

Florida Organization of Instructional Leaders



Fall 2026 Conference Agenda

November 5th -6th

Orlando Marriott Lake Mary

empower

educator student classroom

potential

 Core Curriculum  Supplemental  Assessment
 Intervention  School Services  Courseware

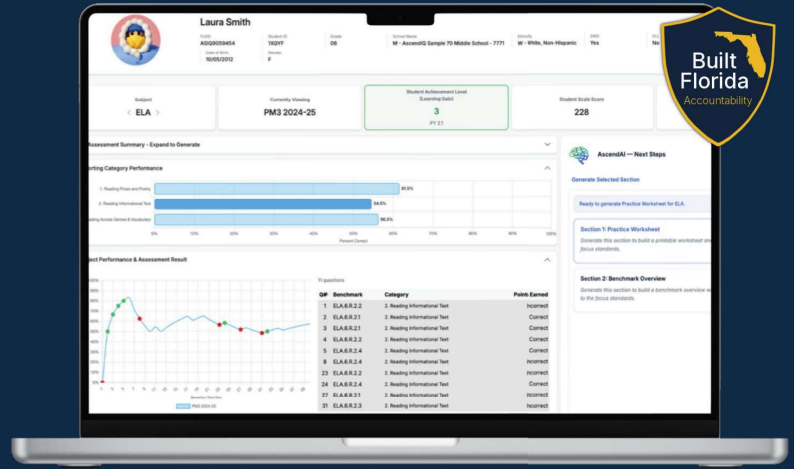


AscendEdIQ

FAST action now.

Dashboards show the score.
Spreadsheets store the rows.
Neither tells you what to do.

We turn FAST data into clear insights, aligned accountability, and actionable next steps.



What AscendEd IQ Makes Visible

DATA INSIGHT

Learning Gains + Bottom Quartile

Track growth from PM1 to PM3.

Benchmark Performance

Percent correct by question.

ACCOUNTABILITY ALIGNMENT

School Impact

Student and classroom impact on outcomes.

FAST Performance Dimensions

Performance by reporting category.

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTION

Next Steps

Personalized, benchmark-aligned practice for every student.

Attendance + Discipline

The impact of behavior and attendance on performance.

From disparate data → to **aligned action** at every level.

Students · Teachers · Schools + Districts

How AscendEd IQ Drives Results

1 Visualize + Synthesize FAST Data

Turn complex FAST results into one clear view of student performance.

- Benchmark-level visibility
- Reporting category insights
- Growth trends across PM1 to PM3

2 Connect to Florida Accountability

See how performance aligns to what actually matters.

- Direct connection to the FL Accountability Model
- Identify risk levels early
- Understand impact on school outcomes

3 Drive Instructional Action

Translate data into immediate next steps.

- Targeted small-group instruction
- Individual student interventions
- Benchmark-aligned practice recommendations

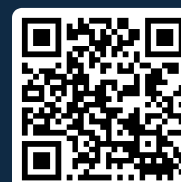
WHAT DISTRICTS GAIN

- 👁 See the complete student picture
- ✅ Align to Florida accountability in real time
- 🕒 Eliminate time spent on manual reporting
- ⚡ Move from data to decisions faster

Can your FAST data do this?

Scan for a quick overview of how we turn data into decisions.

ascendedintel.com/product



Built by educators.

Designed for real decisions.

Education doesn't
need more tools.
It needs coherence.

The logo for Renaissance Intelligence is centered on the page. The word "Renaissance" is in white, with the "ai" in orange and a small orange underline under the "i". The word "Intelligence" is in white with a small "SM" trademark symbol. The text is overlaid on a background of dark space with stars and several thin, flowing orange lines that curve across the lower half of the image.

