Concurrent Sessions Overview

Grant Writing for EdTech and More - Need more money to make your ed tech dreams turn into reality? Learn where to look for grants and funding, secrets of a successful grant, and what to do when you win one! Participants should come to this three-hour workshop with a dream they want to fund and work on ways to make it happen during this practical, working session. A variety of online sources will be shared. Participants will develop their personal "grant writing toolkit" during the session, items that they will use in multiple grant proposals, with peer and leader feedback. They will also learn where to look for local money that might never be advertised, as well as most fruitful sites for grant announcements. Setting up a budget that interacts with the evaluation plan are crucial for many larger grants. We'll go through a sample grant application with tips and advice on how to handle various sections and reuse work from one grant to the next. Participants will also learn strategies for surviving when they receive a grant and increasing their chances of getting a grant renewed or leading to additional funding.

Presenter Dr. Rita Oates was director of edtech in Miami-Dade County (FL) schools, where she received millions in grants and helped many teachers and schools successfully get funding from outside the district. She taught a graduate course in grant writing for edtech for Barry University and has given this workshop at FETC, CoSN, and other conferences.

You just downloaded a lawsuit! Working with Online Service Providers and Apps (Apps in the Classroom) - This presentation will review legal requirements and best practices surrounding the use of Education Apps in the classroom. It will showcase common items seen in Terms of Service Agreements and discuss how some of these agreements might not align with FERPA. Finally it will address how your district can develop its own policy surrounding the use of these apps in the classroom. Outcomes: Review of legal privacy requirements. Examination of school or district practices and potential problems. Technical assistance on incorporating best practices.

Disclosure Avoidance: Protecting Privacy in Public Data Releases - This presentation will provide an overview of best practices and training in the area of disclosure avoidance methodology and public reporting. It will discuss common public reporting pitfalls and how to avoid them. Outcomes:-Improved understanding of disclosure avoidance techniques and public reporting best practices applicable to your district.

Dude, where's my Data? Data Breach Response Training - An interactive role-based simulation of a K- 12 district-level data breach, focusing on the processes, procedures, and skills needed to respond.   --- This is the interactive data breach exercise.

FERPA and Data Security: Managing Risk When Everything is Broken (Data Security Best Practices) - This session will provide training on current data security best practices for education data systems, including user privacy and security awareness, privacy and security program development / implementation, threat modeling, and attacker methodology. Outcomes: Increased awareness of privacy and data security threats. Reduced risk of security incidents. Improved ability to respond to incidents.

Personnel / Student Questions and Answers – Accurate reporting of data is essential. This session will cover submitting files in a timely and accurate manner each month, discipline data, common mistakes from the previous school year. The discussion will also include the Schedule Entry Process and its direct impact on district funding and Accreditation Status. The session will also present a detailed discussion on the timeline for reporting all data to MSIS by walking the attendee through a monthly calendar of due-dates, requirements, and rationale. The attendee will leave with a clear understanding of when to report data and the importance of accurate data.

Primary and Secondary – This session will cover the responsibilities associated within MSIS for the Primary and Secondary Role. New Security Screens will be presented. Importance of the reporting accurate data and upcoming changes within MSIS.

Gifted – This session will advise district data personnel on how to properly document the appropriate information concerning gifted programs in MSIS. This is especially crucial in that incorrect data could spell a loss in Gifted Teacher Units allocated to districts each year. New data policies do not allow districts to correct their data after the month three data snapshot, which is used to allocate Gifted Teacher Units and therefore funding each year.

Office of Accountability - This session will present updates on the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, focusing on the data elements necessary to provide accurate results. Topics will include Full Academic Year (FAY), Student Participation, Graduation/Completion Status, Student Assessment Data, Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs), and School demographics.

Compulsory Attendance – This session will discuss the attendance issues that schools are facing. Good attendance is the basis for all successful educational institutions. The principle is simplistic-students need to attend school daily in order to succeed. The participants will discuss the laws and policies that govern attendance. They will also explore methods to combat truancy by utilizing existing data.

SBAC – The Mississippi School-Based Administrative Claiming (SBAC) program is a federally funded program that is endorsed by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) and the Division of Medicaid (DOM). The SBAC program is directed to all Medicaid-eligible and potentially eligible students. The SBAC program is made up of certain staff in school districts who, as part of their regular routine job duties, helps students and their families learn about Medicaid, apply for Medicaid benefits, refer students to community medical and mental health providers or collaborate with other school staff or community agencies to better address the health care needs of students. The SBAC program allows school districts to receive reimbursement for regularly routine job duties being performed by eligible school district employees as it relates to Medicaid outreach.

