



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

**Arcadia Valley R-II Downtown
365 Main Street, Ironton, MO 63650**

**September 9, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Schedule of Events

Target Audience: Administrators, classroom teachers, instructional coaches, academic support staff

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **“Unlocking Conceptual Conversations: How Classroom Discussions Drive Vocabulary Growth and Student Ownership”**

Presenter: Wendi Stallcup, Instructional Coach: Wheatland R-II

"This session introduces Conceptual Conversations (CC), a cross-curricular instructional framework derived from the powerful principles of Math Talks. The teacher explicitly begins the talk with a clear objective. The key method is purposeful questioning that scaffolds students from simple answers to complex justifications. The primary objective of CC is not just the correct answer, but the justification expressed using precise, academic language. Conceptual Conversations are fundamentally built on student agency and are appropriate for all academic subjects. Participants will walk away with: A 5-step Conceptual Conversation implementation protocol A set of high-leverage questions designed to shift the focus from a student's answer to their strategy and content-rich vocabulary A rubric to help teachers monitor the use of precise vocabulary during and after the talks Techniques for managing wait time and student discourse.

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Break**



10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Let's Do Learning Labs!**

Presenter: Becky Jones, Assistant Superintendent CIA; Tia Marquino, Instructional Coach; Ryan Lorenz, Instructional Coach; Lori Ulrich, Instructional Coach: Sullivan School District

Discover how Sullivan School District's Learning Labs at both the elementary and high school levels are transforming classroom practice through a student-centered, collaborative approach to professional growth. This breakout session will highlight how teachers engage in focused classroom observations and reflective dialogue to strengthen Tier One differentiated instruction aligned to Teacher Standard 3.2 and 3.3 — Curriculum Implementation.

Participants will explore how Learning Labs foster a culture of collective efficacy, where teachers observe, analyze, and refine instructional strategies that promote equitable access to learning for all students. Through guided reflection and shared practice, educators deepen their understanding of how to adapt instruction, scaffold learning, and utilize data to meet diverse student needs within the general education setting. Join us to see how intentional collaboration and real-time observation are driving high-impact instructional change, strengthening curriculum alignment, and empowering teachers to ensure every student is actively engaged and growing within Tier One differentiated instruction.

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **Lunch on Your Own**

12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. **DESE Update**



1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

“Whole group instruction: What? Why? How?”

Presenter: Dr. Mollie Bolton, Chief of Teaching, Learning & Accountability, Special School District of St. Louis County

This 90-minute professional learning session is designed for curriculum and instruction educators seeking to strengthen the effectiveness of Tier I and whole group instruction. Participants will explore the critical role that high-quality whole group learning plays as the foundation for student success and equitable instructional outcomes.

The session will examine the essential components of effective whole group instruction, including intentional planning, data-informed decision-making, student engagement strategies, and responsive instructional practices that address diverse learner needs. Educators will also identify key look-fors and indicators of impactful instruction that lead to measurable student growth and achievement.

Through discussion, reflection, and practical application, participants will deepen their understanding of how purposeful Tier I instruction creates positive learning experiences and improves outcomes for all students.