

Doing What We Do, Even Better



SPDG National Meeting

Friends Meeting of Washington, DC
2111 Decatur PI NW

Meeting Objectives:

- Build a stronger network of SPDG projects.
- Learn how to tailor SPDG activities for greater impact.

Arrival: October 13

5:00 – 8:00 PM **Informal Meet-up** Jack Rose Dining Saloon, 2007 18th Street NW

Day One: October 14

8:00 – 9:00 AM **Registration** Friends Meeting Entrance

8:00 – 9:00 **Navigating Wonderland** See Handout for Information
Get Acquainted with the Venue + SPDG Colleagues

8:30 – 9:00 **Through the Looking Glass** Quaker House Living Room
Orientation to the Conference and SIGnetwork
Hadley Bachman, Ohio SPDG

9:00 – 10:15 **Engaging in Seriously Playful Curiosity** Meeting Room
Jennifer Coffey, PhD, OSEP

Keynote: Stronger Together

Christopher Littlefield, Beyond Thank You

How do we build and maintain strong relationships, stay connected, and collaborate well in uncertain times? Chris will help us build a culture of appreciation, growth, and respect that enables us to navigate change, face uncertainty, and become stronger together.

Hear it from the Mad Hatter

John Lind, PhD, SIGnetwork

"Begin at the beginning," the King said gravely, "and go on till you come to the end: then stop." John will set us in the right direction to have a great conference.

10:15 – 10:30 Break

Doing What We Do, Even Better

10:30 – 11:00	A Very Merry Unbirthday to You! Lower West Garden Get to know new colleagues while sharing how you engage others with purpose.
11:00 – 11:10	Gather your group and find your space Your pair joins another pair to create a group of four. Together, find a space for your 15% Solutions discussion.
11:10 – 12:00	15% Solutions: Doing What We Do, Even Better Find a Space “Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?” “That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.” <i>Alice and the Cheshire Cat</i>
12:00 – 1:30	Cheshire Cat Conversations – State Team Time Lunch on your Own See suggestions What did you discover about intentional gatherings? What would you like to integrate into the SPDG? What would you like to focus on? What is your 15% solution?
1:30 – 1:45	Re-entering Wonderland Meeting Room
2:00 – 3:00	The Red Queen’s Race, Forum Presentations See breakout descriptions “...it takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that.” <i>The Red Queen</i>
3:15 – 4:00	Spilling the Tea (Party) Fresh Tea and Coffee, Assembly Room Find someone you have not spoken to yet. Have a conversation about the following: <i>What do you want to shrink? What do you want to grow?</i>
4:00 – 5:00	Curious & Curiouser: Sharing Our Impact Stories See handout, Lower West Garden
5:00 – 7:00	Queen of Hearts’ Social Hour Pikio Taco, 1900 Connecticut Ave NW



Doing What We Do, Even Better

DAY TWO: OCTOBER 15

8:00 – 8:50 AM	Affinity Groups • Teacher Apprenticeships.....Decatur Place Room • Evaluators Assembly Room • Family Partners.....Parlor • GrantWISE The Bridge
9:00 – 10:15	The Playfulness Principle Meeting Room Innovation Keynote <i>Dr. Max Wakefield, US Naval Academy</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 11:30	Advice from the Caterpillar, Learn from an Evaluator See breakout descriptions
11:30 – 12:00 PM	SIGnetwork Leadership Award and Closing Meeting Room <i>John Lind, PhD, SIGnetwork</i>

Please respond to the post-event survey using the QR Code below.





Navigating Wonderland FMW Discovery Challenge

Instructions: Explore the Friends Meeting of Washington venue, complete tasks, and tally your points. Collect 100 points to enter the grand prize drawing. Return your completed sheet to the Registration Desk by 8:50 AM on October 14.

Name: _____ Email / Phone: _____

Ground Floor & Outdoor Area (10 Points Each)

	Location / Quest	Task	Proof / Notes
☐	Assembly Room	Find the coffee and tea station.	Take a photo grabbing a beverage with a fellow attendee.
☐	Decatur Place Room	Find out who this room is named after and why the name is famous.	Write it here: _____
☐	Fresh Air Pause	Step out onto the Lower West Gardens or onto the Terrace.	Take a selfie with the garden or brick path behind you.

