

Arkansas Department of Education

Division of Learning Services



**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE
"PIECING IT ALL TOGETHER"
PROGRAM BOOKLET**



June 16 – 18, 2014

Hot Springs Convention Center

Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas

Table of Contents

Overview / Conference Schedule	3
Schedules for Monday	5
Session Descriptions for Monday	8
Schedules for Tuesday	12
Session Descriptions for Tuesday	15
Schedules for Wednesday	18
Session Descriptions for Wednesday	21
Notes	23

Overview

The School Improvement Unit of the Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to host its first school improvement conference, “Piecing It All Together”, June 16–18, at the Hot Springs Convention Center. General sessions feature keynote speakers Dr. Carlas McCauley, Director of Center of School Turnaround, and Dr. Sam Redding, Executive Director of Academic Development Institute. Break-out sessions highlight the variety of services and support available through the Learning Services Division of the Arkansas Department of Education, as well as research-based strategies schools have successfully implemented to improve professional practice and increase student achievement.

PowerPoint presentations, as well as supporting documents, are available on the Arkansas Department of Education website under the Division of Learning Services, School Improvement. Presentations are arranged in folders by general topics.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Monday, June 16, 2014

7:30 – 8:20	Registration
8:30 – 10:30	General Session I
10:40 – 11:30	ADE Concurrent Sessions
11:30 - 12:50	Lunch On Your Own
1:00 – 1:50	ADE Concurrent Sessions
2:00 – 2:50	ADE Concurrent Sessions
3:00 - 3:50	Team Time

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

7:30 – 8:20	Registration
8:30 – 10:30	General Session II
10:40 – 11:30	ADE Concurrent Sessions
11:30 - 12:50	Lunch On Your Own
1:00 – 1:50	ADE Concurrent Sessions
2:00 – 2:50	ADE Concurrent Sessions
3:00 - 3:50	Team Time

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

8:30 – 9:20	School Concurrent Sessions
9:30 – 10:20	School Concurrent Sessions
10:30 – 11:20	School Concurrent Sessions



General Session Speaker

Monday, June 16, 2014

Carlos McCauley is the Director of the Center on School Turnaround at WestEd. He has over six years of experience at the U.S. Department of Education where he most recently oversaw the administration of the federal School Improvement Grants (SIG) Program. Since 2007, he has helped administer approximately \$5 billion dedicated to improving low-performing schools across the country. He is nationally recognized for his work developing, supporting, and monitoring SIG and other education improvement initiatives within the United States Department of Education (USDOE).

School Improvement Conference Sessions
Monday, June 16, 2014

10:30am – 11:20am

Room Number	Presenter (s)	Title
207	Dr. Richard Wilde, Jeff Dyer, and John Harris	School Improvement Planning
208	Cathi Swan and Evan Patrick	ZOOM: ACT 1280 and Beyond
104	Teena Bell and Pam Clark	Interim Measurable Objectives and Best Practices
202	Dr. Mitzi Smith and LaDonna Spain	Conducting a Comprehensive Needs Assessment
203	Stephanie Benedict	Comprehensive School Improvement Planning with Indistar™
204	Dr. Beverly Romanin	Schools of Innovation, Scholastic Audit, ERZ, and School Health
205	Mary Kathryn Stein, Krystal Nail, Dr. Ken James, and Lynn Harrison	Using Pre-AP and Advanced Placement to Change School Culture
209	Dr. Tracy Tucker	Working to Score: Playing to Win with Curriculum and Instruction

1:00pm – 1:50pm

Room Number	Presenter (s)	Title
207	Dr. Richard Wilde, Jeff Dyer, and John Harris	School Improvement Planning
208	Roxie Browning, Kerri Jackson, and Susan Ridings	Building Effective Leadership Teams
104	Teena Bell and Pam Clark	Interim Measurable Objectives and Best Practices
202	Dr. Mitzi Smith and LaDonna Spain	Conducting a Comprehensive Needs Assessment
203	Stephanie Benedict	Comprehensive School Improvement Planning with Indistar™
204	Dr. Beverly Romanin	Schools of Innovation, Scholastic Audit, ERZ, and School Health
205	Mary Kathryn Stein, Krystal Nail, Dr. Ken James, and Lynn Harrison	Using Pre-AP and Advanced Placement to Change School Culture
209	Dr. Tracy Tucker	Working to Score: Playing to Win with Curriculum and Instruction