Renaissance
IntelligenceSM

Learn more at
www.renaissance.com/renaissance-intelligence

FOIL Fall 2026 Conference Agenda

Thursday, November 5, 2026			Orlando Marriott Lake Mary		
TIME	CONTENT	PRESENTER		LOCATION	
7:30am - 5:00pm	REGISTRATION OPENS/EXHIBIT HALL OPEN AREA				
7:45am - 8:45am	Breakfast				
9:00am - 9:20am	FOIL Welcome/ Platinum Partners Recognition	 Renaissance See Every Student.		Gina Tovine, Ed.D., FOIL President	Main Ballroom
9:20am - 11:45am	Opening General Session Florida Department of Education Updates	Led by FDOE Team			
11:45am - 12:00pm	Gold Sponsor Recognition	 Skill Struck	Patrick Wnek, Ed.D., FOIL Vice President		
12:00pm - 1:15pm	Lunch				
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Breakout Session #1 * Building a Comprehensive Approach to Adolescent Literacy * Integrating Civics and Social Studies Across Content Areas with a Focus on the History of Communism Bridging Policy and Practice: Social Studies Updates with a Spotlight on Structured Academic Controversy * Timely and Efficient Reporting to the Office of Professional Practices Services and Background Screening Updates * Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) for Students with Disabilities * Ed-Flex Waivers for Title Grants: What’s This All About?			Salon A, B & C Salon D Salon E Salon F, G & H Orchid	
2:45pm - 3:45pm	Breakout Session #2 * From Evidence to Impact: Creating Conditions for Literacy Learning * Elevating Excellence: Updates in Gifted Education and the Arts * Computer-Adaptive Testing (CAT) and Florida’s Statewide Assessments: Important Facts and Common Myths * Differentiated Monitoring System for IDEA: Local Responsibilities * Pre-Apprenticeship as a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Strategy: Building Talent Pipelines from High School to Registered Programs			Salon A, B & C Salon D Salon E Salon F, G & H Orchid	
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Breakout Session #3 * Increasing Achievement for English Language Learners (ELLs) through Literacy * Introduction to the Mathematics Practice Profile * Graduation Rate Cohort Build and Corrections * IDEA Dispute Resolution at the Local Level: Working with Parents for Student Success * Career Exploration and Work-Based Learning: Creating Authentic Experiences for Students			Salon A, B & C Salon D Salon E Salon F, G & H Orchid	
5:00pm - 7:00pm	RECEPTION				

Friday, November 6, 2026		Orlando Marriott Lake Mary	
TIME	CONTENT	PRESENTER	LOCATION
7:00am - 8:00am	BREAKFAST		
7:00am - 1:00pm	REGISTRATION OPENS / EXHIBIT HALL OPEN AREA		
8:00am - 9:00am	Breakout Session #4 * Florida’s Harm Prevention and Threat Management Model: Updates and Compliance Issues * Focus on Student Attendance: Best Practices and Using Enforcement Actions * Learning Together: Strengthening Instruction Through the Cognitive Science of Learning * Ready from the Start: Connecting Early Learning to Kindergarten Readiness * Are You Smarter Than a High School Academic Team? An Introduction to the Commissioner's Academic Challenge	Salon A, B & C Salon D Salon E Salon F, G & H Orchid	
9:15am - 10:15am	Breakout Session #5 * School Safety Grants 101 – Don’t Leave Money on the Table * House Bill 875: The Road to Implementation * Scaffolding and Differentiation: Timely Support for Student Success * Building Better Citizens: Why Every School Should Have a Speech and Debate Team * Resiliency Florida: NEW Resiliency Endorsement for Florida’s Educators	Salon A, B & C Salon D Salon E Salon F, G & H Orchid	
10:15am - 10:30am	Mid-Morning Refreshments		
10:30am - 12:00pm	Closing General Session FDOE Assessment and Accountability Updates	Led by FDOE Team	Main Ballroom
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch (On Your Own)		

Skill Struck

Florida K-12 Computer Science ADOPTED



APPROVED K-12
IN FLORIDA
2026-2027



Book a demo
with Nick Narayan
or visit our booth.

