



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
**UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN**

# Conference Program

March 12-15, 2025  
St. Louis, Missouri



# Welcome to the Conference

Welcome, welcome, welcome to the 2025 Annual APBS Conference in St. Louis! For many of us, APBS has been our professional home for many years. For others, this is your first time joining us. Whether this is your first conference or your 22nd, we're excited you're here.

## Live Out Our Theme, Together

As you know, this year's conference theme is "Together Towards Tomorrow: Uniting PBS Across the Lifespan." We selected this theme because we believe unity is more important today than ever before.

Over the next few days together, we invite you to join us in living out this theme and sharing our vision – a future that is more compassionate, supportive, and accepting, one child, student, and adult at a time. **Because changing behaviors changes lives, creating a better world for all.**

## Enjoy a New Conference Experience, Designed Just For You

We started this conference by listening to what YOU shared with us. Based on your feedback, **we've been hard at work reimagining the conference over this past year.** We designed a program that provides opportunities to explore new learning formats, fosters networking and relationship-building, and delivers powerful content from leaders in the field.

- We scheduled all conference concurrent sessions for 60 minutes.
- We added networking breaks in the Exhibit Hall each day!
- We're also introducing exciting new features. For example, new offerings include APBS Talk sessions focused on professional development, and the Innovation Zone – an intimate setting through which you can hear from experts in the field and network with your peers and PBS leaders.

Be sure to stop by the APBS Membership booth to learn more about opportunities for members as well. If you aren't a member, consider joining our community.

## Join Networking Opportunities and Engage with Amazing Speakers

We're particularly excited for our Welcome Reception and Sneaker Ball. This is a time to make new friends and reconnect with peers, all while supporting **The Little Bit Foundation** ([littlebitfoundation.org](http://littlebitfoundation.org)), a St. Louis-based organization that makes a difference for thousands of local students.



We're also excited to hear from renowned speakers such as Ron Gonzalez, Joe Sanfelippo, Lola Dada-Olley, Steve Perry, Kelly Baird, Deirdre Liddell and Caitlyn Majeika. These are all folks who don't just believe in PBS – they live it every day. We're lucky to have the opportunity to learn from their work and their experiences.

We encourage you to actively participate in each of the sessions, ask questions, and engage the speakers and fellow attendees.

Simply put? Open yourself to new ideas, come and make new connections and engage with truly amazing service-minded professionals. **Together, we will make positive change happen.** This conference is simply a great forum to do so.

We hope you have a wonderful few days with us! We look forward to meeting you and learning alongside you.

Thank you,



**Ashley Rila, PhD**  
2025 Conference Chair



**Cheretta A. Clerkley, MBA**  
Executive Director



**Sarah Wilkinson, PhD**  
President, APBS Board of Directors

#### APBS's Endorsement Policy

*APBS conference presenters and exhibitors share their own views, products and services – we neither endorse these partners, nor assume liability for anything related to their presentations or exhibits.*

# Your Guide to Navigating the Conference

## Need a break?

Find a welcoming space ..... 04

## Looking to connect?

We've incorporated lots of opportunities to network ..... 04

## Looking for a partner or product?

We've invited amazing exhibitors who are passionate about PBS ..... 05

## Craving something special?

The Innovation Zone and PBIS Film Festival offer unique ways to learn and connect ..... 05

The mainstage speakers are heavy-hitting PBS experts who inspire and inform ..... 14

## Not sure where to go?

Hotel map ..... 07

## Tracking CEUs?

We're offering more CEU options than ever before – at no additional cost ..... 10

## Figuring out which sessions are right for you?

This year, we have sessions in various and new formats to meet your learning needs ..... 14

We've tagged sessions by professional or focus area ..... 16

We've also marked sessions by career level ..... 17

## Explore the schedule.

When PBS professionals learn in a smart, inclusive community together, there's nothing we can't accomplish. That's why we're offering nearly 100 sessions to choose from!

See the conference schedule ..... 18



## Creating Welcoming Spaces for All APBS Members

APBS members are passionate about practicing and promoting wellness, accessibility, advocacy, equity, inclusion and a respect for those we serve – and supporting one another while we do so. We want to ensure our conference space is welcoming to all.

Find our:

- Sensory Space at Mills 4
- Nursing/Mother Space at Mills 2
- Ramadan Space at Mills 1
- Accessible entrances and elevators marked with a handicap entrance symbol



Find the map on pages 7-8.

## ★ New This Year: More Networking Opportunities

When PBS professionals collaborate, we're creating a future that is more compassionate, supportive and accepting – one child, student and adult at a time. We're offering several opportunities to make peer-to-peer connections and connect with a community whose professional backgrounds and interests are similar to your own.

Create your own journey at APBS by picking the perfect networking opportunities, informal and formal:

- Welcome Reception and Sneaker Ball, benefitting the Little Bit Foundation
- Exhibit Hall and Poster Sessions
- Innovation Zone
- APBS Film Festival
- Birds-of-Feather Sessions
- Professional Development Design Lab Sessions



Look for this icon in the schedule to find events that include networking opportunities.



## Exhibit Hall

Through the Exhibit Hall, you'll get to see cutting-edge demonstrations and educational content that highlight the latest developments in PBS. Welcome to the FUN in PBS!

- **Wednesday, March 12:** 6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m. CST
- **Thursday, March 13:** 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. CST
- **Friday, March 14:** 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. CST
- **Location:** Foyer



Look for this icon in the schedule to find events that take place in the Exhibit Hall.

## ★ New This Year: Poster Sessions in the Hall

Poster Sessions will be in the hall to provide opportunities to help you easily gain insights from cutting-edge research!

## ★ New This Year: APBS Membership Booth

Visit us in the Exhibit Hall to learn all about APBS membership benefits – and get some pretty cool PBS swag, too.

## ★ New This Year: Innovation Zone

**Add-On Event: Buy your tickets at [bit.ly/APBS-Innovation-Zone](https://bit.ly/APBS-Innovation-Zone). 300 spots available.**

Headlined by Dr. Steve Perry, the Innovation Zone opens with a mainstage event. Engage in short micro-bursts of education throughout the evening and walk a curated area designed to arm you with the resources you need. The Innovation Zone includes a:

- **Mental Health Zone**, sponsored by the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, where participants can explore the mental health area and learn about programs APAF offers to ensure professionals like you have the resources you need to succeed.
- **Technology Zone**, sponsored by SyncGrades, where you'll learn how technology and PBS can work together to create opportunities for better family engagement.
- **Equity Zone**, where you can hear – and even participate in – a \*live\* podcast recording from the Black Men in Behavior Analysis podcast, "Beyond the Science." This viral podcast reached more than 1.2 million social media views in just 30 days, showing just how exciting the content is!



- **Fireside Chat Zone**, through which Mainstage Speaker Lola Dada-Olley will join us for a moderated discussion to discuss her insights and experiences in an intimate and conversational setting.
- **Refreshment Zone**, including a champagne (and non-alcoholic) toast and light hors d'oeuvres.

*This is an add-on event. Tickets must be purchased in advance – only 300 spots are available!*

**PURCHASE**

**Friday, March 14: 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. CST | Location: Foyer**

## A Very Special Welcome



**Deirde Liddell**

Executive Director of  
Student and Community  
Support Services Riverview  
Gardens School District  
Moline Acres, Missouri

We are honored to have local PBS expert Deirdre Liddell open the conference and officially welcome us to St. Louis!

Her work leveraging innovative PBS solutions to support students and families will inspire us all.

- She has been pivotal in developing a thriving district-wide restorative practices program that uplifts and empowers all students, fostering a positive and inclusive educational environment.
- She is working to increase family engagement and dismantle stigmas around mental health in marginalized communities.

**Thursday, March 13: 7:30 a.m. CST | Location: Grand DE**



**Brent Mitchell,  
Ed.S., M.Ed.**

Acting Co-Superintendent  
Ferguson-Florissant  
School District

Brent Mitchell, a dedicated educational leader and advocate for student success, brings nearly 25 years of experience in education and administration to his work. A native of Little Rock, Arkansas, Mitchell has devoted his career to creating equitable and innovative learning environments for all students.

Mitchell's professional journey began in 2000 as a fifth-grade teacher at Martin Luther King Elementary in the Little Rock School District. He quickly rose to leadership roles, serving as Assistant Principal in the district and later as Principal at Fuller Middle School in Pulaski County. Transitioning to central office leadership in 2011, he took on the role of Director of Academics and Operations for Lighthouse Charter Schools and later became Assistant Superintendent for Ignite Community Schools in Lewisville, Texas.

In 2023, Mitchell joined the Ferguson-Florissant School District as Chief of Staff. After serving as the Co-Superintendent of Schools/Assistant Superintendent of Support Services and now the Acting Co-Superintendent, he oversees the needs of nearly 10,000 students across 23 campuses. His work focuses on collaboration, building strong connections with the community, and bringing people together to help every student grow and succeed.

Mitchell and his wife, ReeVedia, have been happily married for nearly 22 years and are proud parents to three children.

**Friday, March 14: 7:30 a.m. CST | Location: Grand DE**

## Refreshments

Hungry? Thirsty?



Look for this icon in the schedule to find events with refreshments.

