








FOIL Spring 2026 Conference Agenda

Wednesday, May 27, 2026			
Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay		PRESENTER	LOCATION
TIME	CONTENT		
7:30am - 5:00pm	REGISTRATION OPENS/EXHIBIT HALL OPEN AREA		
7:30am - 8:30am	Breakfast		
8:30am - 8:45am	FOIL Welcome/ Platinum Partners Recognition   	Gina Tovine, Ed.D., FOIL President	Audubon Ballroom
8:45am - 10:55am	Opening General Session Florida Department of Education Updates	Led by FDOE Team	
10:55am - 11:00am	Gold Sponsor Recognition    	Patrick Wnek, Ed.D., FOIL Vice President	
11:00am - 11:15am	Break		
11:15am - 12:15pm	Leading with Intention: What Educational Leaders Should Know About AI in K-12 Education	Maya Israel, Ph.D., Professor & Director, CS Everyone Center	Audubon Ballroom
12:15pm - 1:30pm	Lunch		
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Breakout Session #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Division of Early Learning – What’s New and What’s Next in VPK? * We Are All Math People: Mathematics Coaching for School-Based Leadership * Bridging Policy and Practice: Social Studies Updates with a Spotlight on Structured Academic Controversy * Morphology Matters: Strengthening the Bridge from Foundational Skills to Comprehension * Specially Designed Instruction for Students with Disabilities * School Safety Update 		White Ibis Sandhill Crane Snowy Egret Audubon- Ballroom A Audubon- Ballroom BC Audubon- DEF
2:45pm - 3:45pm	Breakout Session #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Coaching for Mathematical Thinking: Moving Beyond Telling to Transforming Instruction * Productive Struggle: Advancing Student Thinking in Mathematics * Bridging Policy and Practice: Social Studies Updates with a Spotlight on Structured Academic Controversy * Unlocking Insights with the Florida VAM Visualization Tool: SSO Roles, Reports, and Real-World Applications * Differentiated Monitoring System for IDEA * Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Model: Updates and Compliance Issues 		White Ibis Sandhill Crane Snowy Egret Audubon- Ballroom A Audubon- Ballroom BC Audubon- DEF
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Breakout Session #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hope Florida: The Power of School Liaisons * Supporting Student-Centered Mathematics Classrooms * Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future: 9/11’s Place in America250 * From Plan to Practice: District Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan * Supporting Reading & Math in the Classroom and Beyond with New Worlds Reading & Florida Tutoring Advantage * Leveraging Funds for Impact: Maximizing Resources in Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Schools 		White Ibis Sandhill Crane Snowy Egret Audubon- Ballroom A Audubon- Ballroom BC Audubon- DEF
5:00pm - 7:00pm	RECEPTION (Skylark – 14th Floor)		

Thursday, May 28, 2026			
Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay		PRESENTER	LOCATION
TIME	CONTENT		
7:00am - 8:00am	BREAKFAST		
7:00am - 1:00pm	REGISTRATION OPENS / EXHIBIT HALL OPEN AREA		
8:00am - 9:00am	Breakout Session #4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Office of Professional Practices Services: Updates and Reminders * Strengthening the Tier 1 Core in Mathematics * From Classroom to Career: The Power of Apprenticeship in Teacher Preparation * Aligning Resources for School Improvement Efforts * Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future: 9/11’s Place in America250 * Florida Advanced Courses and Tests (FACT): From Pilot Year to Statewide Implementation 		White Ibis Sandhill Crane Snowy Egret Audubon- Ballroom A Audubon- Ballroom BC Audubon- DEF
9:15am - 10:15am	Breakout Session #5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Office of Professional Practices Services: Updates and Reminders * Strengthening the Tier 1 Core in Mathematics * From Classroom to Career: The Power of Apprenticeship in Teacher Preparation * Aligning Resources for School Improvement Efforts * Supports for English Language Learners to Maximize Outcomes * Florida’s Secondary CTE Program Quality Audit 		White Ibis Sandhill Crane Snowy Egret Audubon- Ballroom A Audubon- Ballroom BC Audubon- DEF
10:15am - 10:45am	Mid-Morning Refreshments		
10:45am - 12:15pm	Closing General Session FDOE Assessment and Accountability Updates	Led by FDOE Team	Audubon Ballroom
12:15pm - 1:00pm	Lunch (On Your Own)		

FOIL Spring 2026 Breakout Sessions Details

Session Topic #1

Office of Professional Practices Services: Updates and Reminders

This session will give a better understanding of who and what should be reported to the Office of Professional Practices Services, help build awareness, be proactive about supporting staff in understanding recent cases and how to make good choices. This session will also cover uses of the Clearinghouse maintained by the Agency for Health Care Administration.