Upper Floor & Quaker House (10 Points Each)

	Location / Quest	Task	Proof / Notes
☐	Words & Wisdom	Find the Library on the Upper Floor.	Find a book title on the shelf that starts with F, M, or W: _____
☐	The Centerpiece	Visit the main historic Meeting Room.	Find an attendee you haven't met yet and write their name and organization: _____
☐	The Parlor Lounge	Locate the Parlor near the upper lobby.	Take a 2-minute break in the Parlor and exchange info with someone.

Social & Networking Quests (20 Points Each)

	Location / Quest	Task	Proof / Notes
☐	Out-of-Towner	Find an attendee who flew here.	Name: _____
☐	Speaker Sighting	Snap a selfie with a breakout or keynote speaker.	Speaker: _____

Total Score Tally

Ground Floor (Max 30)	Upper Floor (Max 30)	Social Quests (Max 40)	TOTAL (Max 100)
_____	_____	_____	_____

Return this sheet to the Registration Desk by 8:50 AM on October 14 to enter the drawing.

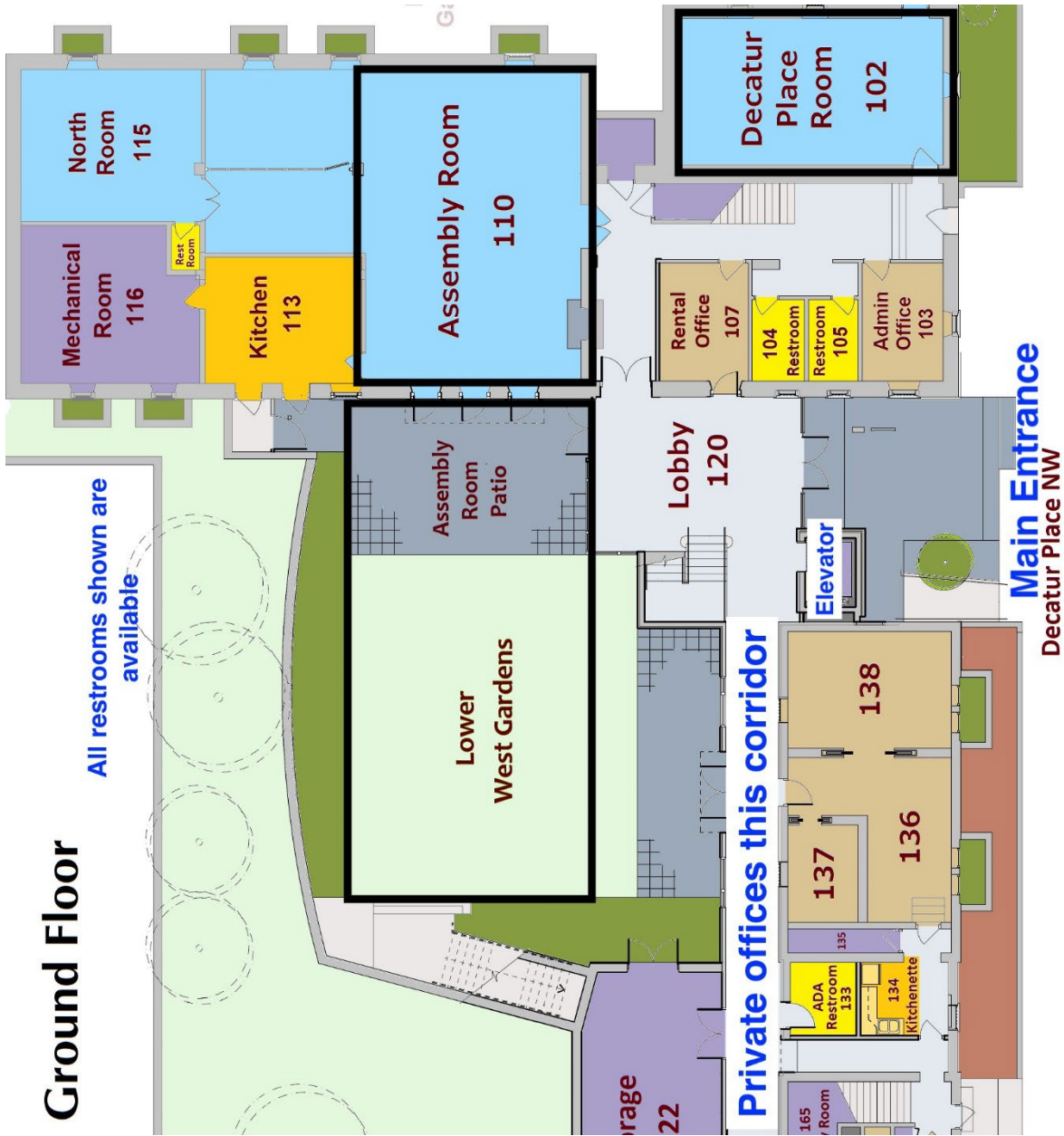
Floor Plan Upper Level

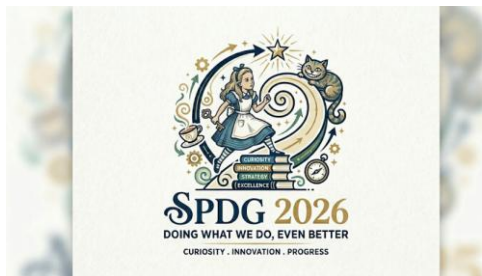


Upper Level

All restrooms shown are available

Floor Plan Ground Floor





A Very Merry Unbirthday to You! Gallery Walk

Engagement + quick connections

10:30 - 11:00 | Lower West Garden

Goal: Get to know new colleagues while sharing how you engage others with purpose.

HOW IT WORKS

1	Four flipcharts will be placed around the perimeter of the room.
2	The room will be divided into four roughly equal groups.
3	Every 5-6 minutes, groups rotate to the next station.
4	At each station, pair with someone who shares your birth month, birth day of the month, or zodiac sign. Share your answer, then add ideas to the flipchart using sticky notes.
5	At the final station, stay with your partner. Your pair will join another pair to form a group of four. This group of four will stay together for the next activity: 15% Solutions.

STATION PROMPTS

Use the prompts below to spark paired conversations and sticky-note ideas.

Station 1: Connection Before Content (Opening Meetings) How do you currently open your grant meetings or training sessions? What is ONE shift you can make to immediately engage participants around purpose in the first 5 minutes?	Station 2: Ditching the 'Data Dump' (Content & Delivery) Providing grant updates can easily become boring slide presentations. What is one creative way you can turn a passive update into an interactive discussion?