## PBIS Film Festival

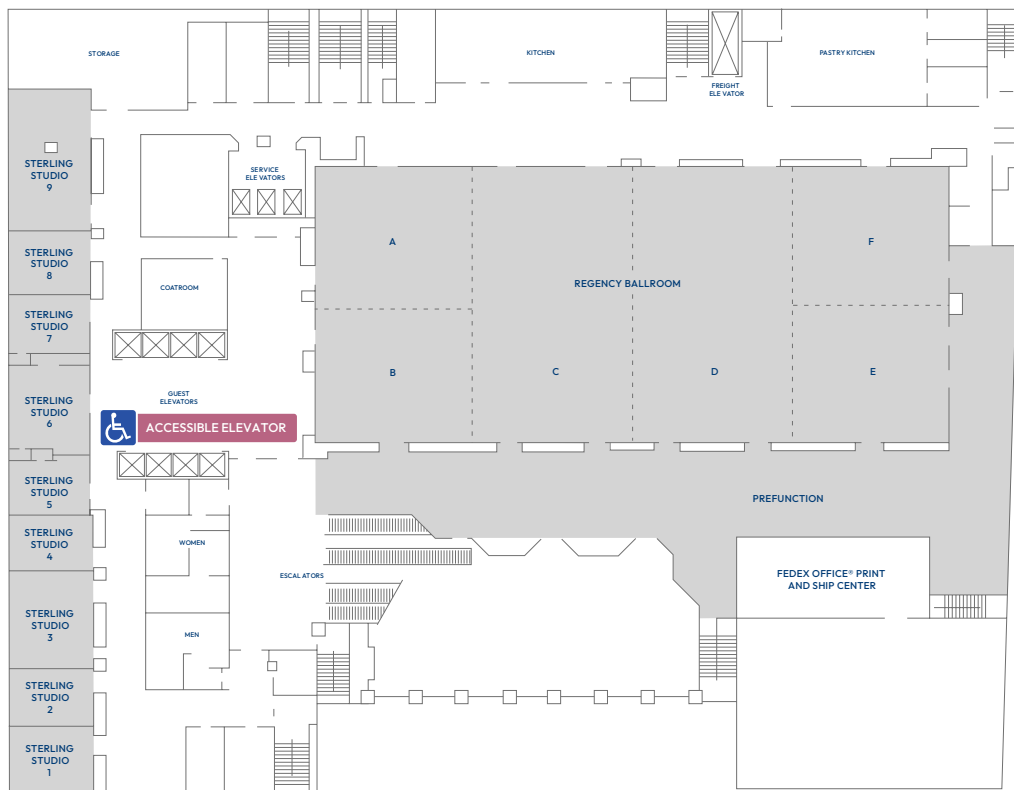
One of our most popular events, the PBIS Film Festival showcases the ways our members make changes in students' lives by sharing powerful teaching tools. Don't miss out on the popcorn and drinks.

**Thursday, March 13:** 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. CST

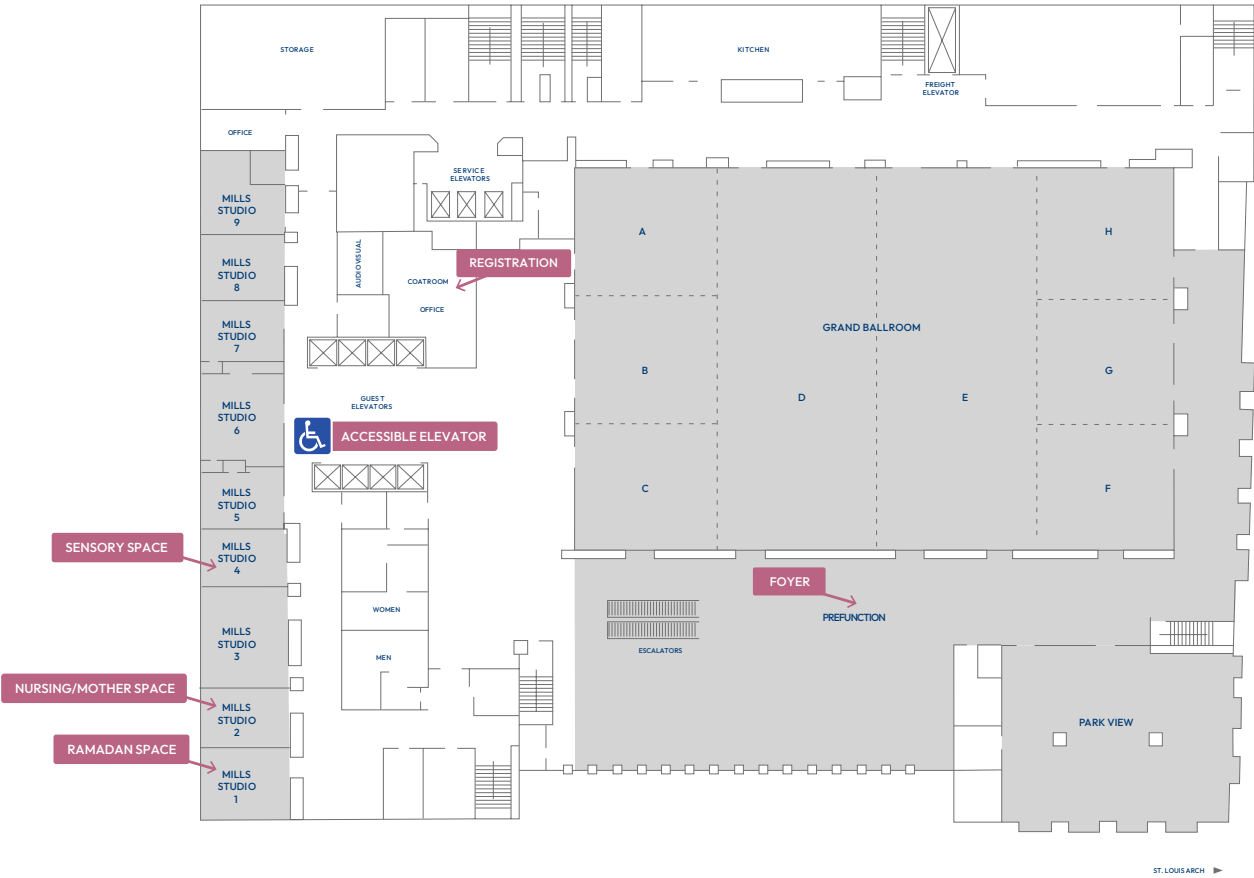
**Location:** Grande DE

## Hotel Map

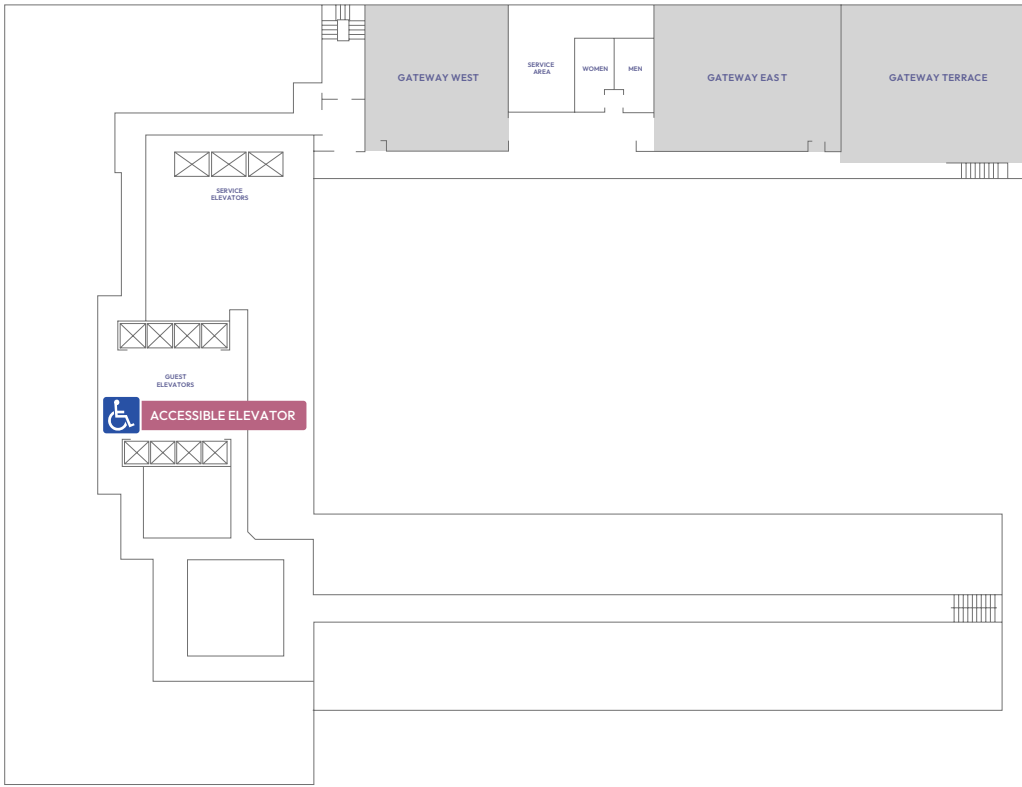
**FLOOR PLAN**  
Second Floor



FLOOR PLAN  
Fourth Floor



FLOOR PLAN  
Eighteenth Floor



## Thank You To Our Sponsors!

This event wouldn't be possible without our wonderful sponsors.

### Conference Badges:



### Wellness Break Sponsor:



### Innovation Zone Sponsors:

#### Technology Zone:



#### Mental Health Zone:

AMERICAN  
PSYCHIATRIC  
ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDATION





## We're Offering More CEU Options Than Ever Before

We do our best work when we have a smart, supportive community to learn alongside. This year, we're offering more opportunities to learn and earn CEUs than ever before! We're offering nearly 30 opportunities to earn National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) CEUs. Even better? **Every conference attendee can earn conference CEUs at no additional cost. It's included with your conference package!** We're offering options your career level:

**Beginner** level practitioners, who have 1 to 3 years of PBS experience.

**Intermediate** level practitioners, who have 4 to 6 years of PBS experience.

**Advanced** level practitioners, who have 7+ years of PBS experience.

**Earn 1 NASP CPD with the help of these sessions:**

SESSION	TOPIC	PERFECT FOR *
Building the Competency and Capacity of the School-based Behavior Specialist	School-Wide Systems and Tier 1	School professionals
Empowering Youth With Internalizing Behaviors Through a Multi-tiered Systems of Supports	Mental Health	School professionals, community leaders, organizations/agencies and home PBS practitioners
Integrating Screening for Suicide and Social, Emotional and Behavioral Risk within PBS	Mental Health	School professionals
Coaching for Family-School-Community Partnerships in Integrated PBIS and School Mental Health	Families and Parent Supports	School professionals and home PBS practitioners
Addressing and Eliminating Informal Removals	Equity	School professionals
Using Family-School Partnerships to Promote Positive Behavior Support during Middle School	Families and Parent Supports	School professionals and home PBS practitioners

\* To help you navigate the conference, we've added a "perfect for" description under every concurrent session. These are simply suggestions for who might find the session helpful! We invite you to attend any session you're interested in.

