 126's recipe for success combined a new grading system with MTSS, credit recovery, and a ton of perseverance sprinkled with commitment.

Presenters:

Latoya Barnes, Zion Benton Township High School District 126, Michelle Hassan, Maywood/Melrose Park/Broadview District 89, and Zackary Livingston, University of Chicago

Grade Level: High School

South Pavilion 5 and 6

Leading and Learning Multilingual Programs (or Leading and Learning in a Multilingual World)

In today's increasingly diverse classrooms, multilingual programs provide a valuable pathway for nurturing students' linguistic, academic, and social-emotional development. This workshop delves into the leadership and learning skills of multilingual program leaders. Remember, everyone is a multilingual leader! Participants will engage synthesizing their learnings and receive checklists to guide their planning.

Presenter:

Shadia Salem, North Palos School District 117

Grade Level: All Levels

Sam Tinley Room

Harnessing the Power of the Multilingual Classroom Library

Educators will learn the ‘where, why, when, and how?’ of enhancing multilingual students’ biliteracy ‘superpowers’ with a classroom library containing engaging, high-quality Spanish texts. We will define criteria of an effective and ‘powerful’ multilingual classroom library, explore high-quality Spanish texts that support linguistic equity and maximize students’ linguistic skillsets, and reflect on ways to strengthen our own classroom libraries.

Presenter:

Autumn Valadez, Lulo Libros and Custom Education Solutions

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 1

Bridging and Cross-linguistic Connections

In this presentation, we will discuss best practices to promote language transfer and connections between languages as a critical component of second language acquisition.

Presenter:

Marcela Rodriguez Grossman, Wheeling Community Consolidated School District 21

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 2 and 3

Establishing a School-wide Optimal Biliteracy Environment Through Classroom Walks

Participants will learn how to establish a district or school-wide system through a classroom walk protocol that ensures consistency of DL classroom expectations to support biliteracy instruction (i.e. three linguistic spaces: Spanish, English, the Bridge, language markers, color-coding languages, etc.). Additionally, learn how to build capacity among school leaders and develop professional learning through the findings of classroom walks.

Presenters:

Patricia Makishima and Griselda Pirtle, Elgin #U-46

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School, High School

North Pavilion 4 and 5

How Teachers Can Respond to Challenging Behavior Paired with Language Barriers

Imagine not understanding some of what is happening in a classroom. You may not comprehend the teacher’s direction. Is it any wonder that behavior might be inappropriate? In this session, we will consider what strategies teachers can employ to meet the needs of multilingual learners and encourage appropriate classroom behavior, even if the behavior is related to a disability.

Presenter:

Meg Carroll, Saint Xavier University, Chicago

Grade Level: All Levels

North Pavilion 6

Title Programs-Back to Basics

This session will outline the Title I-A, Title II-A, and Title IV-A programs intent and allowable and unallowable use of funds.

Presenter:

Lazell Logan, Illinois State Board of Education, Chicago

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 1 - Even Hotel

The Arts and Multilingual Learners- How Nature Journaling Supports English Learners

Join us for an engaging workshop on the ways in which the arts can enhance engagement, creativity, communication, and more for MLs. Discover how nature journaling serves as a powerful tool to enhance writing skills and facilitate language acquisition. Participants will learn how this creative practice not only nurtures artistic expression but also fosters scientific thinking, enabling students to connect with nature and communicate effectively.

Presenters:

Christina Lovering and Betsy Sostak, Aptakisic-Tripp District 102, Buffalo Grove

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 2 - Even Hotel

Developing Oracy to Engage English Language Learners in the Classroom

Bring your classroom to life with language-building activities! This session will equip educators with interactive strategies designed to spark student engagement in academic conversations, ultimately boosting achievement. Learn how to effectively support language learners through targeted instruction and meaningful interactions. Join us to enhance your teaching toolkit!

Presenters:

Diane Kostovski and Juana Salazar-Aldape, Chicago Heights SD #170

Grade Level: Early Childhood/Primary, Elementary, Middle School

Room 3 - Even Hotel

Illinois Board of Education Requirements for Communicating in Parents' Native Language

This session will focus on the requirements for communicating with parents in their native language.

Presenters:

Michelle Lopez and Edwin Sánchez Molina, Illinois State Board of Education, Multilingual/Language Development

Grade Level: All Levels

Room 4 - Even Hotel

STEM for Non-STEM Teachers

Are you a teacher who isn't a STEM specialist but still want to integrate STEM into your classroom? This session is designed to build confidence in teaching STEM concepts, even without a strong background in these subjects. By the end of this session, you will feel empowered to incorporate STEM and inspire your students to become critical thinkers and problem-solvers.

Presenter:

Kevin Schouten, Lincoln Elementary School District 156, Calumet City

Grade Level: Elementary, Middle School

03:00P-04:00P

South Pavilion 3 and 4

Authentic Assessment Options FOR Multilingual Learners

The goal of the session is to discuss a variety of options to authentically assess multilingual learners including paper-based and/or digital portfolios. We will present ways to examine language development across the four language domains: listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as a tool to assess their level of acculturation.

Presenter:

Vanessa Figueroa, Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights

Grade Level: All Levels