

ARIZONA ASSESSMENTS CONFERENCE

Integrating assessments, standards, and accountability
for student success

Thursday, September 19, 2024 – Session Details

General Session: 8:30am – 9:30am

Keynote Address: 8:45am – 9:30am

Keynote Address: *Maximizing Learner Outcomes through Effective Data Utilization*

Description:

In her keynote address, Dr. Oliver will delve into the critical role of formative data in enhancing educational practices and improving learner outcomes. Drawing from her extensive experience and research, Dr. Oliver will discuss how educators can effectively leverage a variety of formative data sources, including screeners, progress monitoring tools, and both formative and interim assessments.

Dr. Oliver will provide practical strategies for integrating these diverse data points into a cohesive approach that informs instruction, identifies student needs, and tracks progress. Attendees will gain insights into best practices for data collection, analysis, and application to ensure that all students receive the support and instruction they need to succeed.

Furthermore, Dr. Oliver will include specific use cases from actual districts in Arizona and other states, illustrating how these strategies have been successfully implemented to drive student achievement. These real-world examples will offer valuable perspectives on the challenges and successes of data-driven instruction.

Additionally, Wendy will highlight a variety of best practices from current research, providing a comprehensive overview of the most effective methods in use today. This will enable educators to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the field and apply these insights to their own practices.

By the end of her presentation, educators will be equipped with actionable techniques to use formative data more effectively, ultimately fostering an environment of continuous improvement and academic excellence. Dr. Oliver's keynote promises to be an enlightening session for all educators committed to data-driven instruction and improved learner outcomes.

Presenter: Wendy Oliver

Dr. Wendy Oliver is a renowned expert in the field of education, specializing in data-driven instruction, assessment, and digital tools. With a career spanning almost three decades, Dr. Oliver has dedicated her work to improving educational outcomes through the strategic use of data.

Dr. Oliver holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from a prestigious university and has served in various capacities, including classroom teacher, and as a district and state leader in Tennessee. She also began Tennessee's first online learning program and served as the Chief Learning Architect for Arizona State University when they launched their first 9-12 online learning program. Her extensive

experience has given her a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities in modern education.

Throughout her career, Dr. Oliver has been a vocal advocate for the use of formative data to enhance teaching and learning. She has been published in peer-reviewed journals and has presented nationally on her research, including her work on value-added growth models in the online environment. Her tenure in the Tennessee State Department of Assessment and her role as a learning architect for over 20 years have solidified her as a leader in the field.

Currently, Dr. Oliver serves as the Chief Learning Architect for FocalPoint K12, a company specializing in formative and summative assessments with a mission to improve learning outcomes through easy-to-read data visualizations. She is also the author of various software programs and three books focusing on digital learning. Her expertise extends to consulting on implementing embedded assessment, game-based assessments, digital pedagogy, and continuous improvement practices.

Room: Media Center

Target Audience: All

Breakout Session 1: 9:45am – 11:00am

Breakout Session: *Updates and Best Practices for Using ChatGPT and other Large Language Models (LLMs) in K-12 Education*

Description:

Join me for an informative session on the latest developments in ChatGPT and other Large Language Models (LLMs). During this session, we will explore multi-state focus group data, highlighting how states and districts are shaping policies for LLMs, their general attitudes towards these technologies, and their practical applications in the classroom. In this session you will:

- Examine how various states and districts are handling policies related to LLMs.
- Understand the general attitudes towards LLMs from educators and policymakers.
- Discover innovative ways LLMs are being integrated into teaching and learning practices.
- Review the latest national and state-level policies and recommendations for the effective use of LLMs in education.
- Gain practical skills with hands-on exercises to improve your prompting techniques for more reliable results.

This workshop will provide a high-level overview followed by an interactive session to equip you with the tools and knowledge necessary to effectively implement LLMs in your educational environment.

Presenter: Wendy Oliver

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Room: Cira

Target Audience: All

Breakout Session 1: 9:45am – 11:00am

Breakout Session: *Connecting Instruction to AASA's Math Reporting Category: Numbers & Operations – Fractions for Grades 3-5*

Description:

This session will assist teachers, coaches, and administrators in supporting students with different proficiency levels of AASA's Math Reporting Category: Number & Operations - Fractions with item-types and assessment tools. Participants will learn how item design will impact learning in math. Participants will have an opportunity to interact with Item Specifications and sample items to create AASA like item-types. Participants will also engage with latest AASA data in Math to design and develop a personal item bank.