## Earn 1 Gen Learning ACE CEU with the help of these sessions:

SESSION	TOPIC	PERFECT FOR
Ways BCBA's Can Collaborate with Teachers to Support PBS Practices in Classroom Settings	Classroom	School professionals
The Effects of Student-Led Tootling to Decrease Disruptive Classroom Behavior	Classroom	School professionals
All Systems Go - Integrating Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Developmental Disability Systems	IDD	Community leaders and organizations/agencies
Cultural Adaptations in Caregiver-Mediated Behavior Supports: A Literature Review	Families and Parent Supports	Home PBS practitioners and community leaders
Enhancing Individual Behavior Plans Through Preference and Choice Assessment	Individual Students and Tier 3	School professionals, community leaders, organizations/agencies and home PBS practitioners
Implementing the Skills Based Treatment Protocol; Adapting to Imperfect Contexts	Home and Community	Home PBS practitioners, school professionals and community leaders
Setting the Stage for Successful Implementation Partnerships with Positive Behavior Support	Integration and Alignment	School professionals and organizations/agencies
Systems Check! Implementation Drivers and Barriers for Programming Advanced Behavioral Supports	Tier 2	School professionals
A Behavior Analytic Classroom Management Consulting Model for Early Childhood Classrooms	Early Childhood	School professionals and organizations/agencies
Implementing Individualized Behavior Support Using Demonstration, Practice, and Coaching	Individual Students and Tier 3	School professionals

SESSION	TOPIC	PERFECT FOR
Prevent, Teach, Reinforce: A Tier 3 Behavior Intervention	Individual Students and Tier 3	School professionals
Aligning and Integrating Behavioral Threat Assessment with Existing PBIS Systems	Integration and Alignment	School professionals and community leaders
Creating Levels Systems for Youth in Correctional & Residential Settings Using a PBIS Framework	Home and Community	Community leaders and organizations/agencies
Buying-in to Fading Out: Effective Coaching Strategies for School-based Behavior Specialists	Classroom	School professionals
Leveraging AI-Powered Automated Feedback to Support Positive Behavior Practices in Classrooms	Classroom	School professionals
From Challenges to Triumphs: Empowering Families Today for a Better Tomorrow	Families and Parent Supports	School professionals, community leaders, organizations/agencies and home PBS practitioners
Buffers Across the Tiers: Strategies that Mitigate Adversity & Interventions that Enhance MTSS	Mental Health	School professionals and community leaders

**Earn 1 Ethics ACE CEU** with the help of these sessions:

SESSION	TOPIC	PERFECT FOR
How Can We Include Students with IDD in Building Behavior Supports?	Individual Students and Tier 3	School professionals

## Double up! Earn more CEUs – in just one session – with the help of these sessions:

SESSION	TOPIC	PERFECT FOR	CEUs
Using Coaching to Scale Up a Classroom Management System for Rural Settings	Classroom	School professionals	1 NASP CPD, 1 Gen Learning ACE CEU
Who Sustained Tier 1 PBIS through the COVID-19 Pandemic?	School-Wide Systems and Tier 1	School professionals	1 NASP CPD, 1 Gen Learning ACE CEU



**The following sessions are pre-conference workshops!**

**Purchase these tickets at [bit.ly/APBS-Extras](https://bit.ly/APBS-Extras).**



SESSION	TOPIC	PERFECT FOR	CEUs
Helping All Families Thrive and Problem Solve: Parenting with Positive Behavior Support	Families and Parent Supports	Home PBS practitioners	4 Gen Learning ACE CEUs
Trauma-Informed Care: Navigating Strategies for Clinician Empowerment	Mental Health	Support staff, school psychologists, BCBA and behavior interventionists	4 Ethics ACE CEUs
Integrated MTSS in Elementary Schools: Learn How to Evaluate Fidelity of Implementations Using the IMFR	Integration and Alignment	District leaders, state leaders, researchers, technical assistance providers, and professional development providers	4 Gen Learning ACE CEUs, 4 NASP CPDs

Look for these icons in the schedule to identify which sessions offer CEUs.



Gen Learning ACE CEU



Ethics ACE CEU



NASP CPD



## Great Sessions in Formats That Work For You

Whether you're looking for hands-on workshops, engaging panel discussions or inspiring presentations, we've got the right session for you! We're sharing a quick overview of the session types we're offering below.

### Mainstage Session

PBS experts are leading our Mainstage experience. Their stories will inspire you to think outside the box and widen your perspectives. You'll leave these sessions feeling energized, motivated and equipped to succeed in 2025 and beyond.

Mainstage Day 1	Mainstage Day 2	Innovation Zone Mainstage
 <p><b>Dr. Joe Sanfelippo</b>  <b>Bringing Our Community Closer</b>            Thursday, March 13            7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.            Grand DE</p>	 <p><b>Lola Dada-Olley</b>  <b>Engaging Families and Communities</b>            Friday, March 14            7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.            Grand DE</p>	 <p><b>Dr. Steve Perry</b>  <b>Doing Better, Together</b>            Friday, March 14            7:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.            Grand DE</p>



Look for this icon in the schedule to find a mainstage speaker.

### Concurrent Session

Each day, you'll get to choose from the more than 100 sessions we're offering! You asked, and we listened. You'll see fresh new faces alongside the experts you know and love. These sessions are jam-packed with original content, resources, best practices and tactics to help you accomplish your goals, now and in the future. We're offering a variety of formats, from panel discussions to workshops.



Look for this icon in the schedule to identify concurrent sessions.

## ★ New This Year: APBS Talk Presentation

These rapid-fire sessions are all about YOU and your professional development, designed by APBS committee leaders. These presentations spotlight thought leaders, best practices and emerging ideas in the field to ensure you're armed with the **resources and tools you need to succeed in your career** and to make a positive impact in the lives of individuals, community members and families.



Look for this icon in the schedule to find an APBS Talk Presentation.

### Birds-of-A Feather

Do you like the synergy of small groups and prefer conversation to presentation? This type of session works best for those looking to connect as “birds of a feather” or convene a smallish group of individuals who want to discuss a specific issue, address a certain opportunity, or just meet with others interested in the same topic or who hold the same type of job. These sessions run back to back in 45 minute intervals.



Look for this icon in the schedule to find Birds-of-a-Feather sessions.

### Design Lab

Design Lab is for you! These sessions are opportunities to learn and design with colleagues. Design Lab sessions include a live presentation followed by a structured, participatory design session. Participants will gather in small groups, working together to address a compelling current issue in positive behavior support.



Look for this icon in the schedule to find a Design Lab session.

### Pre-conference Workshops

**Add-On Opportunity: Buy your tickets in advance at [bit.ly/APBS-Extras](https://bit.ly/APBS-Extras).**

Want to take your learning to the next level? Pre-conference workshops are half-day learning opportunities before the conference during which you get hands-on sessions with leaders in the field! These workshops offer an opportunity to get specialized training on a particular topic, as well as opportunities to collaborate with other attendees, so you get to know other professionals and build your network. They are great add-ons to expand your learning and your professional contacts for only a small additional investment. Come to St. Louis a little early and take advantage of the wealth of knowledge.



Look for this icon in the schedule to identify Pre-conference Workshops.

## Focus Areas for Every PBS Practitioner

Whether you're a mental health professional, a home practitioner, a researcher, a professor, an education professional or an overall PBS champion – we've got the right sessions for you. Take a glance at the session focus areas we're offering below!

### Early Childhood

Learn about systems change efforts, research, evidence-based practices, and case study presentations related to young children (birth through age 5) and PBS implementation.

### Individual Students and Tier 3

Learn how to use PBS principles and technology to support individual students within a school setting. These sessions focus on one or more specific students, rather than the school system.

### Tier 2

Learn about delivering interventions to individuals who require targeted supports – in addition to universal supports – and are at risk for developing more serious challenging behavior.

### Classroom

Learn how PBS principles and technology are implemented within classroom settings for students with or without disabilities.

### School-Wide Systems and Tier 1

Learn about current work in school-wide PBS. These sessions focus on efforts to “scale-up,” implement, and sustain PBS principles and technology across multiple schools in districts and states.

### Equity

Learn about applying PBS principles and technology to support a fair, inclusive educational system that leads to higher student achievement, increased quality of instruction, improving low-performing schools and/or better outcomes for students from diverse circumstances.

### **Integration and Alignment**

Learn frameworks for integrating and aligning systems of support (e.g., academic and behavior MTSS supports, positive behavior supports and mental health systems, juvenile justice) to enhance student success and interagency collaboration and cooperation.

### **Home and Community**

Learn how to implement PBS principles and technology across the lifespan in a variety of settings, such as home, community centers, adult employment, residential settings, eldercare facilities, and more.

### **Families and Parent Supports**

Learn how to work in partnership with parents and other family members when implementing PBS in school, home, and community settings. Presentations may focus on how professionals can understand, support, and include the family perspective when serving families, or, be aimed at helping parents and family members understand and implement PBS with their family members and in their community.

### **Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD)**

Learn more about applying PBS principles and technology to support children and/or adults with IDD in settings outside of school (e.g., home, community). Intellectual disability is characterized by limitations in intellectual functioning and difficulties in a variety of everyday social and practical skills. Developmental disability is attributed to a cognitive or physical impairment that results in limitations in areas such as self-care, language, and mobility. The term IDD covers a broad range of disorders and syndromes.

### **Mental Health**

Learn more about physiological or neurological issues, health, quality of life, and well-being. In addition, presentations describe how PBS principles and technology are implemented within mental health settings.







TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

# Full Conference Schedule

## Pre-Conference: Wednesday, March 12

### Morning Pre-Conference Workshops

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CST



#### **Yell Praise, Whisper Criticism: Impact Behavior, Engagement, and Financial Freedom with Words that Build**

**Location:**  
Grand A

**Perfect for:** School administrators, PBIS team leaders, superintendents, district administrators, and teachers

This pre-conference session will actively engage participants in reflecting on their practice and communication as leaders, teachers, service providers, and others. We've designed it to touch upon the impact of our words on equity, student and parent engagement, and ways to motivate students through the prospect of financial freedom. The material will highlight how a learning and data platform leads to students developing financial portfolios through an incentivized approach.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- Participants will understand the power of our words and how even the slightest changes in language can lead to empowered student body and parent engagement.
- Participants will actively engage in discussions about equity, access, and perseverance as a standard for making change.

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU		



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

- Participants will engage with instructional material, each other, and a data platform to monitor students' academic progress and behavior logs for success and financial freedom.



### Led by Dr. Ronald Gonzalez, EdD

Dr. Gonzales is a distinguished administrator, international speaker, transformational leader, executive mentor, lead evaluator, and coach.

Dr. Ronald Gonzalez has spent 27 years in service of learners and leaders as a Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Turnaround Principal, teacher, and mentor.

Dr. Gonzalez is currently serving as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction with the East Ramapo Central School District. He's previously served as Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer with the Center for Educational Innovation.

He appreciates direct interaction with students and staff, as evidenced while serving as principal for Mount Vernon High School, where he led transformation efforts through a Principal's Advisory Council and School Leadership Team. His visionary leadership led to improvements in student performance, stability for staff, and several family and community awards.

Understanding the need for schools to leverage change, he launched and simultaneously serves as President & CEO for Lead Where You Stand Corporation, a mentoring and leadership development consulting group.

Dr. Gonzalez believes in equity and access. As such, he applied and successfully navigated the implementation of the International Baccalaureate World School Diploma Program with open enrollment for all students. In his current role, he chairs the district's equity and strategic planning work. As a visionary, Dr. Gonzalez led the expansion of several Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses, including culinary arts, a horticultural seed to table program, barbering, and certified nursing assistant.

Ron is a proud husband to a fellow school district administrator, who together are raising three wonderful children.

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN



## Trauma-Informed Care: Navigating Strategies for Clinician Empowerment

**Location:**  
Grand B

4



**Perfect for:** Support staff, school psychologists, BCBAs, and behavior interventionists

This interactive workshop will explore the principles of trauma-informed care and their application across various professional settings, emphasizing the empowerment of clinicians. Attendees will engage in activities that deepen their understanding of trauma's impact on behavior and explore the potential of trauma-informed strategies. By fostering supportive environments, clinicians will enhance their ability to serve individuals, while promoting their own professional growth and resilience.

### Learning Objectives:

- 1. Understand the Concept of a Trauma-Informed Framework:** Explore the relevance of trauma-informed care to clinicians across various professional settings.
- 2. Identify Unique Challenges:** Recognize the specific challenges faced by clinicians in diverse environments and the impact of trauma on their well-being.
- 3. Explore Practical Strategies:** Examine strategies for fostering resilience, addressing trauma, and promoting self-care among clinicians.
- 4. Learn About the Latest Research:** Discuss current research on trauma and resilience across multiple disciplines.
- 5. Understand Ethical Considerations:** Review ethical considerations related to trauma-informed care in various professional settings.

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN



### Led by Kelly Baird, BCBA, LBA, IBA

Kelly Baird is a distinguished Board Certified Behavior Analyst and passionate advocate for individuals with IDD and mental illness.

As the founder of Black Women in Behavior Analysis Appreciation Day (BWIBAAD) and Vice President of Operations at ABAVerzus, Kelly has created innovative platforms that celebrate, support, and unite professionals in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

A visionary leader, Kelly co-founded and serves as President of the Missouri Black Applied Behavior Analysis Community (MOBBAC), where she introduced The ABA Pathfinders (TAP).

Through TAP, she champions the expansion of inclusive ABA programs, particularly in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, promoting accessibility and diversity in behavior analysis education and training. Her work is grounded in a commitment to fostering representation and creating empowering spaces for clinicians, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds.

At ABAVerzus, Kelly leads a series of groundbreaking events that bring energy, camaraderie, and celebration to ABA conferences. Her efforts are transforming traditional conferences into dynamic, engaging experiences, fostering a sense of community and pride in the field.

Kelly's dedication to supporting clinicians and advocating for their well-being is central to her professional philosophy. She firmly believes that clinicians who feel empowered and supported are key to delivering better outcomes for their clients and communities. Her expertise spans various areas of behavioral science, including psychopharmacology, organizational behavior management, functional analytic psychotherapy, trauma-informed care, and autism support.

As the mother of a child with autism, Kelly's personal journey fuels her unwavering dedication to the field. Her advocacy for individuals with developmental and behavioral challenges is both professional and personal, driving her to create lasting change in the lives of those she serves.

A respected leader and trailblazer in behavior analysis, Kelly is deeply passionate about networking and collaboration, constantly striving to connect with like-minded professionals to inspire positive change.

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## APBS Leadership Meeting

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. CST

**Location:** Gateway East

*Invite required*

## Afternoon Pre - Conference Workshops

1 p.m.- 5 p.m. CST



### Integrated MTSS in Elementary Schools: Learn How to Evaluate Fidelity of Implementation Using the IMFR

**Location:**  
Grand A



**Perfect for:** District leaders, state leaders, researchers, technical assistance providers, and professional development providers

Do you work with elementary schools that currently implement or are interested in implementing an integrated MTSS framework? Join us to learn about a freely available tool that measures fidelity of implementation for integrated MTSS practices. The Integrated MTSS Fidelity Rubric (IMFR) is a free tool that underwent a rigorous validation process through data collection with 100 schools over the past three years. The IMFR helps evaluators measure the degree to which elementary schools implement components of integrated MTSS. The goal of the workshop is to train individuals who can serve as external evaluators (e.g., district/state leaders, technical assistance providers, professional development providers, researchers) of schools who want to evaluate fidelity of their integrated MTSS practices. Workshop participants will have access to the rubric materials, learn scoring guidance, and have opportunities to practice using the IMFR.

### Learning Objectives:

After completing this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Define integrated MTSS and explain its importance.
2. List the domains of and criteria for integrated MTSS.
3. Name the IMFR scoring procedures.
4. Use the IMFR to rate integrated MTSS practices.

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN



### Led by Dr. Caitlyn Majeika, PhD, BCBA

Caitlyn Majeika is a Senior Researcher at American Institutes for Research (AIR) where she supports a portfolio of research, evaluation, and technical assistance efforts related to special education and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).

Dr. Majeika leads special education program reviews for school districts across the country. In addition, she is a trainer for the MTSS Center, where she provides consultation and technical assistance to state, district, and school leaders on MTSS.

She brings over 12 years of experience to help schools implement sustainable practices to support student behavior within MTSS frameworks.

She has extensive expertise in classroom management, PBIS, and data-based decision making. She also has expertise in intensive intervention and provides knowledge development for the National Center on Intensive Intervention.

Previously, she worked as a special education teacher, behavior analyst, and assistant professor, researcher, and technical assistance provider. She earned her PhD in special education from the Vanderbilt University and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
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## Helping All Families Thrive and Problem Solve: Parenting with Positive Behavior Support

**Location:**  
Grand B

4



**Perfect for:** Parents, caregivers, and supporting professionals

4



This workshop will share a practical step-by-step process to use the principles of PBS to promote family functioning, with a focus on the family system and individual family members. We will walk through strategies to both promote positive behaviors and respond to challenging behaviors for the entire family. This workshop is based on two “Practical Guides to Parenting with PBS” that we published through Brookes in 2022 – one focused on helping families thrive and the other focused on resolving challenging behaviors. Our goal is to provide an adaptable decision-making model to strengthen families.

Discover how behaviors and the structure of homes contribute to all family members' overall functioning and well-being. We will share and apply strategies to promote positive behavior through defining values, arranging environments, and teaching new skills. We will guide participants in understanding and responding to challenging behavior. We'll use case examples to demonstrate specific steps to help families thrive and to problem-solve.

### Learning Objectives:

1. Identify the core principles of Positive Behavior Support for families.
2. Demonstrate the steps to use in the PBS problem-solving process within families.
3. Describe and locate resources available to assist in learning to apply the PBS process within family systems successfully.

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN



### Led by Sarah Fefer, PhD, BCBA

Sarah is a researcher, trainer, behavior analyst, and systems consultant supporting children, youth, families, and schools in meeting the needs of students with challenging behavior.

Sarah has worked in the area of PBS since 2012, when she completed an advanced practicum at All Children's Hospital. Her area of emphasis during her doctoral training in School Psychology at the University of South Florida was family-focused behavioral interventions.

Under the supervision of Meme Hieneman, Sarah delivered and evaluated the outcomes of informational workshops and intensive positive behavior support to families experiencing a wide range of challenging child behavior. After her graduate training, Sarah moved to Massachusetts and worked as a doctoral intern in specialized schools for individuals with Brain Injuries and Autism Spectrum Disorders. There, she provided training in proactive, positive behavioral intervention to teachers, families, and residential staff. Sarah's applied experiences with youth and families across school, hospital, and clinic settings contribute to her current work centered on family-focused strategies as the key to student success.

Sarah is now an Associate Professor of School Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she has trained graduate students and engaged in research and service delivery related to positive behavior support for families since 2013. Her most recent project focused on providing family education through schools, teaching parents to prevent and manage challenging behavior at home. This project involves implementing multiple types of family education using a multi-tiered model, with some proactive strategies available for all families with children in the school and more intensive education offered to families of students with more significant challenging behaviors.

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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN



### Led by Karen Elfner, MA

Karen Elfner has over 25 years of experience supporting challenging behavior through teaching, research, training, technical assistance, and program evaluation.

Karen has been influential in measuring and scaling up multi-tiered frameworks to support behavior nationally. Currently, Karen's activities focus on creating data systems that facilitate decision-making for districts and schools and statewide program evaluation.

Karen's professional career has evolved to focus on the development, use, and evaluation of schoolwide PBIS systems. Throughout her career, Karen seeks opportunities to help teachers and families address challenging behavior.