2:00pm – 2:50pm

Room Number	Presenter (s)	Title
207	Kevin Beaumont	Free or Low Cost Professional Development Choices
208	Roxie Browning, Kerri Jackson, and Susan Ridings	Building Effective Leadership Teams
104	Teena Bell and Pam Clark	Interim Measurable Objectives and Best Practices
202	Dr. Mitzi Smith and LaDonna Spain	Conducting a Comprehensive Needs Assessment
203	Stephanie Benedict	Comprehensive School Improvement Planning with Indistar™
204	Dr. Beverly Romanin	Schools of Innovation, Scholastic Audit, ERZ, and School Health
205	Mary Kathryn Stein, Krystal Nail, Dr. Ken James, and Lynn Harrison	Using Pre-AP and Advanced Placement to Change School Culture
209	Dr. Tracy Tucker	Working to Score: Playing to Win with Curriculum and Instruction

Monday Breakout Sessions:

School Improvement Planning:

This breakout session seeks to provide participants with the big picture of school improvement and continuous improvement planning. Presenters highlight the essential steps in continuous progress planning and describe a conceptual model approach for developing meaningful Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plans. Participants will have an opportunity to review online resources available to support them in the development of improvement plans.

ZOOM: ACT 1280 and Beyond:

Arkansas has focused time and resources toward the creation of quality digital learning and the preparation of teachers to integrate technology into face-to-face classroom instruction. The passing of Act 1280: AN ACT TO PROVIDE DIGITAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS provides the catalyst to take technology integration to another level. Topics include the following:

- New lingo associated with digital learning
- Brief look at the law/rules/regulations of Act 1280
- Examples of digital learning environments to consider along with implementation guidance
- Opportunities available for students and schools
- Tips for choosing an online provider
- Idea sharing among schools
- Showcase schools that have moved beyond the requirement and transformed education into student-centered learning.

This session will be presented in a blended digital learning format utilizing online digital methods of delivery.

Interim Measurable Objectives and Best Practices:

This session focuses on basic understanding of interim measurable objectives (IMOs) and creating files to document progress towards reaching IMOs and Indistar™ indicators. Also included in this session are best practice strategies that research indicates support progress toward meeting or exceeding school improvement goals.

Conducting a Needs Assessment:

Participants will learn a step -by- step process for conducting a comprehensive needs assessment. Presenters will share various tools including online resources that teams can access to conduct comprehensive needs assessments at the school level and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and actions designed to support school improvement.

Comprehensive School Improvement Planning with Indistar™:

This session will provide an overview of the Indistar™ process for developing a continuous improvement plan. The presenter will provide assistance with assessing, creating, and monitoring progress toward school improvement goals. Participants will gain insight on implementing improvement plans with fidelity as well as sustaining effective school improvement efforts.

Schools of Innovation, ERZ, Scholastic Audit, and School Health:

This session will provide an overview of a wide variety of services schools may access through the ADE Learning Services Division, including Schools of Innovation, Educational Renewal Zones, Scholastic Audit, and School Health.

Using Pre-AP and Advanced Placement to Change School Culture:

Come and learn about ways to use pre-ap and advanced placement courses to promote a culture of educational excellence and academic risk taking in schools. The growth in Arkansas over the last decade regarding participation and success on advanced placement exams will be discussed. Free College Board resources will be shared. Resources for teacher training, grants for equipment and materials for AP courses, and the availability and uses for incentive money for scores of 3, 4 and 5 will be shared. The Arkansas AIMS program will share the resources available to strengthen advanced placement participation and success.

Working to Score: Playing to Win:

Come learn how the Curriculum and Instruction Unit can help you win with course codes, course approvals, and pathways for high school graduation for all students. Up-to-date information will be shared and time for Q&A will be provided.

Building Effective Leadership Teams:

How effective is your building leadership team? In this presentation, participants will learn how to build and sustain an effective school leadership team. Research-based tools and resources will be shared to assist in selecting the best members for a building leadership team. In addition, examples of roles and responsibilities for each team member will be provided.

Free or Low Cost Professional Development Choices:

With the recent legislative changes to categorical funding for professional development, educators need assistance in finding free or low-cost professional development resources. Attendees will walk away with a fresh look at professional development opportunities and discuss flexible and creative ideas to meet the needs of all educators. Additionally, information will be shared to inform educators of the recent laws/rules affecting professional development.