Station 3: Fostering Psychological Safety (Inclusion) How do you structure meetings in a way that quiet or hesitant voices feel safe to share?	Station 4: Action & Accountability (Closing & Follow-Up) What is one concrete strategy you use at the end of a meeting to ensure participants leave with clear purpose and actionable next steps?

QUICK REMINDERS

Quickly Find a match Birth month, day of the month, or zodiac sign.	Keep it brief Share quickly so everyone gets a turn.	Add one idea Use sticky notes so others can see and build on it.
Transition to 15% Solutions. At the end of this activity, your pair will join another pair to create a group of four. Together, you will find a space for your 15% Solutions discussion.		

15% Solutions: Doing What We Do, Even Better

- 11:00-11:10 gather your group and find a space
- 11:10-12:00 discussion



"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to."
- Alice and the Cheshire Cat

PURPOSE

What challenge do you face in your SPDG work? Choose an ongoing problem where you may not control the whole situation. Then identify what you do have the agency, freedom, and resources to do right now - your 15% solution.

HOW IT WORKS

- Step 1 - Each person considers the challenge they want to approach. They then list what they have the freedom and resources to do right now (15% solution) – 8 min.
- Step 2 - Sit in groups of 4, no tables required.
- Step 3 - Individuals share their challenge and their list of potential actions, one person at a time – 5 min per person.
- Step 4 – Once the individual has shared the group provides consultation (ask clarifying questions and offer advice) – 5 min per person.

Capture ideas you want to remember at the bottom of the page.

Challenge:
Freedom & Resources - What are you able to do now?
Ideas from the Group

Group flow: Your pair from the Unbirthday activity joins another pair to create a group of four. Find a comfortable space and move through each person quickly enough for everyone to get consultation.

Cheshire Cat Conversations

State Team Time

Lunch on Your Own | October 14, 12:00–1:30

Use lunch to continue the conversation:

1. What did you discover about intentional gatherings?
2. What would you like to integrate into the SPDG?
3. What would you like to focus on?
4. What is your 15% solution?

Quick Eats & Coffee

The following quick eats are within walking distance and are recommended by Friends Meeting of Washington staff for a quick meal or cup of coffee.