Karen's professional experiences include teaching students labeled as severely emotionally disturbed, conducting research on PBS for children with challenging behavior, coordinating state centers on parent involvement, and training educators to implement positive behavior support in schools both at the schoolwide level and with individual students.

Karen is currently enjoying her new role as a grandparent and looks forward to being part of this ever-expanding family group. Outside of work, Karen enjoys supporting others in need, including family, friends, and brightening the lives of sick and elderly with her therapy dog.

Karen looks forward to helping others through sharing the valuable knowledge and lessons learned professionally and in her most important role, as a parent.

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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN



## Welcome Reception Sneaker Ball & Exhibit Hall

6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m. CST

**Location:** Foyer

**Show off your best kicks for a great cause!** This fun event includes food, music, networking, prizes, and special guests. The best part is that it benefits The Little Bit Foundation, which works to eliminate barriers to learning and provide enrichment opportunities for under-resourced students in the greater St. Louis region. Entry simply requires a donation, with no minimum requirement.

## President's Reception

8:30 – 10 p.m. CST

**Location:** Presidential Suite

*Invite required*

The APBS President's Reception is an evening of celebration, networking, and recognition to honor APBS sponsors, volunteer leadership, and award recipients who have made substantial contributions to APBS.

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## Day 1: Thursday March 13

### Registration

7 a.m. - 6 p.m. CST

**Location:** Coat Room



### Exhibit Hall

7 a.m. - 6 p.m. CST

**Location:** Foyer

Through the Exhibit Hall, you'll get to see cutting-edge demonstrations and educational content that highlight the latest developments in PBS. **Be sure to stop by the APBS membership booth and pick up some APBS swag!**



### Welcome and Mainstage Keynote

7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. CST

**Location:** Grand DE

#### Introductory Speaker: Deidre Liddell



Deirdre will officially welcome APBS conference attendees to St. Louis! She'll share insights on how the use of PBS in the Riverview Gardens School District is making an impact on both students and families, along with why opportunities for professional development and training at the 2025 APBS Conference are invaluable.

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## Mainstage Speaker: Dr. Joe Sanfelippo



### Bringing Our Community Closer

Dr. Joe Sanfelippo, retired Superintendent of the Fall Creek School District in Wisconsin, is a celebrated educational leader and author. During his tenure, the Fall Creek School District was recognized as an Innovative District twice by the International Center for Leadership in Education.

Joe authored multiple books, including best-sellers "Hacking Leadership" and "Lead From Where You Are."

Honored as one of 117 Future Ready Superintendents and among the 50 Personalized Learning Leaders by the US Department of Education, Joe was also named one of the 100 Most Influential Educators by District Administration Magazine. In 2019, Education Dive awarded him National Superintendent of the Year.

Joe is starting off the conference on a high note as the mainstage speaker for day one. Joe will reveal insights into promoting positive behavior in school districts to empower your team to create a safe and supportive school environment. So, ensure you get a front-row seat!

We like to think of the APBS community as a network of multidisciplinary peers coming together to advance knowledge, share resources, and advance positive behavior support. We've been working hard to develop new ways to unite our diverse community.

During this mainstage, Joe will share successes, explain the importance of Tier 1 interventions, encourage equity in the use of behavior-specific praise, and promote well-being through relationship building. Come to this keynote to find out exactly what's in store!

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## Morning Concurrent Sessions

*To help you navigate the conference, we've added a "perfect for" description under every concurrent session. These are simply suggestions for who might find the session helpful! We invite you to attend any session you're interested in.*

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. CST



### All Hands On-Deck: Using PBIS to Empower Teachers and Students

Location:  
Grand A

**Presenter(s):** Brian Gaunt, Kristi Gomez

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Classroom

**Level:** Beginner

Do you want compliance or commitment for PBIS/MTSS among your staff? Do you have challenges with getting everyone on board? Are you interested in taking PBIS/MTSS to the next level? If you answered yes, then this is the session for you!

Teachers are the most essential people in our schools. Their buy-in and self-efficacy is critical to successfully implementing PBIS programs. During this session, we'll focus on common barriers that may stop teachers from fully focusing on PBIS. Then, we'll walk through three potential solutions for reducing the above barriers to establishing and maintaining teacher buy-in for PBIS. You'll complete the session with actionable steps to take back to your district!

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Knowledge and Perceptions of Applied Behavior Analysis Among Higher Education Faculty

Location:  
Grand B

**Presenter(s):** Stacy McGuire

**Author(s):** Rebecca Folkerts, Hedda Meadan-Kaplansky

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU		



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

**Focus area:** Equity

**Level:** Intermediate

PBS are built on the theories and practices of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and have been adopted as the multitiered system of choice by schools across the country. Yet, ABA has come under scrutiny in recent years as some people feel the practices are harmful.

During our study, we surveyed more than 100 faculty members with a focus on this topic. Through our research, we explored the knowledge and perceptions of special education faculty who train future educators related to ABA. We're sharing our key findings and what it means for our field during this session!

**Perfect for:** School professionals



**Setting the Stage for Successful Implementation Partnerships with Positive Behavior Support**

**Location:**  
Grand C



**Presenter(s):** Kaci Fleetwood, Ashley Greenwald  
**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Integration and Alignment

**Level:** Advanced

PBS coaches, trainers, consultants, and technical assistance providers – this session is for you! Are you interested in expanding Positive Behavior Support to new systems or agencies? Through this session, we'll provide you with helpful tools and strategies for building relationships with potential partners.

We're sharing our four-step, structured process – one that is rooted in implementation science and has been refined over ten years of field testing. We'll walk through how to effectively guide the exploration and setup phases, ensuring successful and relevant PBS implementation. Attendees will walk away with tangible knowledge,

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	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	





TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

tools, and strategies to successfully scale Positive Behavior Support across novel populations and agencies.

**Perfect for:** School professionals and organizations/agencies



## Building the Competency and Capacity of the School-based Behavior Specialist

**Location:**  
Grand G



**Presenter(s):** Emily Graybill, Jason Byars

**Author(s):** Emily Graybill, Jason Byars

**Focus area:** School-Wide System and Tier 1

**Level:** Intermediate

As PBS professionals, we often chart our way to new frontiers, exploring strategies to help practitioners and those we serve. Through this session, we'll share about a cutting-edge pilot program meant to support school-based behavior specialists and their supervisors.

We'll walk through the program and explore the need for a common set of competencies and professional support for school-based behavior specialists. After this session, you'll be able to describe a proposed set of competencies for school-based behavior specialists, the results of data collected during a year-long statewide pilot curriculum, and strategies for creating professional learning spaces for school-based behavior specialists.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



## We Should Be Included 2: Tier 2 Supports for Students with Disabilities

**Location:**  
Grand H

**Presenter(s):** Lauren Evanovich, Stephanie Martinez

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Tier 2

**Level:** Intermediate

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU		



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

IEPs are not enough. Students with disabilities frequently need Tier 2 supports, but too often, they're not included because of their existing IEP services. An IEP alone does not guarantee that a student's social-emotional needs are being met.

This session will guide you in developing an effective data-based Tier 2 process that ensures the behavioral, academic, and social emotional needs of all students are met, including those with an IEP.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Teaming and Quality Assessment as Foundations for Advancing Integrated Systems of Support

**Location:**  
Grand F

**Presenter(s):** Alicia Lukachko, Stuart Luther, Kristy Ritvalsky

**Author(s):** Ann Murphy, Maurice Ingram

**Focus area:** Integration and Alignment

**Level:** Beginner

We'll focus on building a strong, integrated system of behavioral, social-emotional, and mental health supports to improve student success. We'll highlight the importance of teamwork and quality assessment in developing these systems, including the Interconnected Systems Framework and Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems (CSMHS). We will share practical examples and recommendations from a statewide program in New Jersey that provides training and coaching to improve CSMHS in preK-12 schools.

Participants will understand the significance of ISoS and their benefits across the academic lifespan of the diverse student; learn how effective teaming practices and quality monitoring are foundational in advancing ISoS and practical strategies for implementation across all grade levels and school settings; and apply lessons learned through a capacity building model utilized with 50 New Jersey schools spanning pre-K, traditional K-12, charter, vocational technical, and alternative.

**Perfect for:** School professionals

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN



## Creating Positive Change: The Impact of PBIS at the Hope Center for Autism

**Location:**  
Regency A

**Presenter(s):** Robyn Vanover, Joanne Sweazey, Lauren Kowalski

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Individual Students and Tier 3

**Level:** Intermediate

With autism affecting 1 in 36 children, developing more effective, inclusive approaches is essential. Although traditional interventions often depend on restrictive settings, at The Hope Center for Autism, we use PBIS to promote independence across educational, family, and community contexts.

During this session, you'll listen to direct stories from a school leader about how PBIS equips learners for a smooth transition into mainstream educational settings and later life stages. Furthermore, you'll get insights into a successful extracurricular program designed to foster inclusive participation among middle school students and young adults on the autism spectrum. We'll discuss the gradual reduction of support structures and the integration of behavioral and academic interventions. Additionally, we'll highlight advanced PBIS implementation, including a hidden curriculum for teaching and reinforcement, supplemental supports such as social thinking groups, lunch bunch, check-in/check-out, and the Comprehensive Autism Planning System (CAPS).

**Perfect for:** School professionals



## Pre-Service Teacher Preparation: Knowledge and Skills to Support Diverse Behavioral Needs

**Location:**  
Regency B

**Presenter(s):** Katie Austin, Tara Camille Moore

**Author(s):** Katie Austin, Tara Camille Moore

**Focus area:** Classroom

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU		



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

### Level: Advanced

Today's teachers need to be better equipped to effectively address students' complex emotional and behavioral needs. As a result, we have redesigned a course at our university to not only provide a foundation for building a positive classroom environment for all students, but to also support pre-service teachers in developing necessary skills for supporting individual students with more intensive behavioral needs in their classrooms.