Presenter:

Melanie Hill, Achievement Assessment Developer, Arizona Department of Education

Melanie Hill is an Achievement Assessment Developer for the Arizona Department of Education. In her role, she assists with the development, implementation and creation of materials that support student and teacher preparation. In addition, she will provide content expertise and assessment development support for the standards-based AASA Math and AzSCI Science assessments. Melanie has been an educator for over 19 years and has her Bachelor of Arts in Education as well as a Master's in Secondary Education with an emphasis in STEM.

Room: Solana A

Target Audience:

- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- District Test Coordinators
- Elementary Teachers

Breakout Session 1: 9:45am – 11:00am

Breakout Session: *Excellence in Motion: Re-evaluating How We Evaluate Our Physical Education Teachers, Enhancing Accountability and Performance*

Description:

In this session, we will delve into the crucial topic of re-evaluating how we assess and support our physical education teachers. With the aim of enhancing both accountability and performance, we will explore innovative strategies and methodologies that can transform how we evaluate physical education instructors.

Some of the key points that will be covered in this presentation are:

1. Understanding the Current Landscape in Physical Education
2. Shifting Focus: From Compliance to Competence
3. Incorporating Multiple Assessment Modalities
4. Leveraging Technology
5. Professional development
6. Cultivating a Culture of Accountability

By re-evaluating our evaluation practices, we can enhance teacher performance and ensure the delivery of high-quality physical education that positively impacts students' outcomes and overall well-being.

Presenters:

Angela Budovsky-Robinson, Health and Physical Education Specialist, Arizona Department of Education

Angela Budovsky-Robinson currently serves as the Health and Physical Education Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education, where she provides leadership and professional development on all components of Physical Education and Health programming for the K-12 Academic Standards Division.

Angela has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education from Adelphi University and focuses her work on the implementation of the Health and Physical Education standards. Her work experience includes teaching Physical Education and Health in the primary as well as secondary levels in the state of New York. Angela also worked in the state of Arizona from 2016 - 2022 as a primary Physical Education teacher as well as a district Instructional Coach where she supported educators on curriculum, assessments, and best practices.

Angela has presented at state and national conferences and is currently the Best Practice Chair for the Arizona Health and Physical Education state organization. Angela has a passion for physical literacy and high-quality health and physical education programs.

Keri Schoeff, Title IV-A Safe, Healthy & Active Students Specialist, Arizona Department of Education

Keri Schoeff is the Title IV-A Safe, Healthy & Active Students Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education, where she provides leadership and professional development on all components of Title IV-A funding and programming. Her role involves ensuring that every student has access to a safe, healthy, active, and supportive learning environment. Keri holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education and Health Education.

Room: Solana B

Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders

Breakout Session 1: 9:45am – 11:00am

Breakout Session: *Navigating English Language Proficiency Reports and Protecting Student Identifiable Information*

Description:

Access to the English Language Proficiency (ELP) reports is restricted to authorized users because the reports contain student identifiable information. It is the responsibility of district and school administrators to gain awareness of efficient and effective uses of ELP score reports to improve the educational outcomes for EL students. ADE's EL reports, EL70, EL72, and the EL73, are critical for researching a student's EL history whenever a student transfers to a new school or district. By using these reports, administrators can determine students' currently eligibility status for EL services and whether they are receiving EL services. The ELP reports help administrators determine if a student requires an AZELLA Placement test and/or a Spring Reassessment ELP test. In this session, attendees will learn which student information they can find in each of the ELP reports, the purpose and uses of each report, their location and availability, and how to manage them to resolve potential integrity issues.

Presenter:

Brenda Vanderwerp, AZELLA State Test Coordinator, Arizona Department of Education

Brenda Vanderwerp, a US Air Force veteran and long-time educator, is the AZELLA State Test Coordinator for the Assessment Unit of the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Ms. Vanderwerp had had a career spanning more than 29 years in the field of education and second language acquisition in different capacities – as an ESL teacher and academic coach for 12 years in Glendale, AZ; with the Office of English Language Acquisition Services at ADE for 2 years; the Educational Technology Unit and AZ State E-rate Coordinator at ADE for 3 years; and with the Assessments Unit at ADE for 12 years. The English Language Proficiency Reports are one of Ms. Vanderwerp's areas of expertise.