BIBIBOP Asian Grill

Rice bowls

1516 Connecticut Ave NW

Capital Doner

Kebab wraps and sandwiches

2035 P St NW

Emissary

Coffee shop

1726 20th St NW

Gen Café (open until 1:00 PM)

Coffee shop

1900 Connecticut Ave NW (Generator Hostel)

Sweetgreen

Salads and bowls

1512 Connecticut Ave NW

Teaism

Teahouse with light Japanese and Thai fare

2009 R St NW

Zorba's

Greek restaurant

1612 20th St NW

Old School Dupont Restaurants

The following old school Dupont (circa 2010) restaurants are in walking distance and are recommended by Jennifer.

Bistrot du Coin

French cuisine

1738 Connecticut Ave NW

La Tomate

Italian restaurant

1701 Connecticut Avenue NW

Pizzeria Paradiso

Pizza

2003 P St NW

Rakuya

Japanese, Chinese & Thai

1900 Q St NW

Kramer's

Bookstore & cafe with American menu

1517 Connecticut Ave NW

Red Queen's Race

Forum Presentations

A 60-minute session in which presenters provide up to 45 minutes of content and at least 15 minutes of interactive time, such as breakout discussions, Q&A, or other participant engagement.

October 14, 2026

2:00 – 3:00



<i>Adolescent Literacy Playbook Makes All the Right Moves</i> Georgia's Adolescent Literacy Playbook: Leadership Guidance for Grades 4-12 is a comprehensive MTSS-aligned resource developed to bridge research-based literacy guidance with practical implementation in schools and districts. Designed for school and district leaders, the playbook strengthens Tier 1 literacy instruction across content areas while providing actionable strategies for using data to identify student needs, support Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions, and monitor implementation fidelity over time. Developed through a collaborative partnership between the SPDG team and Teaching and Learning experts, the playbook serves as a solutions-focused framework that demonstrates how cross-disciplinary collaboration can improve literacy outcomes and advance student success. Presenter: Dr. Kiley Thompson, Georgia Department of Education	Assembly Room 110
<i>Better Together: SPDG Partners and Schools Turning Family Engagement Data into Action</i> Through New Hampshire's State Personnel Development Grant, Bridging the Gap in the 603, the state education agency, Parent Information Center, and external evaluator partnered to help participating school leadership teams use data to strengthen family engagement. Rather than simply presenting evaluation findings, the partners modeled a process for interpreting aggregate family engagement data, guided teams through common reflection questions, and then supported each team in applying the same process to its own site-level data. Teams used their findings to identify priorities and develop realistic, actionable goals for improvement. This session will illustrate how SPDG partners can leverage their distinct roles and expertise to build local teams' capacity to understand their data and translate family engagement findings into meaningful action. Participants will learn a replicable process for helping school teams collect, analyze, and utilize family engagement data to set realistic, actionable goals. They will leave with ideas for how SEA, parent center, and evaluator partners can each use their distinct expertise to build local capacity and turn findings into action. Presenters: Teri Marx, Evaluator, New Hampshire SPDG Amy Aiello Nick Coukoulis	Decatur Place Room 102

<i>Building Effective Virtual Learning Modules: Processes, Tools, and Quality Assurance Strategies</i> This presentation explores how KY Postsecondary Transition 360 for Educators coordinated multiple teams of experts to transform a comprehensive curriculum plan into 26 interactive virtual learning modules focused on postsecondary transition programming. The session will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the planning, collaboration, and project management tools needed to develop high-quality and engaging asynchronous learning. Participants will learn about the tools and strategies used to support the development process, including clearly defined team roles, templates, feedback loops, and quality assurance processes. The presentation will also highlight how these approaches ensured alignment with the curriculum plan, incorporation of evidence-based adult learning practices, and adherence to High-Quality Professional Development standards. Presenters: Dr. Jason Wheatley, Program Director, Transition Education Unit Kentucky Department of Education Magan Gaddis, Coaching Coordinator, Transition Education Unit Kentucky Department of Education Lacy Armstrong, Data Analyst, University of Kentucky, Human Development Institute Eileen Grady, Evaluation Specialist, University of Kentucky, Human Development Institute	The Bridge 238
<i>Running Faster Isn't Enough: Leveraging the HIIP Toolkit to Support High-Impact Professional Learning, Implementation, and Outcomes</i> SPDG projects are increasingly challenged to move beyond one-time professional development events toward ongoing, job-embedded professional learning that improves implementation and student outcomes. This session explores how the HIIP Toolkit can support that shift through coaching, PLCs, leadership practices, and continuous improvement processes. •Explore how the HIIP Toolkit can support evidence-based professional development through ongoing, job-embedded learning experiences. (Measure 1) •Examine ways instructional leaders, coaches, and PLCs can use HIIP resources to improve implementation of evidence-based instructional practices. (Measure 2) •Identify strategies for embedding HIIP resources within existing systems and structures to support sustainability. (Measure 3) •Consider how HIIP practices can strengthen inclusive Tier 1 instruction and improve outcomes for students with disabilities. (Measure 4) •Develop actionable next steps for integrating HIIP resources into SPDG-supported continuous improvement efforts. (Measures 2-3) Presenters: Becky Nolin, EdD; National Comprehensive Center Brad Keller; Co-Director Appalachia Comprehensive Center	Library and Parlor 203 & 204