During this session, we'll provide a rationale for and specifics of recent coursework adjustments at our university to expand typical classroom management course content to include a more robust focus on student risk factors, effective assessments, comprehensive supports, and research-based behavioral strategies for supporting all students, especially students with emotional or behavioral challenges. We will share example course content, assignments, feedback from our students, and ideas for next steps. We will facilitate attendees' sharing of ideas, too.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Integrating Systems of Support: Data-Driven Leadership for School Climate and SEL Success

**Presenter(s):** Erica Lingrell

**Author(s):** Kirsten Thomas-Acke

**Location:**  
Regency  
Club Lounge

**Focus area:** Integration and Alignment

**Level:** Beginner

This design lab focuses on uniting SEL and PBIS to create inclusive and supportive educational experiences for all students, from early childhood through graduation. Participants will explore how integrating SEL within PBIS systems fosters essential skills such as resilience, empathy, and positive behaviors that extend beyond the classroom.

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	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

We'll lead you through a data deep dive, and then work with you through a hands-on goals and action plan session, utilizing whole child data to create actionable SEL goals and improve Tier 1 support structures. We're offering practical tools and strategies to strengthen support systems, too.

**Perfect for:** School professionals, community/family supports and organizations/agencies



## Networking Break and Exhibit Hall

10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m. CST

Location: **Foyer**

**Lunch On Your Own** 12 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. CST

## Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

1:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. CST

**Session B: 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. CST**



### Practice-Based Coaching: Putting It All Together and Making It Stick

**Location:**  
Grand A

**Presenter(s):** Denise Perez Binder, Lise Fox, Anna Winneker

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Classroom

**Level:** Intermediate

Put me in, coach! Using an evidence-based, Practice-Based Coaching (PBC) framework helps you support teachers as they incorporate PBIS in their own classrooms.

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	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Attend this session to understand how this PBC framework can support professional development of teachers, leading to improved learning outcomes for students. You'll learn how to use the PBC cycle, including coaching tools, essential and enhancement coaching strategies, examples, and resources to maintain fidelity to the model. You'll have opportunities to discuss coaching strategies and ask questions, too. Finally, we'll share resources and implementation ideas for delivery of PBC in a variety of formats.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Aligning and Integrating Behavioral Threat Assessment with Existing PBIS Systems

**Location:**  
Grand B

**Presenter(s):** Kathleen Strickland-Cohen, Kelsey Morris

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Integration and Alignment

**Level:** Advanced

School violence impacts students of all ages. In response to increasing violence in schools, the implementation of Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTA) in K-12 schools has steadily grown in the US.

Aligning BTA with other multi-tiered prevention frameworks already in schools can enhance social, emotional, and behavioral support; facilitate early identification for early intervention; and promote safe, supportive school climates. Through this session, we'll demonstrate how BTA and PBIS can be strategically aligned to build and foster positive, safe, and equitable school environments. We'll provide examples of how BTA and PBIS can be integrated to more effectively promote targeted violence prevention through early and regular screenings, efficient use of data for decision making, and evidence-based schoolwide and individualized intervention. We'll also share a case study of a young student attacker to demonstrate the importance of SEB supports and how student data can be regularly

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	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

assessed across the lifespan to identify and prevent concerning behaviors from escalating to violence.

**Perfect for:** School professionals and community/family supports



### Functional Contextual Framework for De-Implementation in School PBS Consultation

**Location:**  
Grand C

**Presenter(s):** Imad Zaheer, Ryan Farmer, Talida State

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** School-Wide Systems and Tier 1

**Level:** Beginner

Implementation science has played a key role in the development and advancement of PBS practices. However, within implementation science, de-implementation of ineffective and harmful practices has received comparatively little attention. As such, adding de-implementation to PBS practices provides a promising new direction. This presentation highlights the functional analytic framework and protocols for de-implementation as part of school-based consultation.

**Perfect for:** School professionals and organizations/agencies



### Addressing and Eliminating Informal Removals

**Location:**  
Grand G



**Presenter(s):** Lisa Joy Bateman, Patrick Kelly, Holly Tate

**Author(s):** Lisa Joy Bateman, Patrick Kelly, Holly Tate

**Focus area:** Equity

**Level:** Beginner

This session will highlight Oregon's strategies to reduce and eliminate informal disciplinary removals, aligning with IDEA requirements and federal guidance. Attendees will explore Oregon's equity-driven approach, which integrates MTSS principles to address behaviors of

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	





TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

concern and ensure transparency in disciplinary practices. Participants will leave with a range of adaptable strategies to implement in their own states and districts, fostering equitable educational environments and ensuring that all students remain engaged in learning.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Universal Screening for Social Emotional Skills: Lessons Learned from One School District

**Location:**  
Grand H

**Presenter(s):** Erin Sullivan, Mishele Carroll, Laura Wheeler

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** School-Wide Systems and Tier 1

**Level:** Intermediate

Universal screening for social-emotional skills is a critical practice that enables schools to proactively identify and support students who may be at risk for social, emotional, or behavioral difficulties. Unlike selective screening methods that focus on individual students, universal screening assesses all students, allowing for early identification of emerging issues and timely interventions. This presentation will offer insights and key takeaways from a large suburban school district's full-scale implementation of universal screening for social-emotional skills.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Coaching Systems Change: Implementing the Interconnected Systems Framework to Impact Wellness

**Location:**  
Grand F

**Presenter(s):** Juan Lira

**Author(s):** Brian Meyer

**Focus area:** Integration and Alignment

**Level:** Advanced

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

It's no secret: our students and families often need mental health support. The Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF) blends PBIS with mental health supports in schools. This implementation framework creates and guides a merging of education and mental health systems and staff. It establishes a single system of delivery across education and mental health systems.

Through this session, we'll briefly introduce ISF, share resources to help you with installation, and then share more about how ISF has worked in the real world, too. We'll highlight promising results, impactful technical assistance strategies, and adjustments made in response to different contexts. Participants will leave with innovative ideas and resources for achieving systems change and implementing the ISF to impact wellness.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



1



### Prevent, Teach, Reinforce: A Tier 3 Behavior Intervention

**Location:**  
Regency A

**Presenter(s):** Kimberly Allen, Julie Murdaugh

**Author(s):** Kimberly Allen, Julie Murdaugh

**Focus area:** Individual Students and Tier 3

**Level:** Intermediate

Schools today face increasing numbers of students exhibiting challenging behaviors that impact classroom climate and learning outcomes. Prevent, Teach, Reinforce (PTR) offers a systematic, research-based approach that aligns with a MTSS and focuses on proactive, instructional, and reinforcement strategies that are sustainable and culturally responsive.

We've designed an interactive session for educators, school psychologists, behavior specialists, special education coordinators, administrators, and any professionals involved in supporting students' behavioral and social-emotional development. Through this presentation, we'll share an overview of the behavioral principles as

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

applied to the PTR model, a case study, and how PTR relates to BACB ethical guidelines.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### What does Tier 2 look like when you are 4?

**Location:**  
Regency B

**Presenter(s):** Anna Winneker

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Early Childhood

**Level:** Beginner

In early childhood, challenging behavior can significantly impact a child's ability to make friends, lead to lost instructional time, and cause increased stress for the child, family, and teacher. Without appropriate interventions, challenges can persist into elementary school and beyond. That's why critical features are needed for an effective Tier 2 system to result in positive student outcomes. In early childhood classrooms, these critical features must be viewed with a developmentally appropriate lens and adjusted to meet the needs of the child. This session will review these features and how early childhood professionals can embed effective Tier 2 supports in their classrooms.

During this session, we'll outline critical differences in early childhood classrooms. This includes using a developmentally appropriate screener identifying children needing additional support. We'll describe how to embed instruction as support for children with targeted needs within the classroom. Additionally, we'll describe a method of progress monitoring for effectiveness. We're sharing materials and resources for participants as well!

**Perfect for:** School professionals and community/family supports

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN



## Getting Your Research Published: Learn from The Journal of Positive Behavior Intervention Editors

**Location:**  
Regency  
Club Lounge

**Presenter(s):** Mandy Rispoli, Wendy Machalicek

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Integration and Alignment

**Level:** Intermediate

Are you interested in publishing your work in the flagship journal for APBS – the Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions (JPBI)? Do you want to learn more about the peer review process and becoming a reviewer, editorial board member, or Associate Editor? This panel discussion, led by JPBI's Co-Editors and Associate Editors, will focus on goals, current and future initiatives to demystify the peer review and publication process and explore ways to connect research with practice.

Join the conversation and pose your questions to the Editors and Associate Editors of JPBI.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners, school professionals, community/family supports and organizations/agencies

## Session C: 2:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. CST



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## Enhancing Individual Behavior Plans Through Preference and Choice Assessment Theme

**Location:**  
Grand A

**Presenter(s):** Kari Gjerde-Kempf, Amy Graber

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Individual Students and Tier 3

**Level:** Intermediate

Have you ever wondered why your reward system doesn't appear to be working? On many occasions, we've heard from teachers, caregivers, and community providers that an individual's behavior

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
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plan appears to have stopped working. One reason may be that the reward system is no longer motivating.

You will learn about direct preference and choice assessment. Direct assessment is a powerful way for staff to include student voice in behavioral interventions and increase effectiveness. We'll describe basic application of both types of assessment. You'll have a chance to practice one type of preference assessment and take materials to use in your own practice, too.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners, school professionals, and organizations/agencies



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### A Behavior Analytic Classroom Management Consulting Model for Early Childhood Classrooms

**Location:**  
Grand B

**Presenter(s):** Rosie Cooper, Margaret Gifford

**Author(s):** Rosie Cooper, Margaret Gifford

**Focus area:** Early Childhood

**Level:** Intermediate

Classroom management is a pivotal component of success in early learning classrooms. Join our panel to learn how two behavior analysts integrated behavior analytic classroom management teacher training and coaching across six PreK classrooms. You will also hear from the directors of the PreK program as they discuss results observed from the classrooms, benefits of the partnership, social validity data, lessons learned from the classrooms, and plans for future growth.

**Perfect for:** School professionals and organizations/agencies

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



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## Implementing Individualized Behavior Support Using Demonstration, Practice, and Coaching

**Location:**  
Grand C

**Presenter(s):** Scott Spaulding, Maria Ibarra, Selena Killin, Carol Davis  
**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Individual Students and Tier 3

**Level:** Intermediate

We'll introduce a series of training components developed for a multi-year study on an online coaching and collaboration system in school systems based on proven professional development models. We cover case examples, intervention guides, progress tracking, and a coaching organizer to help teachers implement Tier 3 support.

