

BRIDGING THE BAY: CONNECTING IDEAS FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



MSDE VIRTUAL



FREE

EARN PD POINTS
(PDP)

WORKSHOP SERIES

MSDE's Office of Teaching and Learning invites teachers **and** school leaders to engage in virtual professional learning sessions.

GOALS:

- UNITE INNOVATIVE MINDS
- FOSTER COLLABORATION
- SHARE TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICES

**MONDAY, JULY 21 -
FRIDAY JULY 25, 2025**

Session Times:
8:30 am - 10:00 am,
10:15 am, 11:45 am,
12:30 - 2:00 pm,
2:30 - 4:00 pm

SESSION OFFERINGS LISTED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES
REGISTRATION OPEN NOW - USE LINKS BELOW
QUESTIONS: CONTACT JENINIFER WOJCIK



2025 Virtual Summer Workshop Series

Session Offerings and Registration

Office of Teaching and learning

May 2025

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Overview

Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) Office of Teaching and Learning is pleased to announce the 2025 Virtual Summer Workshop Series. This event will offer teachers and school leaders the opportunity to engage in virtual professional learning sessions designed to enhance their skills and support student success. This inaugural event was intentionally designed on a modest scale to ensure a focused and impactful foundation. MSDE is excited about the possibilities and looks forward to expanding in the years to come.

The 2025 Virtual Summer Workshop Series will begin on Monday, July 21, 2025, and will offer sessions through Friday, July 25, 2025.

Registration for the 2025 Series is open now and closes Friday, July 4, 2025.

2025 Theme

Bridging the Bay: Connecting Ideas for Professional Growth

This year's theme celebrates Maryland's unique geography and vibrant community of educators and professionals. Just as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge connects unique regions of the state, this workshop series aims to unite innovative minds, foster collaboration, and share transformative practices. In addition to leveraging the expertise of Maryland's diverse educators to support the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the series also strives to create connections between existing initiatives in school systems and at the state level. By amplifying best practices and sharing knowledge across the state, we will build a foundation for transformative educator growth.

Overarching Goals

Build Professional Relationships: Create connections among Maryland educators by promoting the sharing of ideas, resources, and best practices.

Elevate Teacher Leaders: Empower and support teacher leaders by providing a space to share their expertise and influence positive changes beyond their schools and systems.

Impact Student Outcomes: Provide practical strategies to help educators refine and improve their practices, ensuring that they can better meet the diverse needs of their students.

Enhance Coherence: Strengthen connections between existing state-level and local-level initiatives to create a more connected and intentional approach to educator growth and student success.

Targeted Audience

MSDE recognizes the importance of improving the quality and effectiveness of its teachers, principals, and other school leaders in order to improve outcomes for students. Sessions are designed to meet the needs of

teachers (conditionally licensed, novice, veterans, etc.), school administrators, and school leaders (instructional coaches, department chairs, mentors, etc.).

Blueprint for Maryland's Future

Session content is designed to align to one more of the primary goals associated with the first 4 pillars of the Blueprint:

- Pillar 1: Every child has access to a high-quality early childhood program
- Pillar 2: Every school has high-quality and diverse teachers and leaders
- Pillar 3: Every student graduates high school college and career ready
- Pillar 4: Every student is matched with the resources they need to succeed

Sessions will be 90 minutes each and take place virtually. There may be up to 3 options within a given time slot. Explore the 2025 offerings and click the registration link.

Professional Development Points (PDPs)

In addition to the Blueprint primary goals, sessions align with one or more of the following PDP areas of emphasis:

- Pedagogy
- Specific content area(s)
- English as a Second Language, Sheltered English, or Bilingual Education
- Strategies for teaching students with disabilities or differentiated instruction for students with diverse learning needs
- Culturally responsive teaching or diverse student identities in education

Participants will receive PDPs upon successful participation in sessions. 1 hour of learning equals 1 professional development point. Facilitators will track attendance via the virtual platform's built-in attendance tracker. MSDE will verify attendance and issue Professional Development Activity Completion for Credit Forms to eligible participants at the conclusion of the 2025 Virtual Summer Workshop Series. Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing and distribution.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions please contact:

Jennifer Wojcik

Coordinator of Professional Learning

Office of Professional Learning and High-Quality Instructional Materials

410-767-0346 (Office)

jennifer.wojcik@maryland.gov

Monday, July 21**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM****Proven Benefits of a Teacher Leader Academy**

Description: This session will explore how Teacher Leader Academies are reshaping school communities. It will highlight how teacher leaders coach and support novice teachers, grow in their own practice, and help build strong leadership pipelines. Participants will learn about the role academies play in improving retention, partnering with administrators, and sustaining daily instructional support.

Barbara Pometto,
Prince George's County

Classroom teachers seeking professional growth

[Register](#)
[HERE](#)

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Option 1	Option 2
Enhancing Science Safety: Navigating the Revised Maryland Science Safety Manual PK-12	Teamwork Makes the Dream Work: Collaboration Among Teachers, Paraeducators, Other Professionals, and Parents
<p>Description: The Maryland Science Safety Manual PK-12 was revised in the fall of 2024 to align with the latest practices in science education safety. This session will equip participants with strategies aligned with state and federal regulations to foster a culture of safety. Participants will identify the need for safety, explore the safety manual, identify ways to use the manual, and ask questions.</p> <p>Jeremy Haack, <i>MSDE</i></p>	<p>Description: It takes a village to teach a child. This session aims to strengthen collaborative practices among educators, paraprofessionals, related service providers, and families to support student success. Participants will explore effective communication strategies, role clarity, and shared decision-making to build cohesive, student-centered teams.</p> <p>Mary Weston, <i>MSDE</i></p>
PreK-12 science/STEM teachers, science department chairs, science paraeducators, lab aids, school administrators	Early childhood teachers and paraprofessionals both general and special education
Register HERE	Register HERE

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Option 1	Option 2
Identifying Our Diverse Expertise	Finding the Right Balance: Integrating Digital Tools to Enhance Student Engagement
<p>Description: This session will empower educators to reflect on their personal experiences in education including international studies, student teaching environments, and virtual teaching experiences and explore how to incorporate those teaching experiences in the classroom to build pedagogical confidence. This session will shed light on the diversity in education and the formal and informal lessons that teachers have learned in their own experiences that can be shared with students in the classroom.</p> <p>Amber Smith, Charles County</p>	<p>Description: In today's digital learning environment, educators must find the right balance between technology integration and meaningful student engagement. This session will help participants differentiate between passive and active digital tool use and assess the effectiveness of their current digital toolbox.</p> <p>Nicole Gavin, MSDE</p>
6-12 English teachers	K-12 educators, administrators, or school leaders who are interested in planning and effectively integrating digital tools into lessons
<u>Register</u> <u>HERE</u>	<u>Register</u> <u>HERE</u>

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Option 1	Option 2
Get Students Talking about the Real Stuff	From Standards to Action: Enhancing Student Numeracy Across Grades
<p>Description: This session will equip educators with strategies to foster meaningful discussions and critical thinking in their classrooms. Participants will learn to purposefully teach and utilize collaboration and discussion, ensuring students deepen their understanding of content knowledge and demonstrate their learning.</p> <p>Velvet Gipson, Charles County</p>	<p>Description: In this session, participants will explore the recent revisions to PreK-8 mathematics standards, gaining a deeper understanding of the core content designated for each grade level and the relationship between standards and the numeracy development framework. Participants will examine the instructional implications of connecting, monitoring, and supporting student numeracy development across various grade levels.</p> <p>Jen Meehan, MSDE</p>
Middle and high school content teachers and upper grades elementary teachers	PreK-8 mathematics teachers, leaders, administrators
Register HERE	Register HERE

Tuesday, July 22**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM****Teaching Writing: Early Childhood**

Description: This session will focus on our littles and writing. Participants will take away practical strategies and to-dos that they can mirror in their writing curriculum.