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

Session Topic #2

From Classroom to Career: The Power of Apprenticeship in Teacher Preparation

Strong mentorship programs produce well-prepared teachers! This session will provide an overview of the varying pathways to the education profession in Florida, with a focus on the Teacher Apprenticeship Program. The pivotal role of the mentorship component highlights the importance of partnerships between school districts and state universities. The essential components of building robust mentor programs will be covered, from mentor selection to ongoing professional learning, through the lens of teacher apprenticeship. Through effective mentorship training, Florida's mentors will be equipped with the necessary skills to coach mentees, thus increasing the quality of teacher preparation.

Presenter: Dr. Sarah Hall, Chief; Betsy Williamson, Director for Educator Preparation; Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention

Session Topic #3

Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future: 9/11's Place in America250

This professional learning session equips educators with the knowledge, strategies, and resources to meaningfully connect the celebration of America's 250th anniversary with the remembrance of the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Aligned to Florida's Civics & Government (CG) benchmarks and 9/11 Heroes' Day requirements, this session supports teachers in delivering instruction that is both impactful and standards-based.

Participants will explore the enduring principles of American democracy and examine how these ideals are reflected in moments of national challenge, including September 11, 2001. Through interactive activities, primary source analysis, and structured discussion, school leaders and educators will engage in comparing founding-era civic values with modern examples of service, sacrifice, and unity. This session emphasizes that America 250 is not only a celebration, but also an opportunity for reflection.

Presenters: Traci Mulitsa, Civics Literacy Director; Lauren Kappler, Civics Literacy Director

Session Topic #4

Bridging Policy and Practice: Social Studies Updates with a Spotlight on Structured Academic Controversy

This session will provide key social studies updates, including legislative changes over the past few years, instructional materials, timelines and upcoming professional learning opportunities. Participants will also receive a preview of a standards-aligned Structured Academic Controversy (SAC), designed to move students beyond learning about political ideologies to evaluating their real-world impact. By analyzing communist regimes through primary sources and evaluating their contradictions with democratic principles, this approach models how to engage students in evidence-based discussion, critical thinking and meaningful civic learning.

Presenters: Traci Mulitsa, Civics Literacy Director; Lauren Kappler, Civics Literacy Director

Session Topic #5

Coaching for Mathematical Thinking: Moving Beyond Telling to Transforming Instruction

How do we ensure coaching actually improves student thinking, not just teacher actions? This interactive session engages participants in experiencing, analyzing and practicing coaching moves that center mathematical thinking and maintain cognitive demand. Participants will engage in a live coaching simulation grounded in a rich mathematics task, examine how coaching stance and purpose influence instructional decisions and practice using targeted facilitation moves to keep student reasoning at the forefront. Designed for instructional leaders and coaches, this session bridges theory and practice, providing immediately applicable strategies to strengthen mathematics instruction through coaching.

Presenter: Devon Sobut, B.E.S.T. Mathematics Coach

Session Topic #6

Supporting Student-Centered Mathematics Classrooms

Participants will understand the benefits of student-centered instruction, as outlined in the Formula for Success and will determine strategies to support their teachers/schools with implementing student-centered instruction.

Presenter: Jennifer Corey, B.E.S.T. Mathematics Coach

Session Topic #7

Productive Struggle: Advancing Student Thinking in Mathematics

Participants will explore productive struggle through the lens of the Science of Learning. They will examine how productive struggle and intentional planning for tasks aligned to the B.E.S.T. Mathematics Standards and Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning Standards (MTRs) support deeper learning and long-term retention. They will reflect on how classroom tasks, teacher moves and expectations can either promote or hinder productive struggle and will consider leadership actions that foster classrooms where students are engaged in cognitively demanding, meaningful learning.