Room: Solana CD

Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- District Test Coordinators

Breakout Session 1: 9:45am – 11:00am

Breakout Session: *Comparison of Arizona's Spring 2024 ACT Performance to Other ACT Contract States*

Description:

One of the major advantages of using the ACT as a high school assessment is that it is administered to students across the country. In this session, we will focus on examining the performance of Arizona students to students nationally. We will share the results of a new study that takes demographics and other school characteristics into account to create a fair comparison between Arizona's students and students in the 21 other states that administer the ACT to students as part of their school-day testing program. Session attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of how their schools' and districts' ACT scores fit into the national context.

Presenters:

Colin Dingler, PhD – Senior Director, State and Federal Policy, ACT

With over a decade of experience at ACT, Colin leads policy and advocacy efforts supporting ACT's state partners in their use of ACT's academic and workforce assessments. An important focus of his work is state use of assessments for accountability. Prior to his role with the Government and Public Relations Team, he worked as a state policy analyst in State and Federal Programs and as a principal on the Assessment Design team. In addition to contributing to the design of ACT's nationally recognized assessments, Colin has given presentations and led workshops with ACT's customers on a variety of topics related to test design and development, including test alignment to state academic standards.

James Riddlesperger, Program Director, State and Federal Policy, ACT

James joined the State and Federal policy team at ACT in early 2024, having spent more than a decade working on issues related to education data, accountability, and reporting. As director of performance management at the New Jersey Department of Education, James oversaw state and federal accountability as well as the state report card. In other roles, James has served as a vendor to states and districts developing public reporting tools and as a data strategy lead, working to support districts and schools in using instructional data captured in learning management systems.

Room: Solana FG

Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- District Test Coordinators

Breakout Session 1: 9:45am – 11:00am

Breakout Session: *Unlocking Potential: Effective Interpretation and Utilization of MSAA Results*

Description:

The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) is part of a comprehensive assessment system covering ELA, Math, and Science for grades 3–8 and 11. Its primary goal is to promote increasing higher academic outcomes for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Despite its potential, many educators and administrators struggle with interpreting and effectively utilizing MSAA results, as indicated by recent surveys. This presentation will guide participants through the purpose, design, and results of the MSAA. Through this, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the MSAA and learn practical strategies for using its scores to enhance student outcomes, including (1) knowing how to interpret MSAA scores accurately and effectively, (2) understanding the progression of performance level descriptors and how to use them in results interpretation, (3) addressing challenges and barriers educators have identified in using MSAA scores effectively. The session will include a Q&A segment to engage participants in discussing specific concerns and sharing additional strategies for effectively interpreting, using, and communicating MSAA results.

Presenters:

Qi Qin, Psychometrician, Cognia

Qi Qin is a seasoned psychometrician with extensive expertise in large-scale assessments. With a background in both state departments and large school districts, as well as experience in an assessment provider company, Qi's diverse experience encompasses a deep understanding of summative and interim assessments, making her a valuable addition to the MSAA assessment project.

Anita Franklin, Accessibility Assessment Specialist, Cognia

After spending more than 23 years in public education as a special education teacher and district coach, Anita now works as an accessibility specialist at Cognia. In addition to supporting the MSAA team for the past two years, she also works as a dyslexia therapist, providing one-on-one structured literacy instruction to students with reading disabilities.

Room: Solana H

Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- Special Education Leaders
- District Test Coordinators
- Elementary Teachers
- Secondary Teachers

Breakout Session 1: 9:45am – 11:00am

Breakout Session: *Early Literacy Assessment – ROLLING with the Data*

Description:

Keeping up with early literacy foundational skills data can be a chore. GESD created a system that rolls assessment so that data is clear, concise, and always available to make data driven decisions. How can we do this too? I'm glad you asked. Setting quarterly expectations, clear outcomes, and a rolling calendar allows teachers to have clear communication around student learning outcomes and a clear picture of growth over time. By creating district or school level reporting expectations, Tier I teaching best practices can be discussed, Tier II and Tier III interventions can be created at the task level in a moment's notice. Are you ready to streamline early literacy skills at your site?

Walk away with examples of a foundational skill calendar, reporting system, intervention suggestions, and planning documents to use at your site.