General Session Speaker

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

SAM REDDING is executive director of the Academic Development Institute, associate director of the Center on School Turnaround, a senior learning specialist with the Center on Innovations in Learning, and a consultant to the Building State Capacity and Productivity Center. A former high school teacher, college dean, and senior research associate at the Laboratory for Student Success at Temple University, from 2005 to 2012, Dr. Redding was director of the Center on Innovation & Improvement. In 2012 he received the Wing Institute's Award for Exemplary Practice and Research in Evidence-Based Education. He has published books, chapters, and articles on family-school relationships, school improvement; statewide systems of support, personalized learning, innovations in learning, performance management, and school turnaround. Dr. Redding served on the Institute of Education Sciences expert panel on school turnarounds and co-authored its 2008 report: *Turning Around Chronically Low-Performing Schools* and in 2012 was a member of the U.S. contingent to Korea for an exchange on turnaround methods in the two countries. He is the leader of Council of Chief State School Officer's State Collaborative Assessment and Student Standards on state supports and interventions.

School Improvement Conference Sessions

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

10:30am – 11:20am

Room Number	Presenter (s)	Title
104	Teena Bell and Pam Clark	Interim Measurable Objectives and Best Practices
202	Dr. Howie Knoff	State Personnel Development Grant Snapshot
203	Stephanie Benedict	Comprehensive School Improvement Planning with Indistar™
204	Lori Lamb and Dr. C.W. Gardenhire	Alternative Education Interventions, Innovation and Interesting Information
205	Suzanne Knowles and Roger Palmer	School Improvement Through Comprehensive Guidance Counseling
207	Sky Bledsoe	District Conversion Charters and School Improvement
208	Cathi Swan and Evan Patrick	ZOOM: ACT 1280 and Beyond
209	Lisa Haley and Jennifer Gonzalez	Focusing on Results for Students with Disabilities

1:00pm – 1:50pm

Room Number	Presenter (s)	Title
104	Marshal Hurst	What are LDC and MDC?
202	Dr. Howie Knoff	State Personnel Development Grant Snapshot
203	Stephanie Benedict	Comprehensive School Improvement Planning with Indistar™
204	Lori Lamb and Dr. C.W. Gardenhire	Alternative Education Interventions, Innovation and Interesting Information
205	Andre Guerrero	Serving the English Language Learner (ELL)
207	Sky Bledsoe	District Conversion Charters and School Improvement
208	Roxie Browning, Kerri Jackson, and Susan Ridings	Building Effective Leadership Teams
209	Lisa Haley and Jennifer Gonzalez	Focusing on Results for Students with Disabilities

2:00pm – 2:50pm

Room Number	Presenter (s)	Title
207	Kevin Beaumont	Free or Low Cost Professional Development Choices
208	Roxie Browning, Kerri Jackson, and Susan Ridings	Building Effective Leadership Teams
104	Marshal Hurst	What are LDC and MDC?
202	Dr. Howie Knoff	State Personnel Development Grant Snapshot
203	Stephanie Benedict	Comprehensive School Improvement Planning with Indistar™
204	Lori Lamb and Dr. C.W. Gardenhire	Alternative Education Interventions, Innovation and Interesting Information
205	Andre Guerrero	Serving the English Language Learner (ELL)
209	Lisa Haley and Jennifer Gonzalez	Focusing on Results for Students with Disabilities

Tuesday Breakout Sessions:

District Conversion Charters and School Improvement:

This session will provide information on the process and benefits of becoming a District Conversion Charter School. This session is best suited for school districts interested in the possibility of becoming a District Conversion Charter School. Participants will learn about various models of charter schools currently operating in Arkansas.

ZOOM: ACT 1280 and Beyond:

Arkansas has focused time and resources toward the creation of quality digital learning and the preparation of teachers to integrate technology into face-to-face classroom instruction. The passing of Act 1280: AN ACT TO PROVIDE DIGITAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS provides the catalyst to take technology integration to another level. Topics include the following:

- New lingo associated with digital learning
- Brief look at the law/rules/regulations of Act 1280
- Examples of digital learning environments to consider along with implementation guidance
- Opportunities available for students and schools
- Tips for choosing an online provider
- Idea sharing among schools
- Showcase schools that have moved beyond the requirement and transformed education into student-centered learning.