Presenter: Julie Leofanti, B.E.S.T. Mathematics Coach

Session Topic #8

We Are All Math People: Mathematics Coaching for School-Based Leadership

This session focuses on mathematics coaching for school-based leadership. Participants will explore Florida's Formula for Success, the B.E.S.T. Instructional Guide for Mathematics (B1G-M) and the Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning Standards (MTRs). Focus will be on look-fors within the mathematics classroom to strengthen Tier 1 instruction.

Presenter: Amanda Price, B.E.S.T. Mathematics Coach

Session Topic #9

Strengthening the Tier 1 Core in Mathematics

This session focuses on strengthening Tier 1 core instruction as outlined in Florida's Formula for Success. Participants will examine leadership actions that ensure benchmark-aligned, high-quality instruction is consistently implemented within all mathematics classrooms for ALL students. Participants will leave with tools to strengthen Tier 1 instruction, support teachers effectively, and align leadership practices to Florida's definition for high-quality instruction.

Presenter: Jessica Beckford, B.E.S.T. Mathematics Coach

Session Topic #10

Supports for English Language Learners to Maximize Outcomes

This session will focus on how to maximize outcomes for ELLs through high-quality, evidence-based professional learning anchored in the Florida Teacher Standards for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Endorsement, strengthening Language Instruction Educational Programs and ensuring high expectations for teachers and leaders across Florida districts and local educational agencies.

Presenter: Dr. Raydel Hernandez, Chief, Bureau of Student Achievement Through Language Acquisition

Session Topic #11

Specially Designed Instruction for Students with Disabilities

This session will help participants understand the purpose of Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) for students with disabilities. SDI is connected to one or more IEP goals and involves adapting the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to support students in meeting those goals.

Presenters: Jennifer Coburn, Senior Educational Program Director for Instructional Support Services; Chelsea Strickland, Educational Program Director of Instructional Support Services; Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Session Topic #12

Differentiated Monitoring System for IDEA

Participants will learn about the federal monitoring process for IDEA at the state level and how districts are monitored by the Florida Department of Education on eighteen fiscal and programmatic indicators. Districts that focus on these indicators from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary outcomes will improve educational results for students with disabilities. This session will also include information on districts' responsibilities to private school students with disabilities, including child find, proportionate share funding, and providing services.

Presenter: Erin Leathers, Senior Educational Program Director for Dispute Resolution and Monitoring, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Session Topic #13

Hope Florida: The Power of School Liaisons

Hope Florida uses Hope Navigators to guide Floridians on an individualized path to prosperity, economic self-sufficiency, and hope by focusing on community collaboration between the private sector, faith-based community, nonprofits, and government entities to break down traditional community silos. This session will provide an orientation of the role of the Hope Florida School Liaison with an opportunity to hear about the implementation of model districts.

Presenter: Dr. Andrew Weatherill, Senior Educational Program Director of Student Support Services, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Session Topic #14

Leveraging Funds for Impact: Maximizing Resources in Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Schools

In this session, participants will learn how CSI schools can strategically leverage available funds to strengthen school improvement efforts and improve student outcomes. Participants will examine how to align funding decisions to school needs, priorities, and evidence-based strategies, while considering how resources can be used to build capacity, support effective instruction, and sustain improvement over time. This session will also include district practices and strategies that originated from the 2025-26 Comprehensive Support Grant.

Presenters: Heather McCoy, Senior Director, Bureau of School Improvement; Matthew Wiley, Assistant Bureau Chief, Bureau of Federal Educational Programs

Session Topic #15

From Plan to Practice: District Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan

A District Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan (CERP) is more than an annual requirement. Rule 6A-6.053, F.A.C., outlines the systems, structures and supports districts must have in place to implement a comprehensive system of reading instruction with fidelity across school settings. This session is designed for district and school leaders who may not directly develop the CERP but are responsible for supporting its implementation through strong leadership, coaching, professional learning, data use, monitoring and continuous improvement. Participants will examine the leadership implications of the rule and engage in discussions around best practices for strengthening literacy systems across schools and content areas.