Careen and Technical Education - This session will cover what's new in Career and Technical Education for the upcoming school year, including detailed information related to MAEP funding and Perkins reporting requirements. There will be an overview of CTE data elements, funding, and data reporting. MSIS Coordinators, Business Managers, and CTE Administrators/Contact Persons are encouraged to attend this session.

State Auditors (OSA) - This session will cover the results of audits performed during the 2014 – 2015 school year. In addition, the audit process will be discussed in detail.   The State Auditor's Office is legislatively mandated to review the accuracy and reliability of student and personnel data submitted by school districts to the Mississippi Department of Education for the purpose of determining funding for local school districts.

School Finance - "Understanding the Calculation of the MAEP Formula" Discussion on the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) funding formula, how the various components are calculated, and how the data is pulled from various sources.

Student Assessment - This session will provide an update on preparing districts for the 2015-2016 state assessments.

Early Childhood - This session will provide participants with the most up-to-date information on general education and special education pre-k and kindergarten data collection through MSIS and a new online survey that will be launched in the fall of 2016. Topics will include types of data collected, data quality, and the use of collected data.

Accreditation – The Office of Accreditation will present an overview of the Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, requirements for reporting accurate data, and analysis and verification of accreditation information.

Federal Reporting – This session is designed to note data elements that are needed from the school level, up to each individual district, to arrive at state totals for all Federal Reporting. States are mandated to report elementary and secondary data to USDE. It is of the utmost importance for everyone to be on the 'same page' with definitions, data elements locations in MSIS, and time period of reporting. A visual concept will be provided of how all of your local data evolves up to EDEN (Education Data Exchange Network), main repository for USDE data, and will paint the picture of MS Public Schools.

Special Education – This session will cover updates to the Student Intervention Screen and Reports, and discussion of data needed for the *State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR),* will be provided.

Curriculum & Instruction – This session will cover Schedule Entry Data and its role in district funding, the Approved Course Codes for the 2010-2011 school year, and Gifted Program Funding. The attendee will leave with a clear understanding of the importance of accurate data.

FERPA 101-This presentation will review the basics of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and delve into common scenarios faced by districts. It is intended for anyone who works with personally identifiable student data on a daily basis; from the classroom teacher level to the district superintendent. Outcomes: Improved understanding of FERPA and the context for the law. Reduced misconceptions / misunderstandings about FERPA.

ELL (English Language Learners), Immigrant and Migrant - The presentation will provide information on qualifications for each program. It will address the laws that must be followed to ensure the students receive the education set aside and funded by the US DoE. The session will

give an overview on the importance of each student being properly identified in the student package at the school level with the use of a home language survey during enrollment. Reporting the indicator to MSIS at the state level during the district monthly reporting file submission in a timely manner. This session will also cover the completed fields in MSIS such as native language, served, monitored with the appropriate years of service of ELL (LEP) students. Immigrant and Migrant students that are entering the state with little or no education being properly identified and receiving services as indicated by law. In addition, it will cover the data reporting requirements and file specifications to report these students at the federal level throughout the school year. Also an updated data report on the state's reporting and performance with the identified students.

Homeless, Neglected and Delinquent - These presentations will provide information on qualifications for each program. It will address the laws that must be followed to ensure the students receive the education set aside and funded by the US DoE. The session will give an overview on the importance of a student that qualifies as Homeless being properly identified through residency verification or affidavit during enrollment or school year at the school level. Reporting the indicator to MSIS at the state level during the district monthly reporting file submission in a timely manner. This session will also cover the completed fields in MSIS such as barriers and services rendered with the mandatory living condition and unaccompanied youth identifiers. Also Neglected and Delinquent students that are entering shelters and juvenile detention centers receiving proper educational services as needed while in that temporary environment as indicated by law. In addition, it will cover the data reporting requirements and file specifications to report these students at the federal level throughout the school year. Also an updated data report on the state's reporting and performance with the identified students.

Top 5 Strategic Technologies Impacting K12 Education in 2016 (Gartner Digital Trends)** -** Education, particularly K-12 education, is renowned for its glacier-like speed of change, yet the pace of change with new technologies is increasing rapidly, and is sweeping schools along with it. CIOs in K-12 still continue to face the long-standing challenges of "keeping the lights on" for their districts' day-to-day operations, now wholly dependent on technology. However, they are now also expected to deliver solutions to meet their districts' most vexing instructional challenges, including how to finally achieve the personalization of learning that technology has been promising for more than 20 years. Gartner's top five strategic technology trends this year reflect new foundational components required for achieving those aspirations.