Raven Cooper,
Baltimore City

Pre-k-3rd grade teachers

[Register](#)
[HERE](#)

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Option 1	Option 2
Empowering Every Teacher: Leveraging Teacher Leadership for Schoolwide Impact	I-STREAMS: Preparing Solutionaries Through Transdisciplinary Learning
<p>Description: In this session, participants will explore Leadership Models. They will identify at least two teacher leadership models and structures and discover how to implement them in their schools.</p> <p>Dana Tutt, <i>Prince George's County</i></p>	<p>Description: To thrive in a rapidly changing world, students need to become lifelong learners and problem-solvers. This session will explore how I-STREAMS—an integrative approach combining Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, Math, and Social Studies—can help meet today's and tomorrow's challenges. As a meta-discipline, I-STREAMS blends traditionally separate subjects into a unified, innovative framework for education reform.</p> <p>Kimberlie Grabenstein, <i>Washington County</i></p>
School administrators and school leaders (instructional coaches, department chairs, mentors, etc.)	All teachers
<u>Register HERE</u>	<u>Register HERE</u>

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM**Charting the Course: Navigating Conversations and Connections with
Colleagues and Beyond**

Description: In this session, participants will practice communication strategies that foster productive interactions and growth. Drawing from *The Identity-Conscious Educator* by Dr. Liza Talusan, participants will deepen their self-awareness and learn to lead difficult conversations while building strong, growth-oriented relationships within and beyond the school setting.

Danielle DuPuis,
Howard County

**Teachers, administrators, and leaders interested in acquiring skills to engage in healthy
conversations**

**[Register
HERE](#)**

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Option 1	Option 2
Teach, Coach, Reflect	From Access to Impact: Integrating Information, Digital, and Media Literacies
<p>Description: In this session, participants will explore learning activities that form the building blocks for establishing the relationship between the mentor/intern/mentee relationship. These include providing feedback on lesson plans, instruction, classroom management, and engaging in reflective processes to aid in the development and training of novice educators.</p> <p>Nicole Wall, <i>Prince George's County</i></p>	<p>Description: This session will help participants differentiate among information, digital, and media literacies, understand their role in supporting college and career readiness, and explore strategies for integrating them into the school library media curriculum. Participants will engage in collaborative scenario-based activities and receive ready-to-use lesson plans.</p> <p>Kim Cowles, <i>MSDE</i></p>
School-based teacher leaders hosting student interns or coaching novice teachers	K-12 school library media specialists
Register HERE	Register HERE

Wednesday, July 23**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Meaningful Physical Education Experiences: Using the Maryland PE Framework to Create Motor Development, Challenge and Joy	How Do Rodents Survive in the Desert? Transforming AP Biology with Storylines	Designing Inclusive Environments: Adapting Routines to Support Access, Engagement, and Learning for All Learners
<p>Description: Teaching Physical Education is extremely rewarding, especially when students overcome challenges, develop new skills, and build a lifelong love of movement. These meaningful experiences don't happen by chance. In this session, participants will explore the new PE standards, see progression examples, and learn how to create impactful, positive experiences for their students.</p> <p>Luke Hollis, MSDE</p>	<p>Description: This session will introduce participants to storyline units for Advanced Placement (AP) Biology. Participants will generate a driving question board (DQB), data collection activity, and learn how the philosophies of "Jenga Storytelling" and "Hiding the Vegetables" can increase student curiosity, engagement, and assessment performance.</p> <p>Noel Pauller, Anne Arundel County</p>	<p>Description: This session will equip early childhood special educators with tools and strategies to adapt grade-level standards and learning activities. Participants will learn how to arrange classroom furnishings and materials to support engagement and reduce challenges, set up activities to promote independence and embed communication opportunities, and use visual supports to foster success for children with disabilities.</p> <p>Mary Weston, MSDE</p>
PE teachers and school administrators	Grade 9-12 science teachers and administrators	PreK teachers, special education, general education, inclusion
Register HERE	Register HERE	Register HERE