This session will be presented in a blended digital learning format utilizing online digital methods of delivery.

Interim Measurable Objectives and Best Practices:

This session will focus on basic understanding of interim measurable objectives (IMOs) and creating files to document progress towards reaching IMOs and Indistar™ indicators. Also included in this session are best practice strategies that research indicates support progress toward meeting or exceeding school improvement goals.

State Personnel Development Grant Snapshot:

The State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) is a five-year grant awarded to the ADE (beginning in 2003) to provide on-site consultation and technical assistance support in five interdependent areas: (a) Strategic Planning, Shared Leadership, and Organizational Development; (b) Effective Academic (Literacy and Mathematics) Instruction and Intervention; (c) School Discipline, Classroom Management, and Behavioral Interventions for Challenging Students; and (d) Data-based Problem Solving and Multi-tiered academic and behavioral services, supports, strategies, and interventions. SPDG's evidence-based school improvement model is identified in ADE's ESEA Flexibility Waiver as the preferred model for Focus and Priority schools. SPDG staff has worked in these schools for over 10 years—helping them to improve students' academic and behavioral achievement, staff instructional and intervention effectiveness, and school/district organization and strategic planning. This session will provide an overview of SPDG, emphasizing its outcomes at the preschool through high school levels.

Comprehensive School Improvement Planning with Indistar™:

This session will provide an overview of the Indistar™ process for developing a continuous improvement plan. The presenter will provide assistance with assessing, creating, and monitoring progress toward school improvement goals. Participants will gain insight on implementing improvement plans with fidelity as well as sustaining effective school improvement efforts.

Alternative Education Interventions, Innovation and Interesting Information:

Come to a fun, exciting, and interactive session on Alternative Education! Learn valuable information regarding such topics as appropriate coding resources, shad forms, free materials for academic support, and other available shared resources. Hear success stories of individual students as well as award winning schools and districts. Discover how you can support students' success through participation in United States Department of Education programs including "Technical Assistance to Rural State Education Agencies" and "High School Graduation Initiative." Leave with new ideas to better meet your students' individual needs.

School Improvement through a Comprehensive Guidance Counseling Program:

Counselors can be an asset to your school and district, and can provide school improvement support through the implementation of a comprehensive guidance program. This session will be an overview of the components that should be included in the program.

Focusing on Results for Students with Disabilities:

This session will provide an outline of the services and supports available through the Arkansas Department of Education Special Education Unit and associated grants. Information will be shared regarding the state's focus on results-driven accountability, professional development and technical assistance opportunities, and web-based resources.

Building Effective Leadership Teams:

How effective is your building leadership team? In this presentation, participants will learn how to build and sustain an effective school leadership team. Research-based tools and resources will be shared to assist in selecting the best members for a building leadership team. In addition, examples of roles and responsibilities for each team member will be provided.

What are LDC and MCD?

In Arkansas, LDC and MDC began with five pilot districts in 2011- 2012. Since then, more than 130 middle, junior high, and high schools in Arkansas are now implementing LDC and/or MDC. Teachers, instructional facilitators, principals, and district leadership have participated in professional development to design, implement, and reflect on rigorous units of study based on the student-centered approach that LDC and MDC provides. This session will provide an overview of how LDC and MDC assist teachers in student engagement, formative assessment, and most importantly student instruction. Connections to CCSS, PARCC, and TESS will be shared.

Serving the English Language Learner (ELL):

Participants will gain knowledge about Arkansas's English as a Second Language (ESL) program, and the requirements to serve this population, including federal and state laws. A description of the state's ESL student population will be provided as well.

Free or Low Cost Professional Development Choices:

With the recent legislative changes to categorical funding for professional development, educators need assistance in finding free or low – cost professional development resources. Attendees will walk away with a fresh look at professional development opportunities and discuss the flexible and creative ideas to meet the needs of all educators. Additionally, information will be shared to inform educators of the recent laws/rules effecting professional development.