Presenters:

Norma Jauregui, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Glendale Elementary District – Burton School

Norma Jáuregui is the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services for Glendale Elementary School District. Originally from Guadalajara, Jalisco, she moved around a lot as a child. Spending her early years in places like Salem, Oregon; Chicago, Illinois; Beloit, Wisconsin and finally in Phoenix, Arizona. She has always had a passion for teaching and learning. She graduated from Arizona State University and received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis on Bilingual Education. She continued her education at Arizona State University and went on to receive a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and later in Educational Leadership. She is in her 27th year of working in public education, all of which was spent working in Title I schools. In her past lives, she has worked as an educator in 4th-8th grade mostly with English language learners. She enjoyed her years as an assistant principal, principal, principal coach, and director of curriculum and instruction. Her biggest joy in life is her three children. Her youngest is an 8th grader, one a junior in high school and most importantly she is proud of her very talented and hilarious (yes, she works on her own jokes) 24-year-old adult autistic child. She is passionate about public education and making a difference in every child's life.

Monica Silva, Coordinator for Research and Evaluation, Glendale Elementary District

Monica Silva is the Coordinator for Research & Evaluation in Glendale Elementary District. She supports with implementation of a balanced assessment system that aligns to our district's curriculum. She is an expert in analyzing data, supporting teams with formative assessments, and providing job-embedded professional development. She has been in education for 23 years. In those years, she has been a Science teacher, Math/Science Achievement Advisor, and school site administrator. She enjoys visiting museums and watching sci-fi movies.

Room: Solana I

Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- Special Education Leaders
- Elementary Teachers
- Other: Principals

Breakout Session 2: 11:15am – 12:30pm

Breakout Session: *An Overview of Arizona's A-F Letter Grade Accountability System*

Description:

Interested in learning more about our state's K-8 accountability system? Join us for a workshop led by district accountability leaders and the ADE's Chief Accountability Officer. In this workshop, participants will:

- Explore the components of the K-8 letter grade system.
- Learn how the K-8 letter grades are calculated.
- Discuss tips on maximizing letter grade points.

It is recommended to have ADEConnect with school accountability access so you can explore your school's letter grade points and dive deeper into each component.

Presenters:

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer, Arizona Department of Education

Sean Smith is currently the Chief Accountability Officer with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). The Accountability Team processes data to calculate A-F letter grades and to meet federal accountability guidelines. Sean has worked in education for over 20 years, serving as a paraprofessional, classroom teacher, and district administrator. Sean believes that accountability measures can help communicate the work schools do to serve students, families, and communities.

Tyson Myers, Coordinator for Assessment, Evaluation, and Accountability, Creighton Elementary District

Tyson Myers is the Coordinator for Assessment, Evaluation and Accountability at Creighton Elementary School District in Phoenix. In Tyson's 18 years with Creighton he has been a First and Third grade teacher, Instructional Coach, and district administrator. Tyson is Chair of the Arizona Assessment Collaborative as well as a member of the State Board of Education's Accountability Technical Advisory Committee who recommends updates and refinements to the state's letter grade system.

Jason Piontkowski, Director for Research and Evaluation, Madison School District

Jason Piontkowski is an experienced education professional with 20 years of service in Arizona public education. Currently working in the Madison School District as the Director for the Madison Research and Evaluation (R&E) department, he oversees critical areas including accountability, program evaluation, assessment, MTSS, and district strategic planning and improvement. In addition to his district responsibilities, Jason is the Vice Chairperson of the Arizona Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) and a board member of the Arizona Assessment Collaborative. He is focused on advancing decision-driven data collection systems and collaborating with peers to enhance decision-driven data practices across the state.

Andrea Dale, Data and Research Coordinator, Fowler Elementary District

Andrea Dale is the Data and Research Coordinator at Fowler Elementary School District in Phoenix. In her 15 years with Fowler, she has taught special education/resource, 5th grade, been an assistant principal and principal. Andrea also oversees all online programs for the district along with professional development for new teachers at the beginning of the school year.

Melissa Robinson, Curriculum Specialist for Data and Assessment, Osborn School District

Melissa Robinson is the Curriculum Specialist for Data and Assessment in the Osborn School District. Prior to her current role, Melissa served as a Master Teacher (Instructional Coach) at Osborn Middle School where she also taught ELA and social studies. Melissa currently leads district-wide initiatives related to assessment and provides professional development to support data analysis.