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Implementing the Impact Cycle within Jim Knight's Seven Success Factors for Instructional Coaching	Supporting and Developing Mentors at the School Level	Transactional to Transformational: Creating College and Career Ready Students
<p>Description: This session will strengthen coaches' knowledge around Jim Knight's Impact Cycle framework to support collaboration with teachers in setting and achieving powerful goals. Participants will explore the Seven Factors for Success in Instructional Coaching, investigate the implementation of the Impact Cycle, and discover how to apply these tools in their own roles.</p> <p>Katie Mouer, <i>Washington County</i></p>	<p>Description: This session is designed to enhance principals, assistant principals', and other school leaders' understanding of the critical role mentors play in developing new teachers and build their capacity to support, develop, and sustain effective mentoring programs at the school level. School leaders will have a deeper understanding of mentorship's impact and be equipped with strategies to enhance mentor effectiveness in their schools.</p> <p>Kristin Alkire, <i>MSDE</i></p>	<p>Description: This session will introduce transformational tools designed to ensure all students are college and career ready by the end of their sophomore year. Participants will explore how self-reflective conversations, and meaningful engagement can help students connect with their post-high school options. The session will also highlight how personalized advising, aligned with Blueprint requirements, can address each student's unique goals and needs.</p> <p>Nikki Phillips, <i>Calvert County</i></p>
Current and aspiring K-12 instructional coaches	K-12 principals, assistant principals, instructional coaches, department chairs, and mentors	Educators and advisors who work with 6th-12th grade students and administrative staff
Register HERE	Register HERE	Register HERE

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Option 1	Option 2
Phenomena and Modeling	System Support: Understanding the Coaching Role
<p>Description: This session will actively engage educators in phenomenon-based instruction, utilizing phenomena and modeling to demonstrate how students become active participants in their own learning. Participants will define phenomena and modeling, evaluate examples of each concept, and learn additional ways to organize these NGSS methods in their own classroom.</p> <p>Jessica Leedy, <i>Prince George's County</i></p>	<p>Description: In this session, participants will gain a deep understanding of what coaches do, the importance of role clarity, and how coaches should spend their time.</p> <p>Amy Musante, <i>Instructional Coaching Group</i></p>
K-12 science teachers	School administrators, coaches, and other school leaders
<u>Register HERE</u>	<u>Register HERE</u>

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Building Joyful Math Communities	Promoting Positive Social-Emotional Behavior for Diverse Learners in PreK	Working with Adults
<p>Description: Imagine schools where deep relationships connect teachers, students, and mathematics. Research shows that a positive school climate leads to higher achievement, better behavior, stronger emotional health, and greater engagement. In this session, participants will explore ways to build schoolwide mathematical communities among both teachers and students.</p> <p>John Chase, <i>Montgomery County</i></p>	<p>Description: Research shows that social-emotional learning significantly impacts student outcomes. In this session, participants will explore the critical role of social-emotional competence in early learning and learn practical, culturally responsive strategies to support diverse learners and foster positive behavior in PreK classrooms.</p> <p>Mary Weston, <i>MSDE</i></p>	<p>Description: In this session, participants will explore how Change Theory applies to the workplace and how the Partnership Principles help move others out of compliance to commitment.</p> <p>Amy Musante, <i>Instructional Coaching Group</i></p>
Middle and high school math teachers and leaders	Early childhood special education and general education teachers	School administrators, coaches, and other school leaders
<u>Register HERE</u>	<u>Register HERE</u>	<u>Register HERE</u>