K-5 LAUNCH PAD

Block coding and unplugged activities

✓ Florida-approved Kindergarten and
Grades 1-5 Foundations of Computer Science

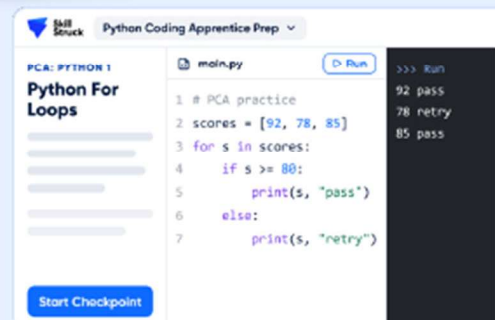


6-12 VOYAGE

Python Coding Apprentice (PCA) prep

Plus more CAPE certification prep
for grades 6-12

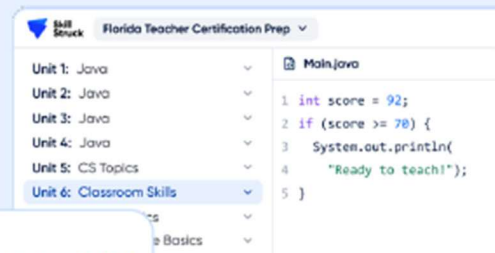
✓ Florida-approved grades 6-8 and 9-12
courses in digital literacy, cybersecurity,
programming and computer science



Teachers VOYAGE

Florida Teacher Certification Prep

Prepares your teachers to teach
computer science and pass Florida Java
industry certifications.



95% PASS RATE



92% PASS RATE

INTRODUCING

i-Ready Pro (Grades 6-12)



i-Ready Pro offers a reimagined student experience with enhancements that are meticulously crafted to address the diverse range of needs in today's secondary classrooms.



Learn about the Evolution
and Explore Key Resources

i-Ready.com/Pro

The Next Evolution of i-Ready for Middle School!

FOIL Fall 2026 Breakout Sessions Details

Topic #1

Building a Comprehensive Approach to Adolescent Literacy

Supporting adolescent literacy requires more than intervention; it requires a coordinated approach that strengthens literacy instruction across classrooms, content areas and schools. In this session, district leaders will examine Florida's policy and instructional foundation for adolescent literacy, explore evidence-based Tier 1 practices that support reading and writing across content areas, and consider the leadership structures needed to build coherence and sustain implementation. Participants will explore how to leverage professional learning, tools and resources from Just Read, Florida! and its partners to align district efforts, strengthen instructional practice and advance literacy outcomes for secondary students.

Presented by: Michelle Barash, Executive Director, Just Read, Florida!; Randi Shiver, Deputy Director, Just Read, Florida!

Topic #2

Integrating Civics and Social Studies Across Content Areas with a Focus on the History of Communism

This session will highlight updates and resources, ideas for integrating civic learning across content areas, and engaging approaches for supporting the teaching of the History of Communism. Participants will explore the use of primary sources, inquiry, collaboration, and interactive learning to connect historical content with civic concepts and democratic principles. The session will also introduce our Civics Integration Team and highlight its work to support meaningful connections across content areas. Educational leaders will leave with resources, strategies and ideas they can take back to their schools and districts to support teachers and strengthen civic learning for all students.

Presented by: Lauren Kappler, Director of Civics Literacy Coaches; Julie Leofanti, Coordinator, Integrated Civics Coaches; Katelyn Rodd, Coordinator, Civics Coaches; Conner Albert, Civics Coach; Bradley Hardesty, Integrated Civics Coach; Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support

Topic #3

Timely and Efficient Reporting to the Office of Professional Practices Services and Background Screening Updates

This session will give a better understanding of who and what should be reported to the Office of Professional Practices Services, including recent rule changes, and help you build awareness and be proactive about supporting your staff in understanding recent cases and how to make good choices.