Room: Cira

Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- District Test Coordinators

Breakout Session 2: 11:15am – 12:30pm

Breakout Session: *Accessibility and Assessments*

Description:

This session provides educators and District Test Coordinators with an overview of accessibility and accommodations as it relates to statewide assessments. An overview of built-in accessibility features, Universal Test Administration Conditions and the Additional Accommodations Request Process for statewide assessments will be explored.

Presenter:

Sabiha Klepk, Accommodations and Accessibility Specialist, Arizona Department of Education

Sabiha Klepk is the Accommodations and Accessibility Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education. In her role, she strives to make statewide assessments accessible to all of Arizona's students. Her work focuses on guiding the development and review of accommodated forms, assessment accommodations, and supporting the field. Sabiha's previous experience includes: teaching special education, adult education and working with the community as a social worker in Arizona, Colorado, and Guatemala.

Room: Solana A

Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Leaders
- District Test Coordinators
- Elementary Teachers

Breakout Session 2: 11:15am – 12:30pm

Breakout Session: *Rethinking Classroom Science Assessments to Better Reflect the 3-Dimensional Standards*

Description:

Join our workshop as we revolutionize science assessment to align with the three dimensions of Arizona science standards and the AzSCI test. Teachers will explore innovative strategies to rethink classroom assessments, ensuring they authentically reflect disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts. Through collaborative discussions and hands-on activities, educators will learn to design assessments that mirror the rigor and complexity of the AzSCI test, preparing students for success. Participants will delve into practical examples and case studies, gaining insights into aligning assessment tasks with standard expectations. By the end of the workshop, educators will leave empowered with the tools and knowledge to transform their assessment practices, ultimately enhancing student learning and achievement in science education.

Presenters:

Brenna Chambers, Director of Professional Learning, Arizona Science Center

Brenna Chambers Follett is the Director of Professional Learning at Arizona Science Center. Brenna has taught grades ranging from preschool to upper elementary and finds joy in engaging curiosity in students of all ages. She is dedicated to equipping educators with the confidence in teaching complex science concepts in ways that students have ownership over their own learning.

Noortje Nelissen, Professional Development Facilitator, Arizona Science Center

Noortje Nelissen is a Professional Development Facilitator at Arizona Science Center. After graduating from Northern Arizona University with a degree in Elementary Education, she began teaching First and Second grade in the Kyrene School District. Noortje loved engaging her students in STEAM activities and seeing the excitement it brings each and every child while participating in problem-solving challenges. She is dedicated to bringing new opportunities for Early Childhood Educators at Arizona Science Center.

Room: Solana B

Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- Special Education Leaders
- Elementary Teachers
- Secondary Teachers

Breakout Session 2: 11:15am – 12:30pm

Breakout Session: *MOWR – Tips and Tricks for Third Grade*

Description:

This session will focus on how to prepare students in Grade 3 to effectively respond to various types of questions on the AASA ELA assessments. We will identify strategies to help students increase the quality of their responses, especially on the extended Writing prompts and ORF recordings. Participants will have an opportunity to use ELA standards to identify key vocabulary in questions and prompts, be introduced to resources available on the Assessments webpages, and tips to help students successfully record ORF passages in the TestNav platform. We will use the AASA Writing Rubrics to evaluate student work and to provide feedback to students for classroom assignments, interact with the Grade 3 Sample Test and create personalized resources for the classroom. Participants will leave the session with strategies, plans and resources to apply directly to classroom lessons, assignments and formative assessments.

Presenter:

Katie DiTullio, Director of Achievement Assessments, Arizona Department of Education

Katie DiTullio is the Director of Achievement Assessments for the Arizona Department of Education. Mrs. DiTullio taught for more than 10 years in local Arizona schools, with an emphasis in elementary and middle school English Language Arts. Currently, her work includes overseeing the development and implementation of the AASA and AzSCI assessments, which includes item review, data review and reporting, and the creation of ancillary support materials.

