

Summit Session Descriptions:

- **Keynote: Rethinking PD For Leaders to Respond to the Times**

In all likelihood, what leadership looked like when you started in your role and what it looks like today is quite different. Whether you've been in your role for 5 years or 25 years, today's challenges are unlike those we saw before the pandemic. Achievement gaps have grown, student behaviors have increased, burnout has grown, referrals to special education are on the rise. Yet the opportunities for professional learning to enhance the role of district leader have largely remained the same. Dr. Darren Kennedy will unpack this and explore ways that Special Education Directors and School Leaders can move to rethink professional learning for leadership development.

Presented by: Dr. Darren Kennedy, Senior Consultant, Public Consulting Group

- **Interdepartmental and Multi-District Partnerships for Change: Ensuring Student and Staff Safety Utilizing Threat Assessment and Positive Behavior Support Models**

This presentation will review the benefits and strategies of collaborative district leadership to meet specific student behavioral and mental health needs through the development and implementation of a district threat assessment model and a county behavioral consortium. District leadership practices utilized that have been critical for implementation of best practices and adjustments to meet current student needs will be discussed.

Presented by: Teresa Herrero Taylor, PhD BCBA-D, Director of Special Services, Jackson Township Public Schools & NJPSA Special Education Committee Chair & Joseph Palumbo, Director of School Counseling, Jackson Township Public Schools.

- **Inclusion Through School Based Health Services: A Whole-Child Approach**

Now more than ever, educators are looking to take a whole-child approach of care when supporting their students.

Each student's academic, physical, cultural, and social-emotional development must be viewed as a shared responsibility of the child, parent, and faculty. This presentation will highlight the successes of in-district health clinics piloted in Jersey City Public Schools. Dr. Gerry Crisonino and his colleague will walk participants through how these clinics were developed and the beneficial impact they've had on their staff, students, and families. This session will focus on the relationship building and collaboration needed to order to bring about positive change for students.

Presented by: Dr. Gerry Crisonino, Assistant Superintendent: Special Education Department, Jersey City Public Schools & Colleague

- **Legal Update: Topical Issues in Special Education Law**

John Worthington, Esq. will use this time to provide relevant legal updates on what's happening in Special Education in New Jersey and nationally.

Presented by: John Worthington, Esq., Education Law Specialist, NJPSA/FEA/LEGAL ONE

- **Elevate Your Leadership Through NJTSS**

Join us to learn effective ways to empower your teams to create systems, tiers of interventions, and services, which results in a culture focused on meeting the needs of the whole child and improving student outcomes.

Presented by: Mollye Kiss, Senior Consultant, Public Consulting Group & Christine Cline, Consultant, Public Consulting Group

- **SEPAG 2.0 - A Collaborative Partnership: Strategies for Strength and Growth**

How do I get parents to come to meetings? How do I control the group? How do I prevent this from becoming a gripe session? In this workshop, attendees will learn to address the challenges associated with establishing an effective Special Education Parent Advisory Group. We will discuss strategies and share resources and tools to facilitate collaboration and partnerships that will benefit students, families, and school staff alike.

Presented by: Debbie Esposito, Project Director, START-Engaging Parents of Students with Disabilities at NJ SPAN

- **Reaching All Learners**

This session will equip educators with the tools needed to include, support and engage students in the mathematics classroom. Strategies shared will boost student understanding and reduce barriers to learning. Participants will also get the opportunity to leave with activities that provide access to all students irrespective of ability or disability.

Presented by: Chinwe Osondu, Ed.D., Assistant Director, Office of Special Education at the New Jersey Department of Education

- **Giving License to Effective Co-teaching**

This session will provide leaders an opportunity to enhance effective co-teaching practices within their schools and throughout their districts. Participants will leave with replicable strategies to promote and maintain strong co-teaching on their teams.

Presented by: Dr. Jerome Patterson, Student Support Coordinator, LEAD Charter School and Matthew Korobkin, Senior Consultant, Public Consulting Group