Presented by: Randy Kosec Jr., Chief, Office of Professional Practices Services

Topic #4

Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) for Students with Disabilities

This interactive session explores how to design and implement SDI by adapting content, methodology, and instructional delivery to address each student's unique needs and ensure access to grade-level standards to increase student achievement.

Presented by: Dr. Alexandra Kanellis, FDLRS Administrative Director; Chelsea Strickland, Director for Instructional Support Services, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Topic #5

Ed-Flex Waivers for Title Grants: What's This All About?

This session will provide an overview of the legal and regulatory structure of the Ed-Flex waiver and a practical overview of how LEAs can use the waiver to provide flexibility on using federal funds to increase student achievement.

Presented by: Henry Miller, Senior Policy Coordinator, Bureau of Federal Educational Programs

Topic #6

From Evidence to Impact: Creating Conditions for Literacy Learning

This session explores conditions that support effective literacy instruction in grade 3 and beyond. Literacy leaders will examine statewide literacy data to identify factors influencing student performance, explore four conditions for effective classroom literacy instruction, and use evidence to determine an instructional priority for strengthening literacy learning across classrooms and schools.

Presented by: Paige Michael, Executive Director of State Regional Literacy Directors; Dr. Iris Borghese and Dr. Jackie Carey, Lead State Regional Literacy Directors

Topic #7

Elevating Excellence: Updates in Gifted Education and the Arts

This interactive session takes a lively look at what's next for Florida's gifted education and fine arts standards. In gifted education, we'll step inside the classroom and explore what leaders should see when new expectations for gifted learning become practice. In the arts, we'll receive updates on three arts award programs in Florida, while considering how the arts continue to evolve and what students will need in the years ahead.

Presented by: David Pletincks, K-12 Humanities Specialist, Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support

Topic #8

Computer-Adaptive Testing (CAT) and Florida's Statewide Assessments: Important Facts and Common Myths

This session will provide a detailed look at how computer-adaptive assessments work in Florida, explain the benefits of CAT, and explore common misconceptions

Presented by: Susie Lee, Executive Director, Office of Assessment

Topic #9

Differentiated Monitoring System for IDEA: Local Responsibilities

Participants will examine data quality, IDEA reporting requirements, differentiated monitoring, LEA determinations, risk assessments, and fiscal responsibilities associated with IDEA grant administration.

Presented by: Patricia Bodiford, Bureau Chief; Casey Grove, Director for Program Accountability and Data Systems; Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Topic #10

Pre-Apprenticeship as a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Strategy: Building Talent Pipelines from High School to Registered Programs

Discover how to position pre-apprenticeship as a strategic bridge within your CTE program that connects classroom learning to earn-and-learn pathways. In this session, we'll explore strategies for integrating apprenticeship readiness into your existing CTE curricula, examine successful pre-apprenticeship models, and learn how to partner with Apprenticeship Training Representatives and local workforce boards to create seamless talent pipelines. Leave with actionable strategies to increase student awareness of apprenticeship opportunities and position your program as a launchpad for registered apprenticeships.

Presented by: Dr. Mark Baird, Associate Vice Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education

Topic #11

Increasing Achievement for English Language Learners (ELLs) through Literacy

This professional learning session is designed to support district and school leaders in strengthening literacy outcomes for ELLs. Participants will explore how the science of reading informs literacy instruction for ELLs and examine the connection between language development, the B.E.S.T. English Language Arts (ELA) Standards and the components of reading. Through an instructional leadership lens, participants will explore evidence-based practices that support ELLs in developing the knowledge and skills needed for literacy success. Participants will identify classroom look-fors across literacy instruction and consider how these indicators can inform classroom observations, instructional conversations and support for educators.

Presented by: Monica Reeves, Chief, Bureau of Student Achievement Through Language Acquisition

Topic # 12

Introduction to the Mathematics Practice Profile

This session supports educators in building a shared vision for benchmarks-aligned, high-quality mathematics instruction. Participants will explore the what, how, and why of implementation science and learn how the Mathematics Practice Profile serves as a powerful tool to guide, strengthen, and sustain effective instructional practices across classrooms.