<i>Following the White Rabbit: Expanding Pathways into Teaching Through Registered Apprenticeships</i> Registered teacher apprenticeship programs (RTAPs) are a promising pathway for recruiting, preparing, and retaining a highly qualified workforce. Join the CEEDAR Center to explore lessons learned from supporting states in the design, implementation, and scaling of RTAPs leading to special education licensure. Colleagues will share strategies for developing cross-sector partnerships, aligning apprenticeship programs with educator preparation requirements, and leveraging state and federal resources to expand sustainable, high-quality pathways into teaching. Participants will explore key considerations for designing, implementing, and scaling registered teacher apprenticeships to strengthen the educator workforce and leave with ideas for adapting these strategies within their own state contexts. Presenters: Lindsey Hayes, Co-Director, CEEDAR Center Meghan Wills, Apprenticeships Lead, CEEDAR Center	Quaker House Living Room 262
<i>The Power of MTSS in the Classroom</i> MTSS implementation should integrate academic and social-emotional behavioral supports to maximize benefits for all students. The point of integration within an MTSS framework begins with instruction. This session provides strategies for teachers to increase engagement during lessons, integrate reading and writing across subjects, and structure their classroom environment for success. Classroom MTSS implementation planners and resources for teachers to use with their curriculum resources will be shared to support implementation. Explain why integrating academic and social-emotional strategies begins with instruction. List core features of the sciences that matter for an integrated MTSS framework. Evaluate MTSS professional learning accessible to school staff and administrators to determine if enough time is focused on the evidence-based features of integration to accelerate student outcomes. Develop action steps to increase integration into MTSS supports. Presenter: Kim St. Martin, Director, MiMTSS Technical Assistance Center, Michigan	Terrace Room 207

<i>Pennsylvania's SPEL Grant in Action: Leveraging Check & Connect to Support Elementary Student Engagement</i> Join us to hear how Pennsylvania's Supporting Partnerships for Early Learners (SPEL) grant is implementing the evidence-based Check & Connect intervention across 47 elementary school sites to strengthen engagement, improve attendance, and foster a greater sense of connectedness. Participants will gain an overview of how these schools are using relationship-based mentoring and data-informed decision making to support students and families, along with key lessons learned from implementation across participating sites Participants will gain practical insights related to implementing the Check & Connect Student Engagement Intervention at the elementary level to improve engagement, attendance, and school connectedness. Presenters: Dr. Laura Bray, Project Director, Bureau of Special Education, PDE, Pennsylvania Tracy Ficca, co-state lead, educational consultant, PATTAN	North Room 115
<i>Doing What We Do, Even Better: Using AI to Strengthen Professional Development</i> How can artificial intelligence (AI) help SPDG teams create more meaningful professional learning and support educators beyond the workshop? This interactive, 60-minute session explores practical ways to use AI to design learning activities, adapt approved materials for different audiences, prepare coaching conversations, and reinforce implementation. Through a demonstration and group activity, participants will practice giving AI clear instructions and reviewing its output for accuracy, accessibility, and alignment with evidence-based practices. Participants will leave with an understanding of how to test AI within their existing work while keeping professional expertise and relationships at their center. Participants will leave with: • Practical strategies for using AI in professional development design, coaching, and follow-up. • A reusable prompting framework for generating relevant, useful materials grounded in approved sources. • Review questions to assess accuracy, accessibility, and fidelity to the selected practice. • Experience developing or refining an AI-assisted professional learning activity with colleagues. Presenter: Joseph La Belle, CEO, Family Netowkr on Disabilities	Meeting Room 202

Curious & Curiouser

Sharing Our Impact Stories

An informal sharing opportunity similar to a poster session.