Room: Solana CD

Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- Special Education Leaders
- District Test Coordinators
- Elementary Teachers

Breakout Session 2: 11:15am – 12:30pm

Breakout Session: *Connecting Arizona Academic Standards and ACT Assessments*

Description:

To support Arizona educators and students, ACT developed the "Arizona Alignment Guide," a document intended to improve assessment literacy with the statewide ACT exam. Understanding the alignment between the ACT assessment and Arizona's academic standards is a crucial part of ensuring that students are prepared for the exam and interpreting the results once they have tested. This presentation will introduce participants to the Guide, which contains vital information about the content of each ACT test section and the many points of linkage with Arizona's ELA/Literacy and Mathematics standards. The Guide includes tips for classroom teachers, school leaders, and district leaders, as well as two sets of comprehensive alignment tables: 1) crosswalk tables that allow a reader to look up the alignments for each Arizona standard, and 2) matrix tables which provide an at-a-glance reference of all standards linked to each ACT test reporting category. Participants will gain deeper insight into the content on the ACT test and ideas for using this free resource to improve student outcomes.

Presenters:

Colin Dingler, PhD – Senior Director, State and Federal Policy, ACT

With over a decade of experience at ACT, Colin leads policy and advocacy efforts supporting ACT's state partners in their use of ACT's academic and workforce assessments. An important focus of his work is state use of assessments for accountability. Prior to his role with the Government and Public Relations Team, he worked as a state policy analyst in State and Federal Programs and as a principal on the Assessment Design team. In addition to contributing to the design of ACT's nationally recognized assessments, Colin has given presentations and led workshops with ACT's customers on a variety of topics related to test design and development, including test alignment to state academic standards.

James Riddlesperger, Program Director, State and Federal Policy, ACT

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Room: Solana FG

Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- District Test Coordinators

Breakout Session 2: 11:15am – 12:30pm

Breakout Session: *Instruction and Services for Dual-Labeled Students*

Description:

In this session, we will discuss who dual-labeled students are (students eligible for both EL services and Special Education services) and how to address commonly asked questions. We will also provide guidance on how LEAs may plan for EL services for students along the LRE continuum, who is eligible to teach these students, and how the IEP teams may incorporate language needs into the other learning goals. Sample scenarios for services will be presented and discussed. Compliance considerations for EL and special education will also be included.

Presenters:

Ecaterina Avelar, Director of Program Effectiveness, Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS), Arizona Department of Education

Ecaterina Avelar is the Director of Program Effectiveness for the Office of English Language Acquisition Services at the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Previous to her joining ADE, she taught K-8 for 13 years, which included teaching English Learners (ELs), before becoming a school administrator for 8 years, encompassing the primary responsibilities of English Learner programs, instructional leadership, and discipline. Ecaterina obtained a B.A. in Liberal Studies in the Education Program at California State University, Fullerton, and a M.A. in Elementary Education from Grand Canyon University. She has lived in Arizona for over 20 years and enjoys traveling with her family and reading.

Heidi Putnam, Director of Program Implementation, Exceptional Student Services, Arizona Department of Education

Heidi Putnam has over 15 years of experience in education. Currently, she serves as Director of Program Implementation at the Arizona Department of Education in the Exceptional Student Services section. Mrs. Putnam has oversight for state special education programmatic monitoring and technical assistance, reporting to the Senior Director of Program Support and Monitoring. In addition to her experience at the Department of Education, Mrs. Putnam has experience in both districts and charters in the classroom at a leadership level.

Room: Solana H

Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Instructional Coaches
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders
- EL Coordinators
- Special Education Leaders

Breakout Session 2: 11:15am – 12:30pm

Breakout Session: *The Role of Assessment in Federal Programs: Improving Programs through Data and Evidence*

Description:

This session is a working session to learn about the role of assessment in the improvement and federal program development process. Participants will also get time to dive into planning for how they will use assessment to enhance their own programs and determine program effectiveness.

Presenters:

Deb Kaplow, Title I Grants Fiscal Specialist, Arizona Department of Education

Dr. Deborah Kaplow is a leader in data-driven education, integrating her extensive background in Economics, Education, and Knowledge Management. With rich experience as a district leader, school administrator, and teacher, she now serves as a Fiscal Analyst for Title I and other ESEA Consolidated grants. Dr. Kaplow is deeply committed to harnessing the power of data to make a meaningful impact on students' growth and academic achievements.

Bailey Acevedo, Title I Specialist, Arizona Department of Education

Bailey Acevedo is a dedicated education professional with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Administration and Principalship. With experience as a former school leader and teacher, Bailey has worked in both California and Arizona, gaining a deep understanding of diverse educational landscapes. Currently serving as a Program Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education, Bailey is committed to the power of using assessment and data to create meaningful change in communities that need it most.

Room: Solana I

Target Audience:

- School or District Administrators
- Curriculum, Assessment, or Accountability Leaders