Presented by: Anthony Severson, K-12 Mathematics Specialist, Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support

Topic #13

Graduation Rate Cohort Build and Corrections

The Bureau of Accountability Reporting will provide an overview of the 4-year cohort graduation rate, including the process of building the unadjusted cohort, the review process using Survey 5 data, and key activities and timelines. Participants will also learn about the graduation rate cohort corrections web application and the impact of new withdrawal codes.

Presented by: Justin Tarin, Bureau Chief; Katie Farsi, Systems Project Analyst; Bureau of Accountability Reporting

Topic #14

IDEA Dispute Resolution at the Local Level: Working with Parents for Student Success

This session will examine how effective dispute resolution and the timely correction of noncompliance can improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities. Participants will review the dispute resolution options available under IDEA, strategies for resolving concerns at the local level, the state complaint process, and evidence-based practices for correcting findings of noncompliance while strengthening district systems and ensuring sustained compliance.

Presented by: Erin Leathers, Senior Director for Dispute Resolution and Monitoring; Bryce Milton, Director for Alternative Resolution Options; Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Topic #15

Career Exploration and Work-Based Learning: Creating Authentic Experiences for Students

Learn how to design meaningful, industry-connected experiences that help students discover their passions and build real-world skills. We'll examine proven approaches to career awareness, field experiences, guest speakers, and work-based learning that keep students engaged and informed. Discover how to build and sustain authentic industry partnerships, overcome common implementation barriers, and create exploration experiences that lead to genuine career interest—whether your students pursue higher education, employment, or other pathways. See how the Xello platform provides the infrastructure for implementing these strategies and learn about exciting new virtual work-based learning modules planned for development supported by the federal Career Pathways Exploration grant.

Presented by: Lee Chippis-Walton, Director, Office of Career and Technical Education, Division of Career and Adult Education

Topic # 16

Florida's Harm Prevention and Threat Management Model: Updates and Compliance Issues

This presentation provides updates related to Florida's threat management training and documentation. It also addresses common issues with school-based threat management teams that have been identified during compliance inspections.

Presented by: Angie Chesser, Statewide Threat Management Coordinator, Office of Safe Schools

Topic #17

Focus on Student Attendance: Best Practices and Using Enforcement Actions

This session will highlight practical strategies for promoting attendance, identifying and addressing barriers to regular attendance, engaging families, and using attendance data to guide interventions. Participants will review applicable attendance requirements and enforcement actions and gain a better understanding of school and district responsibilities for addressing attendance concerns.

Presented by: Dr. Andrew Weatherill, Senior Director of Student Services; Beverley Wilks, School Social Work Consultant; Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Topic #18

Learning Together: Strengthening Instruction Through the Cognitive Science of Learning

This session positions participants as learners to examine how instructional design shapes student learning and contributes to instructional variability. Through interactive experiences and research-based insights, the session explores how cognitive load, use of prior knowledge, and opportunities to build and retrieve knowledge impact learning experiences. This session establishes a shared lens for strengthening instruction—clarifying what effective instruction feels like from the learner's perspective and providing a common foundation of the science of learning to reduce variability and improve learning outcomes.

Presented by: Dusty Sims, State Executive Director; Dr. Amy Yarick-Bullock, State Assistant Director; Bureau of School Improvement

Topic #19

Ready from the Start: Connecting Early Learning to Kindergarten Readiness

Kindergarten readiness begins well before the first day of school. This session provides district leaders with an overview of Florida's School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) programs and their role in supporting kindergarten readiness. Participants will explore Florida's VPK accountability system, kindergarten-readiness measures, and statewide support that strengthen early learning programs. The session will also highlight how a shared understanding of early learning data and expectations can promote alignment, collaboration, and successful transitions into kindergarten.