Participants may share an infographic, impact story, tool, resource, or example from their SPDG work in a format that helps others quickly understand and use the idea.

October 14, 2026

4:00 – 5:00



Table

<i>Let's talk R-TAP</i> This will be an opportunity for those new to apprenticeship work to share their SPDG activities, objectives, activities, and other great ideas! A better understanding of the R-TAP work being done by SPDGs and making connections with other projects sharing work for collaboration. Presenters: Hollie Filce, Executive Director, REACH MS Selina Merrell, Director, REACH MS	1
<i>Beyond the BINGO Night: Using Data to Deepen Family Engagement</i> Strong school-family partnerships go beyond families showing up for BINGO nights at the school. In Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports project, family partner Formed Families Forward is working directly with schools in 2 districts to collect and use data to deepen authentic family engagement. Stop by and learn how we are embedding 7 elements of strong partnerships. Stronger mastery of 7 elements of family engagement in MTSS; inspiration from exemplars in 3 schools (ES, MS, HS) that are using data from families and staff to change practices and invite all families to engage in meaningful ways. Presenters: Kelly Henderson, Executive Director, Formed Families Forward, Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports project Rachel Hamilton, Education Specialist, Formed Families Forward, Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports project	2
<i>Georgia's Online MTSS/SST Application</i> Georgia's Online MTSS/SST (GO MTSS/SST) Application is a web-based tool provided by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to support data-based decision-making, progress monitoring, and documentation within a multi-level prevention system. Participants will learn how GO MTSS/SST supports data-based decision-making, progress monitoring, and documentation within a multi-level prevention system. Presenter: Rondalyn Pinckney, Georgia Department of Education	3

<i>Opening the gate: Stories of early events upstream from impacts</i> When the gates of funding open, initiatives and activities begin to flow, but the impacts may take a while to notice. How do we craft meaningful stories upstream near the beginning? We will share several ways we have told the SPDG early story, including infographics, pilot district showcase, incentivized events, and "Cowboy Joe." Participants will learn about different ways WY has tried to Disseminate information and generate interest in a new SPDG. Participants will gather ideas about how the examples could be adapted for their own situation and tell their story, even in the early stages of a SPDG when things are more "plan" and less "impact." Presenters: Trina Kilty, Special Education Programs Consultant, SPDG Coordinator/Director, WY Deana Smith, Special Education Programs Consultant, SPDG Co-Coordinator, WY	4
<i>In a World</i> Short video. Using humor and common references to tell a story Presenters: Kelly Churchwright, OH SPDG Coordinator Megan Flowers, OH SPDG District Coordinator	5
<i>Implementing and Sustaining School Mental Health Practices Within MTSS</i> The overarching goal of the Kansas SPDG is to foster resilience and increase achievement for children and youth with and without disabilities by strengthening family partnerships and creating trauma-responsive school-community environments through the implementation of neuroscience practices and mental health interventions. This important work is accomplished through refining approaches within a Multi-Tiered System of Supports to include School Mental Health processes, protocols, and professional learning resources. Join us to explore our lessons learned through this 9-year effort that built capacity across Kansas to meet the mental health needs of students. We will share the evidence-based practices that educators have found most impactful and the structures that have promoted implementation and sustainability of evidence-based practices. Apply lessons learned from Kansas' experience to develop strategies for utilizing implementation structures to build capacity, support sustainability, and strengthen school-community systems for addressing student mental health needs within an MTSS Framework. Presenter: Amy Wells, Project Director, Kansas Amy Gaumer-Erickson, KS SPDG Evaluator Kerry Haag, KS SPDG State Director	6

