

**Exemplary Practices Conference November 1, 2022**  
**Breakout Session A (10:00 am-11:00 am)**

**A-1: Early Literacy by Design: A District's Journey to Address Early Literacy Needs of PK-2 Students**

Having a solid foundation in early literacy is a fundamental component of a child's overall development and sets the stage for future learning. Join this session to learn about how one district used Improvement Science as its problem-solving framework to develop a district-wide system to address the Early Literacy needs of its PK-2 students. In partnership with FCSS Differentiated Assistance (DA) team and Early Literacy Specialist, Washington USD took a collaborative approach to design responsive district, site, and classroom level routines that address professional learning, reciprocal feedback cycles, and student learning data.

**Presenters:** Alicia Sanborn, Washington USD; Abby Petropulos, Jennifer Enns & Ashley Henderson, FCSS

**A-2: Creating a Student-Centered Environment in Secondary Schools**

Imagine a place where students like school so much, they have to be told to leave at the end of the day. Imagine a school where staff smile all the time. Explore aspects of secondary schools that promote healthy culture for students and staff. Participants will be exposed to strategies that help to transform schools into dynamic learning environments that are student-centered.

**Presenters:** Marc Sosa & Robert Perez, FCSS

**A-3: Taking a Proactive Approach to Ensure School Safety**

Join to hear an expert FBI panel address several high-priority, relevant topics, including school safety and , mental health concerns, as well as highlights on Central Valley school partnerships.

**Presenters:** Terri Peretti, NU & FBI Panel, Fresno Field Office

**A-4: Positivity Project (P2) Continued**

This session will include ideas and strategies that school leaders can use to further their implementation of Positivity Project and embed the program into their school's culture. We will cover school-wide activities and methods of engaging parents and guardians in P2 for Families including how to modify current practices to include character strengths and the mindset that "Other People Matter."

**Presenters:** Erin Waer, Lisa Vuola, Donelle Kellom Clovis USD

**A-5: Don't Suspend Me!**

With ever-changing discipline laws and regulations coupled with a return to in-person learning, the alternative discipline framework from *Don't Suspend Me!* will help guide educators with a true restorative approach and help them avoid reverting to traditional, exclusionary discipline practices.

**Presenters:** Dr. Jessica Hannigan, FSU & Dr. John Hannigan

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**A-6 : Implementing Universal Design for Learning into Daily Instruction: Starting Points**

Participants will understand UDL foundational concepts: barriers are in the design, variability is the norm, and expert learning is the goal. Participants will explore the UDL design process, which includes: setting clear and rigorous goals, anticipating variability, and designing options to reduce barriers. Easy steps to begin implementing UDL in daily lessons will be shared.

**Presenters:** Elisa Torres-Barton, FCSS

**A-7: Designing A New Normal: How a District Used Data and Voice to Improve Systems**

Learn how Sierra Unified has embraced the spirit of the System of Support in redesigning their system to push against inequities in a time of a pandemic and natural disasters. This small district challenged status quo and refused to go back to "normal." Experience the journey of taking state accountability data to the local student level, empowering the voice of their community, aligning their vision to the LCAP and making system changes, starting with Chronic Absenteeism.

**Presenters:** Teresa Page & Tammy Montgomery, Sierra USD ; & Jacob Pence, & Heather Gomez, FCSS

**A-8: Beyond the Donut: Using SBAC Scores to Accelerate Students**

This session will walk participants through one method schools are using with department teams to analyze SBAC trends in order to create department goals and common routines. examples of formative assessment plans with classroom routines as well as SBAC Interim Assessments will be discussed.

**Presenters:** Joe Valero & Erin Freeman, FCSS; Caruthers High School & Washington Colony

**A-9: Literacy Walks for Equity**

When school teams engage in literacy walks, they collaboratively assess their current literacy instruction to boost academic achievement, create equitable student learning experiences, and improve school morale and culture. Nancy Akhavan provides the blueprint for effective literacy walks. She shows what to look for, how to capture information, and how to use that information to increase student success

**Presenters:** Dr. Nancy Akhavan, FSU

**A-10: Engaging Academic Optimism to Enhance Equity and Achievement**

Researchers from four universities studied ten "Unexpected Schools" (Achievement in these low SES schools was much higher than expected) in the Central Valley and Southern California. A key finding was that Academic Optimism (Hoy, Tartar, & Woolfolk-Hoy) was a major factor in the success of students. Academic Optimism is a construct that encompasses trust, collective efficacy, and organizational culture among other factors. The team will share study findings relevant to school leaders and teachers.

**Presenters:** Dr. Don Wise, Susan Belenardo, Teri Marcos, Wayne Padover, William Loose

**Exemplary Practices Conference November 1, 2022  
Breakout Session B (11:15 am- 12:15 pm)**

**B-1: Dinuba's Early Literacy Journey: A Continuous Improvement Story**

In this session, Dinuba will share the systems, structures, and processes used within the district to improve literacy instruction and literacy achievement. Examples of effective literacy practices and data from improvement efforts will also be shared.

