



2025 Winter Symposium

“Bringing Our Curriculum to Life”

Monday, March 10th

Addressing the Literacy Needs of Secondary Teachers and Students

Presenter: Aileen Farr, Improvement Consultant K-12 Literacy, Heart of Missouri RPDC

Session Description: DESE Session Description: Literacy needs in the secondary classroom include yet go beyond the foundational instruction of the elementary years, regardless of content area. Learn about the connection between elementary and secondary literacies and the efforts that DESE's Office of Literacy is making to address adolescent literacy. Information will be provided about resources and a statewide professional learning opportunity for educators in grades 6-9.

Using Fine Arts to Bring Core Curriculum to Life

Presenter: Kendra Franks, Director of Fine Arts, DESE

Session Description: Fine Arts classes in schools are vitally important. They help students develop creativity, critical thinking skills, and sense of identity. Many of our students thrive in the Arts yet struggle in the core classes. Wouldn't it be great if we could find a way to embed Fine Arts into our Core Curriculum? That is exactly what this session does as we learn from Kendra Franks ways to incorporate the Arts into our Core Curriculum to help our students find meaning and to help our students engage in the content being studied.

Civics and Patriotism: An Update on Resources Available to Bring Social Studies to Life

Presenter: Elizabeth Chadbourne, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Clearwater R-1 Schools

Session Description: In today's world, there is much talk about the rights of citizens and what it means to be a patriot. This can be a tricky topic to teach at times. Luckily, we have resources available from DESE and the Civics and Patriotism Council to help us out in our classrooms! During this session, we will receive updates on the Civics and Patriotism Council, how to find the resources on DESE website, and learn best practices on utilizing these items in our curriculum as we help our students grow to become active citizens of their city and state.

Keynote Address: Bringing Leadership to Life

Presenter: Alex Demczak

Session Description: What does it mean to be a leader and how can you bring your leadership to life? Join us during our keynote sessions as Alex Demczak shares insights on how to build trust and create success. Participants will have time to reflect on the information shared and will walk away with durable, reliable, and powerful strategies to help their teams succeed in their local school districts.

Q&A on Competency Based Learning

Panel Discussion

Session Description: You've got questions, they have answers (maybe!). During this Q&A session, districts who have implemented Competency Based Learning will be present to briefly share their journey and to answer questions you might have related to Competency Based Learning and its implementation.



Tuesday, March 11th

Shifting Math Classroom Practices to Lead to Mathematical Proficiency

Presenter: Traci Gardner, Director of Mathematics, DESE

Target Audience: Curriculum Directors, Administrators, Instructional Coaches, Secondary Teachers

Session Description: A written curriculum is only as good as its implementation. During this session we will be examining K-12 PLDs to analyze the movement from basic to proficient. Then make connections to Mathematical Practices and Teaching Practices that promote shifts in student's proficiency.

Using Primary/First-Hand Sources of Missourians to Bring ELA Nonfiction to Life

Presenter: Kayla Stewart, Director of English Language Arts, DESE

Session Description: Bringing interdisciplinary lessons to the classroom is a natural occurrence when incorporating primary sources from the Missouri State Library and beyond. Photographs, military draft records, maps, art, and music inspire students to be detectives while using those critical thinking skills addressed in Missouri Learning Standards. Artifacts from Missourians bring non-fiction and ELA to life while bridging the cross-content gap.

DESE Assessment Updates

Presenter: Shaun Bates, DESE Coordinator of Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment

Session Description: MAP season is just around the corner. Make sure you stay until the very end so you can join us as Shaun Bates provides up-to-date information related to assessments and other pertinent DESE items.