



2025 Fall Conference

Thursday, October 30th

Morning Keynote: Feedback that Feeds Learning Forward

Presenter: Victoria Brownlee, Independent Educational Consultant, Education Research Group

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

Feedback is only effective if it is a catalyst for change in student learning. Effective feedback is timely, descriptive, and specific to both the work and the student's needs. In effective feedback episodes, both the teacher and student learn something. Effective feedback is coupled with immediate opportunities for students to use it. Participants in this session will analyze examples of feedback and learn feedback strategies that help students answer the question, "Where am I now, and what do I do next?"

Morning Group Learning Session: Practicing with Success Criteria

Presenter: Victoria Brownlee, Independent Educational Consultant, Education Research Group

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

Are students using appropriate criteria for success in their work and learning? This question will be addressed during this session as we deepen our knowledge as it relates to constructing success criteria that both the teacher and students use as a tool for quality of student work. Through this learning experience we will think and work deeply with this concept.

Questions being considered during our time together include:

- What is success criteria
- How do we use it?
- How do we connect with our learners?

Afternoon Group Learning Session: Higher Scores/Deeper Learning: Integrating Test Prep Seamlessly into Your Curriculum

Presenter: Russell Hatch, ACT Instructional Mastery Trainer, ACT Inc.

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

As school districts work to prepare students for success on standardized assessments, there are surprisingly simple and effective ways for teachers to integrate test-taking skills into their daily instruction while simultaneously deepening student understanding of core academic concepts. Drawing on his experiences as an expert ACT/SAT/STEM tutor and a national ACT Instructional Mastery (AIM) teacher trainer for all four ACT sections, Russell will share practical strategies currently empowering students and educators nationwide to improve both standardized test performance and classroom achievement.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions: 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

A: SSD's Proficiency Scales Journey - (Repeated on Friday Morning)

Presenters: Dr. Matt Glazer, Curriculum Coordinator, Special School District; Julia Brophy, Curriculum Facilitator, Special School District

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

The Special School District Schools have been on a multi-year journey to develop clear, standards-based proficiency scales designed to support instructional planning, IEP goal development, and student growth tracking. In this session, participants will gain practical insight into the structured, step-by-step process used to develop these scales. This process included collaboration among teachers and instructional leaders, along with deliberate alignment to Missouri Learning Standards and the intentional integration of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles. The session will also highlight how sample tasks, scaffolds, and a teacher-friendly FAQ resource were embedded to ensure clarity, accessibility, and usability for both educators and students.

B: Mastery in Motion: Guiding Students Towards Success with Proficiency Scales - (Repeated on Friday)

Presenters: Rebecca Myers, 3rd Grade Teacher, Carl Junction R-1; Lacey Wald, 7th Grade ELA Teacher, Carl Junction R-1

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

Discover how student-friendly proficiency scales can transform your feedback practices, helping you meet the diverse needs of all learners by providing clear pathways to mastery. In this session, we'll share practical strategies for using these scales with students to foster self-reflection, empower learners to set goals, track their progress, and take ownership of their growth. Join us as we share sample scales, tools and insights for fostering meaningful student-teacher conversations that drive mastery.

Friday, October 31st

Morning Breakout Session II: 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

A. SSD's Proficiency Scales Journey - (Repeat of Session A on Monday afternoon)

B. Leveraging the Power of Short, Critical Writing in Driving Student Learning

Presenters: Janet Johnson, K-12 ELA Instructional Coach, Carl Junction R-1; Dione Friel, K-12 Science Instructional Coach, Carl Junction R-1

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

Short, critical writing is a powerful tool for formatively assessing students, providing real-time insights into understanding and guiding instructional adjustments. In this session, you will explore strategies and beneficial resources that allow you to embed critical writing across content areas and leverage these concise, high-impact writing tasks to drive learning and transform feedback into a meaningful pathway toward mastery. Participants will be given a QR code which can be used to access resources, including a template for designing writing tasks.

C. From Small Steps to Big Shifts: One School's Path to Competency-Based Education

Presenter: Lance McClard, Assistant Superintendent, Ste. Genevieve R-II; Jennifer Sutton, Instructional Coach, Ste. Genevieve

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

Session Description: Curious about bringing Competency-Based Education (CBE) to life in your school or classroom? Join us for a candid look at our journey! We'll share the real story of our small school's first steps into CBE. We'll walk you through the "why" behind our shift, how we got started, and the milestones (and missteps) along the way. You'll hear lessons we've learned about curriculum, what we'd do differently if we could start over, and what's next as we keep growing forward. If you're considering CBE, for your school this session is for you!

Friday Mid-Morning Breakout Session III: 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

D. Mastery in Motion: Guiding Students Towards Success with Proficiency Scales

(Repeat of Session B on Thursday)

E. Leveraging the Power of Short, Critical Writing in Driving Student Learning

(Repeat of Session B Friday Morning)

F. From Small Steps to Big Shifts: One School's Path to Competency-Based Education

(Repeat of Session C Friday Morning)