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

Session Topic #16

Morphology Matters: Strengthening the Bridge from Foundational Skills to Comprehension

This session highlights the essential role of morphological awareness in advancing literacy across grade levels. Participants will explore how morphology connects foundational skills to comprehension, supporting vocabulary development and multisyllabic word reading as text complexity increases. Through research, classroom application and reflection, district leaders will examine current practices and identify opportunities to strengthen morphological instruction to improve student outcomes.

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

Session Topic #17

Supporting Reading & Math in the Classroom and Beyond with New Worlds Reading & Florida Tutoring Advantage

This session will highlight how New Worlds Reading and Florida Tutoring Advantage work together to support student success in reading and math, both in the classroom and beyond. Participants will gain a clear understanding of how to identify eligible students, connect families to resources, and leverage both programs to extend learning beyond the school day. Instructional leaders will leave equipped to strengthen family engagement, increase program participation, and support measurable academic growth in reading and math.

Presenters: Jennie Wise and Michelle McGriff, University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning

Session Topic #18

Unlocking Insights with the Florida VAM Visualization Tool: SSO Roles, Reports, and Real-World Applications

K-12 educators across Florida already have access to a powerful tool that can enhance their work in districts, schools, and classrooms. Join us for an interactive, user focused session exploring the FL VAM Visualization Tool and the many ways it can support educators across the state. Participants will enjoy a detailed walkthrough of each SSO user role, clarifying the specific access and functionality available to different members of your team. The session will also showcase enhancements to the system and share how they can be leveraged for identifying school strengths, planning improvements, and informing student placement decisions. The session concludes with dedicated Q&A time to ensure that you leave confident, prepared, and fully equipped to maximize the impact of the FL VAM Visualization Tool in your district.

Presenter: Dr. Jonte' Hill, SAS EVAAS Educator Support Specialist

Session Topic #19

Aligning Resources for School Improvement Efforts

This session helps leaders use existing fiscal and programmatic resources to support school improvement priorities. Participants will consider where support is being used effectively, where gaps or redundancies exist and how resources can be better coordinated to strengthen implementation and sustain improvement over time.

Presenters: *Dustin Sims, State Executive Director; Dr. Angie Mahone, State Assistant Director; Bureau of School Improvement*

Session Topic #20

School Safety Update

This session will provide district administrators with current information relating to their role in school safety.

Presenter: *Tim Hay, Executive Director, Office of Safe Schools*

Session Topic #21

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

This session will provide district administrators updates relating to threat management training and documentation, to include common issues with school-based threat management teams discovered during compliance inspections.

Presenter: *Angie Chesser, Deputy Director, Office of Safe Schools*

Session Topic #22

Florida's Secondary CTE Program Quality Audit

This session will provide an overview of the Florida CTE Program Quality Audit (CTE Audit) and will include a review of each of the statutory and regulatory requirements, metrics and associated targets, and 2026 program "phase out" requirements.

Presenters: *Tara Goodman, Vice Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education; Mark Baird, Associate Vice Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education*

Session Topic #23

Florida Advanced Courses and Tests (FACT): From Pilot Year to Statewide Implementation

This session will include an overview of the Student Success Center and the FACT Program. Participants will learn more about the FACT College Algebra Pilot and its implementation (applications, summer institute, enrollment, regional check-ins with FACT teachers), lessons learned from the field, and the upcoming FACT U.S. History Pilot and next steps.

Presenter: *Dr. Kiara McCoy, Director, Student Success Center, Florida College System*

Session Topic #24

Division of Early Learning – What's New and What's Next in VPK?

This session will highlight the latest developments in Florida's VPK program. Participants will gain insight into VPK program progress and impact, updates on assessment and accountability, curriculum review and approval process, the summer bridge program, new professional learning opportunities, and legislative changes impacting VPK.

Presenter: *Cari Miller, Chancellor of Early Learning*

WIFI:

Wi-Fi Network/SSID: Hyatt-Meeting

Pass Code: FOIL2026