Thursday, July 24**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Learning and the Brain: Supporting Vexing and Perplexing Adult Learners	Inquiry in Action: Paideia Seminars and Text-Based Dialogue	Empowering Student Action and Civic Engagement Across Disciplines
<p>Description: In this session, participants will learn optimal conditions necessary for adult learners to thrive; examine a personal example of a challenging adult learner and determine what variables may have impacted learning outcomes; and discover how small shifts can improve adult learning outcomes.</p> <p>Heather Sauers, Edvance Collective</p>	<p>Description: This session will explore how structured academic conversation can be a powerful foundation for student writing. Grounded in rich, text-based inquiry, the Paideia Seminar encourages students to analyze, synthesize, and articulate ideas—skills that directly strengthen their written expression. Participants will engage in a live seminar experience, unpack its essential components, and explore how purposeful dialogue can serve as a pre-writing strategy that boosts clarity, coherence, and voice.</p> <p>Peter Ramsey, MSDE</p>	<p>Description: This session will support educators in building confidence and skills to lead discourse and student action on socio-scientific environmental issues. Using the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) model and the Environmental Literacy Standards Framework, participants will explore local environmental challenges, define community-driven outcomes, and plan student-led actions across grade levels.</p> <p>Payton Hesse, MSDE</p>
School leaders (instructional coaches, department chairs, mentors, etc.) and school administrators	K-12 social studies teachers	K-12 teachers and school leaders of all content areas
Register HERE	Register HERE	Register HERE

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Observing High-Quality Science Instruction: A Framework for Effective Walkthroughs	Implementing Changes to the Comprehensive Health Education Framework	Supporting Writing Through High-Quality Elementary Science Instruction
<p>Description: This session will explore how science leaders can collaborate with school administrators to identify and evaluate high-quality science instruction using a modified walkthrough tool from Instructional Leadership for Science Practices (ILSP). Participants will walk away with resources to support science classroom walkthroughs and provide specific feedback to teachers to help move instruction along the Science Practices Continuum.</p> <p>Jaclyn Austin, Howard County</p>	<p>Description: This session will provide an overview of the Standards and Framework Validation Committee's work on Maryland's Comprehensive Health Education Framework, recently reviewed by the State Board of Education. The session will spotlight support for implementation, including resources for students with disabilities and multilingual learners. In regional groups, participants will develop action plans to implement these updates and strengthen health education in their systems.</p> <p>Suzannah Ward, MSDE</p>	<p>Description: This session will focus on elementary science instructional practices that support students' writing. Participants will access, review, and synthesize digital resources and engage in active listening, whole group discussion, and chat box interactions. The session will intentionally address the needs of diverse learners; participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and reflect on the application of their learning.</p> <p>Jenn Brown-Whale, MSDE</p>
School administrators, curriculum supervisors, and school leaders	Health education specialists, health educators, lead health educators, curriculum writers	K-5 classroom educators, school-based instructional coaches, specialists, mentors, science leaders, literacy leaders
Register HERE	Register HERE	Register HERE

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Option 1	Option 2
The Impact of Building Strong Partnership and Reciprocal Relationships with Families and Communities	From Labels to Lifelong Learners: Shifting Mindsets to Create Equitable Access and Opportunities Through Play
<p>Description: This session will empower community partners, community-based early childhood programs, and local education agency staff to understand the importance of creating and maintaining strong reciprocal partnerships within the early childhood sector. Participants will explore strategies for building and sustaining effective partnerships among agencies, community-based programs, families, and communities. Ultimately, these collaborations foster collective impact that benefits the entire community.</p> <p>Kaymi Plank, MSDE</p>	<p>Description: This session will explore how biases and barriers impact historically marginalized groups and discover ways to shift practices toward greater inclusion. Participants will reflect on their professional approaches, create an action plan, and adapt playful learning strategies to meet the cultural, linguistic, and developmental needs of all children—supporting access and higher-order thinking for every learner.</p> <p>Kristen Johnson, Calvert County</p>
LEA staff, community partners and community-based early childhood programs	PreK-K teachers, elementary school administrators and coaches, district leaders working with early childhood programs
<u>Register HERE</u>	<u>Register HERE</u>

2:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Option 1	Option 2
Building Parent Engagement through Effective Communication Practices	Supporting Multilingual Learners by Applying Self-Determination Theory
<p>Description: This interactive session invites both new and experienced educators to explore strategies for building stronger partnerships with families through meaningful, two-way communication. Participants will review and share practical tools and techniques that support real-time, collaborative conversations with parents and caregivers. Participants will leave with actionable strategies and adaptable communication tools they can immediately implement to enhance family engagement.</p> <p>Andria Walker, <i>Harford County</i></p>	<p>Description: In this session, participants will learn how to support multilingual learners and their families by fostering relatedness, autonomy, and competence—key drivers of intrinsic motivation and engagement. Grounded in self-determination theory, this session offers strategies to strengthen academic, social, and emotional outcomes through intentional, inclusive actions.</p> <p>David Schmidt, <i>Baltimore City</i></p>
K-5 general and special educators, teacher leaders, and elementary administrators	All educators who support multilingual learners
<u>Register HERE</u>	<u>Register HERE</u>