<i>Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports Impact Stories</i> Showcasing our overall growth across 29 districts and 3 regions, highlighting the impactful stories of our grantees who are transforming practices and improving outcomes through the implementation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports. The success and expansion of the Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports demonstrate the power of collaborative efforts and dedicated grantees in creating sustainable, positive change across districts and regions. These stories exemplify how strategic implementation can lead to meaningful improvements in student outcomes and serve as a model for ongoing growth and innovation. Presenter: Kristen Brown, Director of the Office of Learning Supports, CO DOE	7
<i>Family-School Partnerships to Support Literacy Implementation: From Local Implementation to Statewide Scale</i> We will share how the SPDG Family Liaison Professional Learning Community partnered with the statewide family support network, FAMILIES TO THE MAX (F2MAX), and the National Center on Improving Literacy (NCIL) to strengthen family-school collaboration around evidence-based literacy practices. Building on this work, F2MAX and PaTTAN are developing a statewide literacy course for families. We will highlight how these cross-organizational partnerships connect local implementation with statewide efforts to scale and sustain evidence-based literacy practices through meaningful family engagement. We will highlight how these cross-organizational partnerships connect local implementation with statewide efforts to scale and sustain evidence-based literacy practices through meaningful family engagement. Presenters: Laura Bray, PA SPDG, Director Jill Houseal, PA FAMILIES TO THE MAX Nikki Huggan, PA FAMILIES TO THE MAX Jacqui DiDomenicoui, PATTAN	8
<i>Ohio Families Advancing Mathematics: Comprehensive Family Perspectives in Math</i> Ohio Families Advancing Mathematics is a statewide initiative focused on strengthening family engagement in mathematics by gathering input from parents, educators, and community partners. The project wanted to better understand Ohio parents' math-related priorities, challenges, and preferred ways of engaging with schools. This input is shaping more effective and accessible strategies to support the learning of all students, including students with disabilities. A strategy for gathering family perspectives on educational issues on a large scale - statewide Presenters: Dr. Hadley Bachman, The Ohio State University, Ohio Dr. Barbara Boone, The Ohio State University, Ohio	9

<i>Family Engagement in New York State's Implementation of Multi-Tiered System of Supports -Integrated (MTSS-I): Lessons Learned from the Field</i> This presentation explores how family engagement can be intentionally integrated into Multi-Tiered System of Supports - Integrated (MTSS-I). Drawing on real-world examples from MTSS-I coaching, the presentation highlights how schools and districts have worked to move family engagement beyond communication and involvement toward meaningful partnership. • Hear about family engagement practices within school and district level MTSS-I Implementation • See how family engagement can be embedded within existing MTSS-I systems and structures rather than approached as a separate add on • Explore how coordinated coaching can strengthen family engagement Presenters: Rodrigo Campos, University at Albany Julianne Toce, INCLUDEnyc, PTIC Family Partner, Tina Minehan, NYSED	10
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Advice from the Caterpillar

Learn from an Evaluator

Evaluator-led sessions where evaluators share tools, resources, methods, examples, or lessons learned to support SPDG evaluation work. Participants will walk from table to table, asking questions and describing their own work, as appropriate.

October 15, 2026
10:30 – 11:30



<i>Return on Inclusion</i> <i>Examining the social, academic, and economic benefits of including students with disabilities in all aspects of school life, and the evaluation path that has informed continuous improvement.</i> Presenter: Andrea Cahn, SVP Unified Champion Schools, Special Olympics	Assembly Room 110
<i>Lessons Learned from an Old Caterpillar</i> <i>Will provide an overview of lessons learned about evaluating SPDGs.</i> <i>Participants will learn (or confirm) knowledge related to evaluating SPDGs including management approaches to evaluation, formative vs summative methods, reporting (particularly on APRs and final reports), working with state and local partners, and the importance of collaborating within the SPDG community.</i> Presenter: Brent Garrett, Evaluator currently working with ME, VT, and MS	Decatur Place Room 102
<i>Measuring the Metamorphosis: Evaluating Teacher Apprenticeship Programs</i> <i>Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Programs (RTAPs) were a priority in the latest SPDG competition, and that raises a practical question: how do you evaluate them? The answer depends on several factors. In this session, we will consider who is directing the program (a state agency, a university, a district, or a workforce partner) and how that potentially impacts the evaluation as each could have different perspectives and different ideas about what success looks like. We'll also talk about which outcomes to consider evaluating. And of course, we'll save plenty of time for you to swap ideas, talk through challenges, and ask questions of colleagues doing similar work</i> <i>Explore how the lead organization can shape the evaluation; Discuss outcomes to track at each stage of RTAPs; Take away one new actionable evaluation idea related to RTAPs in their state</i> Presenter: Kim Schroeder, Evaluator, Maine SPDG	The Bridge 238
<i>Down the Airtable Hole: Lessons from a Real-World Evaluation Tool</i> <i>Every data tool promises to make you "who you want to be," but can Airtable truly help us in the education field? This session shares our team's firsthand and still new</i>	Library and Parlor 203 & 204