**Presenters:** Vicky Armstrong & Colleen Gowen, Dinuba USD

**B-2: An SEL Student Support Model: A Team Approach to Student Intervention, Emotional Health and Self-Management**

In a highly-interactive workshop setting, learn the fundamentals of the highly successful Clovis Support and Intervention (CSI) model. The intervention approach promotes social and emotional health and student growth in self-management, self-awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making. The process is designed to pull diverse students together to work through issues that impact their ability to connect and be successful in school. Through these educational support groups, students gain hope, support and tools to navigate successfully. The strategies are simple and transferable across grade levels and school systems.

**Presenter:** Bryan Franks- CSI Trainer, Clovis USD

**B-3: Leveraging State and Local Initiatives to Expand Multilingual Programs**

While Fresno Unified School District saw positive growth in its Spanish dual language immersion program in recent years, the loss of language and family connections was evident in the Hmong community, prompting the district to proactively respond to concerns expressed by Hmong community leaders and parents. As California fortifies its multicultural and multilingual stance toward education, Fresno Unified has leveraged state and local initiatives to prepare students for success in the global economy. The presenters will outline various state and local initiatives and how the District has expanded dual language immersion programs in Spanish and Hmong as well as created enrichment opportunities for other languages. Come and engage with us about our successes, challenges, and lessons learned to develop and expand your own language program(s).

**Presenters:** Sandra Toscano, Doua Vu, & Zer Lee, Fresno USD

**B- 4: Ethical Leadership and Professional Life**

Participants will discuss professional identity and the ethical commitments that form the core of ethical leadership. Drawing on case studies and examples, this session will provide models and strategies for living well, doing good, and leading with character. The session will be interactive with participants encouraged to work in small groups to brainstorm solutions to case studies.

**Presenter:** Dr. Andrew Fiala, Philosophy Ehhics Dir, FSU and Fresno Bee Columnist

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### Breakout Session B (11:15 am- 12:15 pm)

#### **B-5: MTSS Start-Up Needs Assessment: Experiences through their Start-Up Journey**

Participants will be exposed to the process a district embarked on to assess the current reality of MTSS in their schools. The product includes quantitative data using an MTSS Start-up Rubric alongside ideas for future action steps, as well as qualitative data using task forces to create the current reality for Academic RTI and SST Systems in chart form. The product also includes a report appropriate for multiple audiences that incorporates task force statistics, number data, targeted MTSS next steps for the district, and open-ended walkaway questions for the district's MTSS team.

**Presenters:** Stacy Percell & Erin Parker, FCSS

#### **B-6: How Improvement Science Created Momentum and Success in a Tough Year**

In a year of uncertainty and obstacles, site teams participating in the Fresno County Mathematics Collaborative found the energy to implement meaningful instructional shifts to bolster student success when most systems were just trying to survive. We will share the components that created the most momentum and success for our participating districts.

**Presenters:** Marisa Aoki, FCSS; Tamara Sebilian & Jennette Gardner, Fowler USD

#### **B-7: Vertical Peer Observations**

Vertical Peer observation is a way to build school district culture, learn from others' and positively impact our own teaching to affect change. Learn about Fowler's journey and the process of vertical peer observations and hear directly from the teachers how it influenced their teaching practice.

**Presenters:** Jonathan Dueck , FCSS & Samantha Nixon & Aleece Kilduff , Fowler USD

#### **B-8: Improving Access to a Diploma for Students Living with a Disability**

Participants will hear how two districts dove into a comprehensive effort to create system-wide change to open up more opportunities for SWD to receive diplomas. Each district had the same goal in mind of increasing graduation rates for SWD, but took different routes towards success; this session will highlight their individual journeys to shift practices, policies, and culture in support of student success.

**Presenters:** A. Sharp, A Petropulos & H. Gomez, FCSS; Anne Castillo, Clovis USD; Raul Diaz, Central USD

#### **B-9: Come Together, Right Now, Over Kids - Using Vertical Lookup in Excel to Bring Multiple Data Points Together**

In this hands on session, participants will have the opportunity to take data from multiple sources and use the VLOOKUP feature in excel to do most of the work of combining student data from your classroom, school site, or district. This tool will save you hours and hours of hand copying, pasting, counting, adding, etc. You will not believe what you will easily be able to combine after attending this session!

**Presenters:** Joe Valero & Jacob Pence, FCSS

#### **B-10: Design, Make, Play: Empowering Young People to Shape Their Worlds**

Learn how AIMS is working with school leaders and undergraduate mentors to engage young people in interdisciplinary STEAM learning through making. We'll share how an after-school program partnership is helping to grow a generation of young people who are curious, creative, and innovative.

**Presenters:** Dr. Paul Reimer and Aileen Rizo, AIMS Center for Math and Science Education