We'll provide specific, evidence-based strategies for training educators to implement individual-student behavior supports that are effective, accessible, systematic, and feasible. These function-based behavior interventions can reduce behavioral challenges and increase educational opportunities for students, particularly those from historically marginalized communities. We'll share materials to use within your own school teams as part of our session.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



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## Systems Check! Implementation Drivers and Barriers for Programming Advanced Behavioral Supports

**Location:**  
Grand G

**Presenter(s):** Mark Samudre, Lauren LeJeune, Jessica Torelli  
**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Tier 2

**Level:** Intermediate

What resources exist in your school/district to build capacity for school-wide programming of targeted and intensive behavioral supports? What barriers exist? During this presentation, we'll provide results from a nation-wide survey that explored facilitators and

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barriers for successful implementation. Teachers, school and district administration, and specialized support personnel (e.g., behavior analyst, school psychologist) provide insight on what resources are commonly available and how those resources link with the challenges that many schools face today.

We'll share what we learned and what it means for your district! Our results provide timely information to help school and district-level leaders make decisions about investments to support implementation of advanced behavioral supports.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



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## Who Sustained Tier 1 PBIS through the COVID-19 Pandemic?

**Location:**  
Grand H

**Presenter(s):** Kent McIntosh

**Author(s):** Angus Kittleman, Sterett Mercer

**Focus area:** School-Wide Systems and Tier 1

**Level:** Intermediate

Sustaining effective practices in schools has always been a challenge, but the broad effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have put unique stress on systems and educators. This presentation will report findings from a 5-year study of 595 schools across 22 US states. More schools than we expected had sustained Tier 1 PBIS systems, and there were important predictors that can be targeted to increase the durability of PBIS systems. Through this session, we'll highlight the durability of Tier 1 PBIS when schools are faced with significant crises and provide practical strategies for how school PBIS teams can rebound and strengthen their universal supports to improve student outcomes.

**Perfect for:** School professionals

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	Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU		





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## Lessons Learned: Fusing Social-Emotional and Behavioral Support for Black Learners

**Location:**  
Grand F



**Presenter(s):** Aaron Campbell, Wendy Cornell, Madison Imler, Austin Jackson, Portia Branch

**Author(s):** Aaron Campbell

**Focus area:** Tier 2

**Level:** Intermediate

This session will delve into using a common behavioral strategy to intensify your K-12, universal SEL curriculum. Presenters will share resources and discuss insights gained from a series of research studies integrating social-emotional and behavioral support for Black learners with and at risk for emotional and behavioral disorders.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



## Creating a Culture of Attendance: How Loving School Reduced Absenteeism by Over 10%

**Location:**  
Regency A

**Presenter(s):** Becca Fitzgerald

**Author(s):** Chelsea Borowski

**Focus area:** School-Wide Systems and Tier 1

**Level:** Beginner

It's more than a day off. Chronic absenteeism is a risk factor for many adverse student outcomes, including increased mental illness, higher dropout rates, and decreased academic achievement. Now, imagine reducing chronic absenteeism with fun, joy, and creativity for every staff member and student, instead of truancy letters and long meetings. We'll outline how to implement Tier 1 and Tier 2 school systems to improve student attendance in elementary schools by fostering a positive and inclusive school culture.

We'll focus on universal interventions that benefit all students, such as engaging learning environments, strong student-teacher relationships, and active family involvement. By showcasing

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	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



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successful case studies, data-driven strategies, and sustainable practices, we'll provide a roadmap for schools to create a culture where students are eager to attend regularly, ultimately reducing chronic absenteeism and enhancing overall academic outcomes.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



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## Buying-In to Fading Out: Effective Coaching Strategies for School-based Behavior Specialists

**Location:**  
Regency B

**Presenter(s):** Amanda Borosh, Rebecca Folkerts

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Classroom

**Level:** Intermediate

Collaboration between educators and school-based behavior specialists is essential for improving the implementation and sustainability of PBS in schools. However, earning buy-in and building capacity to sustain these strategies once direct support fades remains a persistent challenge.

We'll introduce Practice-Based Coaching (PBC), a collaborative framework, to improve the implementation and sustainability of positive behavior supports in schools. You'll learn how to use strengths-and-needs assessments, conduct focused observations, and engage in reflective feedback to build capacity and earn stakeholder buy-in for long-term PBS implementation at any tier. We'll share a case study using PBC to coach general education teachers in implementing CW-FIT, too.

By the end of the session, participants will be able to: (1) differentiate between training and coaching, (2) effectively include earn buy-in, (3) use strengths-and-needs assessments to guide coaching, (4) conduct focused observations, (5) engage in reflective feedback sessions, and (6) develop criteria for fading out support.

**Perfect for:** School professionals

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
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## Session D: 3:45 p.m.- 4:45 p.m. CST



### SEL and Behavior for Littles

**Location:**

Grand A

**Presenter(s):** Trisha Autrey

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Classroom

**Level:** Beginner

This course provides educators with insight and practical Tier 1 strategies for fostering a supportive classroom environment tailored to meet the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of Preschool through second grade students. Participants will explore evidence-based approaches to understanding and addressing diverse student needs, promoting positive relationships, and cultivating emotional intelligence.

Through a combination of theoretical foundations and hands-on applications, educators will gain the skills necessary to create inclusive and nurturing spaces.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### What's really happening with behavior in schools? A Survey of Educators

**Location:**

Grand B

**Presenter(s):** Sarah Wilkinson, Gretchen Scheibel

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** School-Wide Systems and Tier 1

**Level:** Advanced

Teachers are leaving the classroom in droves – partly because they're expected to both educate young minds AND manage challenging classrooms without the right training.

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
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Through this session, we'll present results of a spring 2024 survey of 3,500 educators' experiences with student behavior, existing behavioral supports and training opportunities, perceived effectiveness of those supports/trainings, barriers to providing more effective supports, and educator burnout. During the session, we'll encourage attendees to ask questions, provide feedback on the survey, and share how your own experiences align with the survey results.

We're also incorporating research and practical applications so you can apply what you learn to your own settings. We'll share implications for policy and practice, as well as recommendations for next steps to further extend this research.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Culturally Adapted Cross-Age Peer Tutoring for Black Male EBD Middle School Students

**Location:**  
Grand C

**Presenter(s):** Tiffany Crawford

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Tier 2 and Equity

**Level:** Intermediate

Black male students with emotional and behavioral disorders (EBDs) face unique social-emotional and behavioral challenges. Learn how to reduce externalizing behaviors and improve social outcomes using a culturally adapted SEL curriculum delivered through cross-age peer tutoring for Black male middle school students with EBD.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Enhancing High School PBIS: Insights from Implementing Universal Screening

**Location:**  
Grand G

**Presenter(s):** Ami Flammini, Sally Kelly, Leslie Blockman

**Author(s):** Ami Flammini

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



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**Focus area:** Mental Health

**Level:** Intermediate

We're seeing anxiety and depression increase among adolescents – and it's time to take action. During this session, we'll showcase how My SAEBERS has been integrated into high school PBIS frameworks. It highlights the tool's role in identifying and addressing increasing anxiety and depression among students. We'll cover practical applications, student feedback, and strategic improvements, demonstrating how My SAEBERS supports a unified approach to enhancing student mental health and well-being across their educational journey.

Attendees will gain a nuanced understanding of how data-driven tools can address the growing concerns related to internalizing behaviors in adolescents. We will provide actionable strategies for leveraging My SAEBERS to enhance mental health support, demonstrating its alignment with contemporary research and best practices in school-based interventions.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



**Let's Play! Evaluation of a Novel Game-Based Group Contingency: KerPlunk**

**Location:**  
Grand F

**Presenter(s):** Zachary LaBrot

**Author (s):** Brittany Garza, Lourdes Rodriguez

**Focus area:** Early Childhood

**Level:** Intermediate

PBS across the lifespan begins in early childhood. Young children's display of challenging behavior in early education settings may cause disruption to their learning and impact social-emotional and behavioral outcomes. Fortunately, research consistently demonstrates that PBIS are effective for promoting social-emotional and behavioral outcomes while preventing undesirable outcomes.

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We'll discuss using group contingencies in early education settings to promote positive behavior and social-emotional development. Although group contingencies are effective and easy to incorporate into daily activities, there is limited research on their use with young children. This presentation will describe a study that tested the effectiveness of a new interdependent group contingency, called "KerPlunk," in three preschool classrooms.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



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## Using Coaching to Scale Up a Classroom Management System for Rural Settings

**Location:**  
Regency A

**Presenter(s):** Nicolette Grasley-Boy  
**Author(s):** Gretchen Scheibel

**Focus area:** Classroom

**Level:** Intermediate

Providing evidence-based support to teachers is an ongoing challenge, worsened by increasing demands and shortages. These difficulties are exacerbated in rural settings, where staff have numerous responsibilities and unique challenges.

We'll provide an in-depth overview of the rural coaching model used to support high-fidelity implementation of CW-FIT, including barriers and facilitators to implementation identified during an ongoing large-scale study in rural schools. We will also share quantitative and qualitative pilot data collected through this project to examine potential outcomes associated with rural implementation. Finally, we will highlight the total implementation cost of installing and supporting the use of CW-FIT in rural schools, using the rural coaching model, and will compare this to traditional "train the trainer" models to highlight cost efficiencies for rural districts.

**Perfect for:** School professionals

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU		



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## DSC: A Proactive Approach to Positive Classroom Management in High Schools

**Location:**  
Regency B

**Presenter(s):** Tricia Skyles

**Author(s):** Keith Herman, Kirby Chow, Madeline Cincebeaux

**Focus area:** Classroom

**Level:** Intermediate

When students receive discipline referrals, suspensions, or expulsions, they lose valuable learning opportunities, benefits of good relationships with teachers and peers, and more. Research indicates that secondary school teachers can play a critical role in helping students adapt to school and remain academically engaged.