<i>experience adopting Airtable as a data collection and dashboarding tool to support professional development coaches working across MTSS districts and buildings.</i> <i>We'll focus on: Data collection reimagined. How we replaced our previous logging process with a more streamlined, cleaner Airtable form for PD coaches to track their work, improving the experience for both end users and backend evaluators and program team members. Turning data back to users. How live, auto-updating dashboards give PD coaches real-time views into the districts and buildings they support, helping them make informed decisions on what PD to work on next. Data management done differently. The practical advantages of Airtable's ability to store and link datasets in ways that support more connected, flexible evaluation work. The learning curve and the limits. An honest look at where Airtable falls short compared to other tools, and what to weigh before taking the leap yourself. Whether you're "curiousier and curiousier" about Airtable or just want a practical case study in choosing (and living with) a new evaluation tool, come join the conversation.</i> Presenters: Melissa Neelakantan, Research Associate for MO-Edu-SAIL working with Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Ronda Jenson, Professor and Director of MO-Edu SAIL working with Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	
<i>Beyond the Annual Report: SEA-Evaluator Collaboration for Continuous Improvement</i> <i>This session highlights how New Hampshire's state education agency and its evaluation team have partnered and incrementally strengthened continuous improvement and planned for sustainability in its literacy-focused SPDG, Bridging the Gap in the 603. Presenters will share the tools that have contributed to the initiative's success, including data dashboards, annual staff and family surveys, approaches for using fidelity data, and a sustainability guide that supports the SPDG's work beyond the life of the grant period. Participants will learn how each partner's role shaped the work, how stakeholders have received and continue to use these resources, and how data-based decision-making is kept at the center of planning and sustaining improvements.</i> <i>Participants will learn practical strategies for using evaluation data and shared tools to guide SPDG decisions, communicate with leadership, and plan for sustainability. They'll leave with ideas for structuring their own SEA-evaluator collaboration and adapting resources to their context.</i> Presenters: Nick Coukoulis, PLACE, LLC Amy Aiello	Quaker House Living Room 262

<i>Fidelity of Coaching Implementation with HLPs</i> <i>Illinois will share its experience developing and implementing the Coaching Observation Instrument (COI), a tool designed to assess the fidelity of High-Leverage Practice (HLP) implementation within the coaching cycle. The presentation will highlight the COI's development, piloting, and implementation, as well as findings from the 2025-2026 coaching cycle. Participants will be introduced to the COI and examine data collected during the 2025-2026 coaching cycle. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of next steps, including exploring the relationship between fidelity of implementation and student outcomes. Participants will have opportunities to discuss the model, consider potential measures of coaching implementation fidelity, and contribute ideas for strengthening the assessment of fidelity within coaching practices.</i> <i>By the end of this session, participants will: Learn one method for assessing the fidelity of coaching implementation focused on High-Leverage Practices (HLPs). Consider how this approach could be adapted and applied within their own coaching projects or programs. Exchange ideas with colleagues about other approaches and measures they have used to assess the fidelity of coaching implementation. Identify potential next steps for strengthening the measurement of coaching implementation fidelity in their own work.</i> Presenter: Laura Barwegen, Ed.D., Associate Professor Emeritus, Wheaton College, Project Evaluator, Illinois SPDG Stephanie Woodley, M.A., Instructor, Eastern Illinois University, Grant Coordinator, Illinois SPDG	Terrace Room 207
<i>Program Planning with Evaluation in Mind</i> <i>Has program evaluation ever been an afterthought, considered well after the program planning is underway? This session will share resources for program planning that incorporate simultaneous evaluation planning, as well as procedures for getting input along the way.</i> <i>Participants will 1) reflect on their own planning practices, 2) identify future opportunities to engage in simultaneous program and evaluation planning, and 3) interact with resources designed for simultaneous programming and evaluation planning.</i> Presenters: Anna Harms, Evaluation & Research Administrator, Evaluator, MI Jessica Daily, Professional Learning Administrator, MI	Meeting Room 202