



Welcome to the 2026 Winter Symposium

“Tier One Instruction: Establishing Look-Fors in Teaching and Evaluating Whole Group Learning”

7:30 a.m. – 8:15a.m.	Registration & Breakfast	Hearth Room
8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Welcome & Introductions	Grand Ballroom
8:30 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.	Morning Overview: The Case for Strong Whole Group/Tier One Instruction	Grand Ballroom
9:00 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.	Break Outs A-C	TBA
10:00am – 10:55 a.m.	Break Outs A- C	
11:00 p.m. - 11:55 a.m.	Break Outs A- C	
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	Hearth Room
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Afternoon Overview: Whole Group Instruction Skills and Expectations: What Does it Look Like?	Grand Ballroom
2:00p.m. – 3:00p.m.	Round table discussions on observing and evaluating strong whole group instruction (chosen district leaders sharing best practices)	Grand Ballroom
3:00p.m. – 3:30pm	DESE Update: Shaun Bates: Standards, Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator Office of Quality Schools Grade-Level Equivalence: The DESE Approach to this issue.	Grand Ballroom
3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Wrap-Up/Closing	Grand Ballroom
5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.	Attendee Reception	Hearth Room
5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Symposium Networking Dinner	Hearth Room



Tuesday, February 17, 2026

7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.	Breakfast	Hearth Room
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Keynote: “Effective Tier 1 Instruction to Address Early Reading Challenges” <i>Presenter: Karyn Tomkinson</i> , National Manager at hand2mind. Karyn, a 20+ year veteran of public education, has extensive experience in leading transformative literacy initiatives grounded in the science of reading.	Grand Ballroom
10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Guest DESE Speaker: Dr. Susan German: Susan German is the Coordinator of Curriculum at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Susan will expound on DESE instructional updates and ideas about Tier One Instruction.	Grand Ballroom
11:30 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.	Conference Wrap-Up	Grand Ballroom

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Literacy Group Step 2 Meeting
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Computer Science K-12 Meeting
Grand Ballroom – Old Kinderhook