Google Apps - planning and professional services to help with the deployment of chromebooks or google apps for education and everything in between.

STEAM Learning Activities for Middle and High School
Join us to experience STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, & math) learning activities for middle and high school grades. We will explore the use of devices, applications, and resources to create immersive learning environments where students can experience and apply STEM concepts while demonstrating their learning through the arts.
      Hands-on options for STEAM Learning Activities:
      1. iPad and 3D Modeling

Imagine being able to create and sculpt 3D models with iPad that can be printed out with a 3D printer. Come learn how to make this a reality.

2. Robots, Coding, and Collaboration with iPad
Together with other collaborators you will be challenged to use your skills to solve a problem using only iPad, coding skills, and a robot. You will be amazed at how easy it is to write code on iPad . . . even if you have never written a line of code in your life!

Elementary Building Blocks to Address Early Literacy and Numeracy
Join us as we explore tools and resources to help students learn and excel in literacy and numeracy. We will introduce devices, applications, and resources to help teachers manage their classrooms and personalize learning.

Apple and Education - What's New - Join us as we share insights on the new management tools and programs, teacher classroom tools, Apple devices and more.

Implementing Sustainable Digital Learning Initiatives
Join us as we discuss methods to implement sustainable digital learning initiatives. We will explore how to triple or quadruple one's purchasing power while providing students with the most engaging and dependable digital learning devices on the market. Additionally we will discuss how to leverage funding that is currently being utilized in other areas to support your schools digital learning initiatives while increasing student achievement and addressing standardized testing.

Data Protection & Web Security
Protecting Students, Data and your IT Budget
Online learning, the adoption of mobile initiatives, and migrating to the cloud are significant changes for K-12 organizations. These changes in technology open the potential for sophisticated threats that require a new way of thinking about IT strategies. Synergetics is partnering with Barracuda to present IT strategies for Data Protection and Web Security that address the challenges that you and your staff face and we have Data Protection and Web Security solutions to maintain a safe, secure, and thriving education environment.

Leveraging Public/Private Partnerships to Promote STEM Initiatives that Ultimately Accelerate Opportunity for Rural, Urban and Culturally Diverse Student Settings (Promote STEM Initiatives)
This session will explore and analyze potential solutions to a range of challenges involving STEM preparedness in rural, urban and culturally diverse settings including student engagement and the struggle to ensure rigor and access given socio-economic inequality. This becomes particularly difficult when there is limited access to resources for a range of learning needs and demands.

STEM-domain focused companies are struggling to find qualified employees while School Districts are focused on graduation rates and various compliance reporting requirements. Depending on location and public/private partnering strategies, School Districts have limited resources to address STEM initiatives that will entice, encourage, and ultimately prepare students to pursue STEM related college & career ready coursework. This session will address needs from all vested stakeholders to explore creative opportunities to bridge the gap while delivering unique and intrinsic value for all participants.

Inspiring and Preparing Our Students for a Career in STEM (Career in STEM)
The future of STEM careers is even brighter for the next generation than it was for the last due to the emergence of a global culture that is rich in STEM needs. The systems used to inspire and teach Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in the past was minimal compared to the immense opportunities now available with today's technology. This session will explore a personal story about a journey from childhood dreams to professional accomplishments. It includes the motivations, decisions and outcomes involved in beginning and nourishing a STEM career. It makes the connection between what is learned in a K-12 classroom and building the foundation necessary for a career in STEM. It addresses the key learning points that enabled success as well as the pitfalls to avoid, and provides recommendations on solutions to use for today's student.

Early Childhood Engagement Makes the Most Difference – Leveraging Technology to Inspire Innovation for Deliberate Outcomes (Early Childhood Engagement)
This session will first explore and analyze the massive data points that promote the need for Early Childhood engagement. Additionally, time will be spent addressing a range of challenges involving Early Childhood preparedness in rural, urban and culturally diverse settings including student engagement and the struggle to ensure rigor and access given socio-economic inequality. This becomes particularly difficult when there is limited access to resources for a range of learning needs and demands. School Districts have limited resources to address Early Childhood initiatives that will entice, encourage, and ultimately prepare young students for success. This session will address needs from all vested stakeholders including administrators, principals, teachers, students and parents alike, to explore creative, research proven supplemental resources that systemically accelerate learning for pre-K through third grade while delivering unique and intrinsic value for all participants.