Presented by: Cassandra Jackson, VPK Program Manager, Division of Early Learning

Topic #20

Are You Smarter Than a High School Academic Team? An Introduction to the Commissioner's Academic Challenge

Step into the role of a Commissioner's Academic Challenge competitor and experience the excitement of Florida's premier academic competition firsthand. Through a fun, interactive team challenge, participants will sample the types of questions students tackle in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, world languages, technology, and more. Following the competition, attendees will learn how the Commissioner's Academic Challenge promotes academic excellence, engages high-achieving students, and provides districts with an opportunity to showcase their brightest scholars on a statewide stage. Whether your district currently participates or is considering joining, you'll leave with the information and resources needed to get started.

Presented by: Lisa Rawls, Senior Coordinator – Academic Competitions; Joe McNaughton, Chief Academic Officer; Polk County Public Schools

Topic #21

School Safety Grants 101 – Don't Leave Money on the Table

This presentation will provide district staff and school-level administrators with a practical overview of grant opportunities available through the Office of Safe Schools and how these resources can support local school safety priorities. Participants will gain a better understanding of available funding, eligibility requirements, and key considerations for accessing grant dollars. The goal is to ensure districts are informed, prepared, and positioned to maximize every available resource – because when funding is available to strengthen school safety, districts should not leave money on the table.

Presented by: Melissa Baker, Director of Contracts and Grants, Office of Safe School

Topic #22

House Bill 875: The Road to Implementation

This session highlights the statutory requirements from House Bill 875 (2025) for rule development. District leaders will receive an overview of adopted State Board of Education rules and implementation guidance, which includes instructional evaluations, Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAP) and timelines.

Presented by: Dr. Sarah Hall and Betsy Williamson; Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention

Topic #23

Scaffolding and Differentiation: Timely Support for Student Success

This session focuses on how scaffolded and differentiated instruction can strengthen instruction and support student learning. This session also clarifies the similarities and differences between these practices and how each helps students access grade-level content while managing cognitive demand. Emphasis is placed on how intentional scaffolding and differentiation support understanding, engagement, and independence by responding to student needs without lowering

expectations. The session highlights these practices as essential features of high-quality Tier 1 instruction across all tiers of instruction.

Presented by: Sandy Brusca, Regional Executive Director (Region 2); Khris Henderson, Regional Assistant Director (Region 2); Bureau of School Improvement

Topic #24

Building Better Citizens: Why Every School Should Have a Speech and Debate Team

Speech and debate is a transformative educational experience that prepares students to engage confidently and thoughtfully with the world around them. Through speech and debate, students learn how to communicate effectively, think critically, construct and defend ideas, and respectfully engage with different perspectives. Speech and debate students become active, informed citizens prepared to navigate complex issues, contribute meaningfully to their communities, and tackle challenges encountered beyond graduation.

In this session, participants will explore why speech and debate is more than an extracurricular activity: it is an investment in developing a new generation of informed, articulate, confident, and engaged citizens. Join us to learn how to bring speech and debate to your school and discover the resources and support available through the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative (FCDI).

Presented by: Kendall Lindsay, FCDI Program Manager

Topic #25

Resiliency Florida: NEW Resiliency Endorsement for Florida's Educators

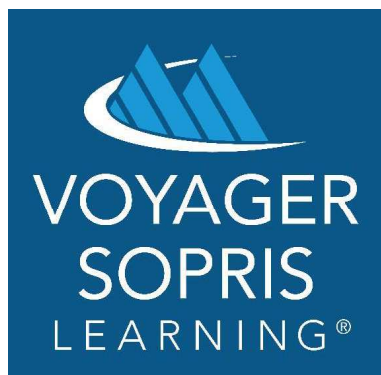
Participants will gain insight during this interactive session on how the new Resiliency Endorsement for Florida's educators helps to support positive student outcomes.

Presented by: Dr. Andria Cole, Bureau Chief; Natasha Lunan, Director for Family and Community Engagement; Bureau of Family and Community Outreach

WIFI:

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Save the Date:

FOIL Spring 2027 Conference

May 25th -26th

Orlando Marriott Lake Mary