



### ***Tier I Instruction Summit***

## **“Establishing Look-Fors in Teaching and Evaluating Whole Group Learning”**

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

**Date:** September 9, 2026

**Time:** 8:30am - 3:00 pm

8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. Welcome & Introductions

8:40 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. **Morning Overview:** “Making the Case for Strong Whole Group/Tier One Instruction”  
Presenter: Dr. Mollie Bolton, Program Director  
SMCAA  
Tier One whole-group instruction serves as the vital foundation for student academic achievement, providing all students with equal access to essential grade-level content. This interactive professional learning session addresses the core "What, Why, and How" of Tier One delivery, helping educators and administrators address pressing classroom challenges, resource changes, and support structures for new and alternatively certified staff. Participants will explore how systematic, high-quality whole-group teaching establishes the necessary baseline for effective small-group differentiation.

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Presentation One:** “The Role of Strong Tier One Instruction”  
Presenter: Dr. Mollie Bolton, Program Director  
SMCAA  
When 30% to 40% of students fall below proficiency benchmarks, it signals a systemic need to strengthen Tier 1 core instruction rather than an issue with individual student ability. District improvement efforts often focus heavily on intervention, but weak core instruction drives up

remediation costs, staffing demands, and learning gaps. This session explores how prioritizing clear, consistent, and evidence-based Tier 1 instruction creates a stronger, more equitable foundation for long-term academic success. Participants will learn how to identify indicators that core instruction needs support, shift math instruction from rote procedures to conceptual problem-solving, and integrate comprehensive foundational literacy strategies into everyday classroom practice.

10:20am – 11:20 a.m. **Presentation Two: “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.

11:20 p.m. - 11:20 a.m. **Presentation Three: “ 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.

12:20 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.    Lunch on your own

1:20 p.m. – 2:20p.m.    **Afternoon Overview: “Whole group instruction: What? Why? How?”**

Presenter: Dr. Mollie Bolton, Program Director, SMCAA

This 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.

2:20p.m. – 2:50p.m.      Resource Exploration/Action Planning  
This session allows teams time to review the resources and create an action plan for next steps

2:50p.m. - 3:00p.m.      Wrap Up and Closing