Friday, July 25**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

Option 1	Option 2
Embedding Specially Designed Instruction in Developmentally Appropriate Activities	Multilingual Learners in Science
<p>Description: There are many misconceptions around the differences between Differentiated Instruction (DI) and Specially Designed Instruction (SDI). In this session, participants will learn the distinction between the two and learn how to apply SDI to developmentally appropriate activities. And explore how to align IEP goals with play-based daily routines to foster meaningful, inclusive learning experiences.</p> <p>Mary Weston, <i>MSDE</i></p>	<p>Description: As the number of multilingual learners in our science classrooms grows, so must our instructional strategies. This session offers research-based approaches to make NGSS instruction more accessible to ML students—benefiting all learners. Participants will explore adaptable classroom activities through hands-on engagement.</p> <p>Jessica Leedy, <i>Prince George's County</i></p>
Early childhood special education and general education teachers	K-12 science teachers, any teacher, instructional coaches
<u>Register HERE</u>	<u>Register HERE</u>

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
A Right to Education: Teaching Maryland's Detained and Committed Youth	Empowering Educators and Students: Connecting Climate Change, Health, and Community Solutions through Environmental Literacy	Science Journals: Do My Students Really Need One?
<p>Description: In 2022, the Maryland Juvenile Services Education Program (JSEP) became its own state local education agency. This education program ensures youth receive the same level of rigorous education and access to the same state standards as the other twenty-four counties in Maryland. In this session, learn how the JSEP Coordinator of Mathematics built a mathematics program that ensured every student has access to appropriate mathematics instruction every day, with just in time support to advance mathematical understanding.</p> <p>Nina Riggs, <i>Dept. of Juvenile Services</i></p>	<p>Description: This session will teach methods for schoolyard investigations aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Participants will investigate the links between climate change, environmental impacts, and human health and gather and evaluate data for sensemaking, connecting it to environmental justice topics. The focus on instructional practice will enhance educators' capacity to teach environmental literacy.</p> <p>Jennifer Peglow, <i>Chesapeake Bay Foundation</i></p>	<p>Description: This session will explore the value of science journals in PreK–12 classrooms. Participants in various roles will learn strategies to showcase student learning and support educator facilitation during journaling. The insights gained can also inform evaluation and assessment practices.</p> <p>Nicole Thomas, <i>Howard County</i></p>
Grade 6-12 mathematics teachers, coaches, teacher leaders, and curriculum writers	Grade 5-12 science teachers	PreK - 12 science teachers, administrators, and school leaders (Instructional Team leaders/coaches)
Register HERE	Register HERE	Register HERE

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Option 1	Option 2
Launching Your Community School Journey: Essential Strategies for New Leaders	The Environmental Empowerment Project: A Model for Place-based Learning
<p>Description: This session will equip participants with the foundational knowledge of the community school strategy and its potential to enhance student success and community engagement. Participants will gain clarity on the essential role of the Community School Coordinator, including key responsibilities and effective collaboration with stakeholders. This session is intended for school leaders whose schools will implement the community school strategy for the first time during the 2025-2026 school year.</p> <p>Derek Anderson, <i>MSDE</i></p>	<p>Description: Ready to ignite student engagement and empower action? In this session, participants will discover how the Environmental Empowerment Project utilized student and community interviews to create compelling, place-based learning units that foster deep connection and agency. This session will explore that innovative process and provide access to the instructional units generated from it.</p> <p>Eric Cromwell, <i>Baltimore County</i></p>
New community school coordinators and administrators	K-5 science teachers, administrators, and school leaders
Register — HERE —	Register — HERE —