School Improvement Conference Sessions
Wednesday, June 18, 2014

8:30am – 9:20am

Room Number	Presenter (s)	Title
104	Parson Hills Elementary School, Springdale	Painless Development and Dissection of Data
105	Union Elementary School, Texarkana	Beating the Odds: Creating a Student- Centered School to Maximize Student Achievement
201	Ashdown Junior High School	Creating and Analyzing Data Digitally
202	Forrest City Junior High	Creating and Maintaining Student Safety and Discipline
203	Academic Center for Excellence, Cabot	Building Relationships: Get Your Crayons Back
204	Wilson Elementary School, Little Rock	Effective Job- Embedded PD and Coaching Conversations
205	Summit ALE, Hot Springs	Simple Solutions to IMO Documentation

9:30am – 10:20am

Room Number	Presenter (s)	Title
104	Parson Hills Elementary School, Springdale	Painless Development and Dissection of Data
105	Union Elementary School, Texarkana	Beating the Odds: Creating a Student- Centered School to Maximize Student Achievement
201	Ashdown Junior High School	Creating and Analyzing Data Digitally
202	Forrest City Junior High	Creating and Maintaining Student Safety and Discipline
203	Academic Center for Excellence, Cabot	Building Relationships: Get Your Crayons Back
204	Wilson Elementary School, Little Rock	Effective Job- Embedded PD and Coaching Conversations
205	Summit ALE, Hot Springs	Simple Solutions to IMO Documentation

10:30am – 11:20

Room Number	Presenter (s)	Title
104	Parson Hills Elementary School, Springdale	Painless Development and Dissection of Data
105	Union Elementary School, Texarkana	Beating the Odds: Creating a Student- Centered School to Maximize Student Achievement
201	Ashdown Junior High School	Creating and Analyzing Data Digitally
202	Forrest City Junior High	Creating and Maintaining Student Safety and Discipline
203	Academic Center for Excellence, Cabot	Building Relationships: Get Your Crayons Back
204	Wilson Elementary School, Little Rock	Effective Job- Embedded PD and Coaching Conversations
205	Summit ALE, Hot Springs	Simple Solutions to IMO Documentation

Wednesday Breakout Sessions:

Painless Development and Dissection of Data:

Presenters will share how they recorded, analyzed, tracked, and utilized various student performance data sets to determine academic strengths and weaknesses across multiple content areas. Participants will learn how to use these data to create intervention groups and provide differentiated instruction to address students' individual learning needs. Presenters will share actual classroom experiences to demonstrate the use of multiple research-based instructional and assessment strategies to support student learning among a diverse student population. Participants will leave with innovative ideas for celebrating student growth and increasing student motivation.

Beating the Odds: Creating a Student Centered School to Maximize Student Achievement:

This session will focus on the use of data and family and community engagement to create a culture of shared learning among students, family members, and teachers. Participants will be exposed to the process Union Elementary School used to provide effective remediation and acceleration programs based on students' individual learning needs.

Creating and Analyzing Data Digitally:

This session will focus on the use of digital data walls. Participants will learn how to create charts and graphs from raw data using Excel software to enhance data analyses and support data-driven decision making. Presenters will also demonstrate using Google Drive to support collaboration among instructional teams.

Creating and Maintaining Student Safety and Discipline:

This session is designed for school leaders who make decisions regarding student discipline. Participants will review and rethink discipline strategies through the lens of a Response to Intervention discipline model that identifies three tiers of support for students with challenging behavior issues. Come and learn this school's stories of successful implementation of RTI - dramatic reductions in discipline infractions and a school culture of high expectations for all students, both academically and behaviorally.

Building Positive Relationships: Get Your Crayons Back!

This session focuses on building positive relationships with creativity and imagination. In kindergarten, we are all given a box of crayons. Around fourth grade, our crayons are taken from us and we are given pencils. By high school, many of us have used those pencils to erase our dreams, hopes, and desires. Join the presenters on a journey to get your crayons back!

Effective Job-Embedded Professional Development and Coaching Conversations:

This session will focus on building effective professional learning communities through focused grade level meetings that internationally include meaningful coaching conversations to improve professional practice and increase student achievement. Resources: Coaching for Results Global Seminar, administered by International Professional Certified Faculty Instructors Frances Shuster and Karen Anderson (2013), and *A Guide to Mathematics Coaching* by Hull, Balka, and Miles (2009).

Simple Solutions to IMO Documentation:

“There just isn’t enough to do in a school day to occupy my time! I really need something more to fill my time between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00pm,” SAID NO EDUCATOR, EVER. This session focuses on an efficient yet painless process for keeping all stakeholders accountable for submitting evidence to document all the hard work students, teachers, counselors, and principals are doing in this monumental task of intensive school improvement. Participants will walk away with at least one fresh idea for efficiently documenting school improvement progress.