During this session, we'll discuss Discipline in the Secondary Classroom (DSC), which is an effective program to help high school teachers design a classroom management plan that prevents problems, fosters student engagement, teaches students to behave responsibly, and creates a positive and productive classroom environment. DSC is well-aligned with PBIS and offers new and seasoned teachers strategies to create a successful classroom management plan. This session will provide an overview of DSC and results from a recently completed study, along with key recommendations you can use in your own schools.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



## Exhibit Hall, Poster Sessions and Bingo

5 p.m. - 6 p.m. CST

**Location:** Foyer

APBS has developed a unique BINGO game to help you explore the Exhibit Hall. Each attendee will receive a BINGO card upon check-in. Visit the locations on your BINGO card to receive a sticker. Gather stickers from all participating exhibit booths to get entered in the prize drawing.

**The grand prize is a \$500 gift card!** Other prizes may be added.

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	Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU		





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## APBS Film Festival

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CST

**Location:** Grand DE

Join us in Grand DE for the APBS film festival! This year's theme is ***Bridging Relationships & Positivity***. Come vote for your favorite film that demonstrates the core PBIS principles in two major film categories: Instruction and School Engagement.

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
									
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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## Day 2: Friday, March 14

### Registration

7 a.m. - 6 p.m. CST

**Location:** Coat Room



### Exhibit Hall

7 a.m. - 6 p.m. CST

**Location:** Foyer

Through the Exhibit Hall, you'll get to see cutting-edge demonstrations and educational content that highlight the latest developments in PBS.



### Welcome and Mainstage Keynote

7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. CST

**Location:** Grand DE

**Mainstage Speaker:** Lola Dada-Olley



### Engaging Families

On day two, we're keeping the momentum by bringing out a heavy hitter, Lola Dada-Olley, as our mainstage speaker!

Lola is an attorney, advocate, mother, wife, sister, and podcast founder. She practices law at a global banking institution, where she sits at the intersection of law, accessibility, and technology. Her role includes advising business partners on matters relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU				NASP CPD CEU		



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In 2020, Lola launched the Not Your Mama's Autism Podcast. Part audio memoir, part interview style podcast, Lola weaves in personal narratives of her life as an older sibling to an autistic man with an intellectual disability and now, as a mother of two autistic children, with interviews of various members of the global neurodivergent and disability communities.

Lola gives talks nationwide – including her TEDx talks – on a variety of topics, including hope, societal stigma, disability inclusion, design thinking, special education, access to health care, and the mental health of lifetime caregivers.

Lola touches on societal stigma, culture, the intersection of race and disability, and corporate disability inclusion efforts. She will share that getting a diagnosis for autism – or for any special need – is like being “drafted into the special forces unit of motherhood.” And for her, that has happened twice.

Lola’s multi-generational experience with autism gives her a unique perspective and a passion for “living out loud.” Through this experience, Lola will help conference attendees improve their understanding of the support families and the IDD community need and provide a framework for professionals to better support families with children with disabilities.

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## Morning Concurrent Sessions

Session E: 9:45 10:45 a.m. CST



### Promoting Family-School Connections through Universal, Targeted, and Individualized Approaches

**Location:**  
Grand A

**Presenter(s):** Tyler Smith, Shannon Holmes

**Author(s):** Jenna Strawhun

**Focus area:** Families and Parent Supports

**Level:** Intermediate

Families play a critical role in supporting PBIS in schools. We'll provide empirical and theoretical support for family engagement practices, along with practical, evidence-based strategies for building and strengthening family engagement within MTSS.

Specifically, we'll explore family engagement through a three-tiered continuum including universal, targeted, and individualized approaches. We'll share video examples, case studies, and practice protocols to make this topic come alive for participants as well.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners and school professionals



### All Systems Go – Integrating Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Developmental Disability Systems

**Location:**  
Grand B



**Presenter(s):** Amber Stockreef, Rhiannon Evans

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** IDD

**Level:** Beginner

Navigating mental health and intellectual/developmental disability systems can be clunky and burdensome for individuals and caregivers who are simply trying to access quality care.

We'll cover the common systemic hurdles to integrating services for persons with co-occurring diagnoses and how Missouri is beginning to

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use applied behavior analysis principles at a systems level to bust these barriers and deliver services when and how they are needed.

We'll share how Missouri Echos are developing collaborative skills across the state, along with specific data from Missouri's Alliance of Dual Diagnosis Echo. We will also share Missouri's Tiered Supports data from provider organizations that outlines needs, implementation of systems efforts, progress, and outcomes.

**Perfect for:** School professionals and organizations/agencies



## Creating Levels Systems for Youth in Correctional and Residential Settings using a PBIS Framework

**Location:**  
Grand C

**Presenter(s):** Lauren Brown, Emily Spurlock, Ashley Greenwald  
**Author(s):** Lauren Brown, Emily Spurlock

**Focus area:** Home and Community

**Level:** Intermediate

Although not federally mandated, many residential treatment and juvenile justice facilities use a levels system to gauge youth progress throughout their stay. The problem? Staff often report that levels systems don't help youth achieve their goals or learn important skills necessary for exit.

We'll review levels systems created for youth in two different settings: juvenile justice and residential treatment. You'll learn the history behind the use of levels systems in correctional and residential treatment settings, the previous systems each facility had in place, why the systems were changed, and how the updated levels systems are currently serving youth and staff. You'll also learn strategies to make levels systems consistent with FWPBIS.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners and community/family supports

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



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## Coaching for Family-School-Community Partnerships in Integrated PBIS and School Mental Health

**Location:**  
Grand H

**Presenter(s):** Andy Garbacz, Katie Pohlman, Kelly Perales, Steve Kilgus  
**Author(s):** Andy Garbacz, Katie Pohlman, Kelly Perales, Katie Eklund, Steve Kilgus

**Focus area:** Families and Parent Supports

**Level:** Beginner

You will learn about coaching to merge family-school-community partnerships within integrated PBIS and school mental health. We'll share suggestions from families and school teams, and school implementation data that supported the development of a coaching model for family-school-community partnerships. As part of the session, you'll receive resources to support your coaching and evaluation of family-school-community partnerships that can be applied across settings.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners, community/family supports and school professionals



## Providing Language, Academic, and Behavior Support to Language Minority Students with Disabilities

**Location:**  
Grand F

**Presenter(s):** Mack Burke, Azizullah Mirzaei, Michael Paal, Anna-Maria Hintz, Zohreh Eslami  
**Author(s):** Anna-Maria Hintz, Zohreh Eslami

**Focus area:** Equity

**Level:** Beginner

As globalization, migration, and immigration increase, schools are becoming multilingual environments, presenting new challenges. Schools are being asked to address the educational, psychological, and behavioral needs of language minority students. Additionally, there is a notable connection between social inclusion, language acquisition, lack of peer interaction, peer friendships, and peer acceptance that is associated with behavioral issues.

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



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We'll provide an overview of promising practices for supporting the language, academic, and social-behavioral needs of language minority students with disabilities. Although research is limited, this presentation will review promising strategies and practices to support these diverse learners in educational settings.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners, school professionals and community/family supports



## Cultural Adaptations in Caregiver-Mediated Behavior Supports: A Literature Review

**Location:**  
Regency A

**Presenter(s):** Ana Martinez

**Author(s):** Maria Hugh, Fuyanan Shi

**Focus area:** Families and Supports

Equity

**Level:** Intermediate

We're bringing the data and sharing the findings from our research review! This review examines how evidence-based caregiver-mediated positive behavior support interventions (CM-PBSI) are adapted for Latino/Hispanic families, and how strategies are used to improve caregiver engagement and adherence. Through this review, we will: (1) explore how evidence-based methods are used to culturally adapt CM-PBSI for Latino/Hispanic families, (2) identify strategies that encourage caregiver participation and commitment, and (3) understand how cultural or ethnic differences impact caregiver involvement in these programs.

We'll also share about the importance of tailoring interventions to meet the specific cultural needs of families, ensuring that the interventions are relevant, effective, and lead to strong caregiver engagement.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	





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## Implementing the Skills-Based Treatment Protocol: Adapting to Imperfect Contexts

**Location:**  
Regency B



**Presenter(s):** Catriona Martin, Hannah Newcombe, Patrick Behan  
**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Home and Community

**Level:** Advanced

Practical Functional Assessment (PFA) and Skills-Based Treatment (SBT) is a proven approach for addressing concerning behaviors and improving tolerance skills.

During this presentation, we'll describe the application of the PFA/SBT with three young people in the UK. We'll discuss the challenges the team faced in implementing this procedure in imperfect clinical settings where funding, time, and commitment were limited. We'll discuss the procedural changes made to help with implementation and review the outcomes for each of the three young people. Lastly, we'll explore the key factors that contributed to success, even in challenging settings.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners and school professionals

## Birds of a Feather Concurrent Sessions

9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. CST



### APBS High School Network: Face to Face High School Think Tank

**Location:**  
Regency F



**Presenter(s):** Patti Hershfeldt, Ami Flammini



**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** School-Wide Systems and Tier 1

**Level:** Beginner

Join us live and form new connections to support your high school work!

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU		



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PBS strategies are strongest when researchers and professionals who are implementing PBS strategies collaborate. The APBS High School Network connects individuals implementing PBIS in high schools with those who are researching PBIS in high schools. We'll share how the network fosters the sharing of challenges, collaboration on solutions, and celebration of successes. Additionally, we'll build meaningful connections that extend beyond the online sessions.

**Perfect for:** School professionals

11:00a.m. - 11:45 a.m. CST



### Moving from Data to Action: Interactive Discussion Addressing Disproportionality

**Presenter(s):** Stephanie Martinez, Nichole Fintel

**Author(s):** NA

**Location:**  
Regency E

**Focus area:** School-Wide Systems and Tier 1

**Level:** Intermediate

The data is undeniable. Students with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be suspended than their nondisabled peers. Black students are nearly 2.5 times more likely to be suspended. We know we can do better. Through this interactive roundtable workshop, we'll work through two key topics together: (1) the data used to identify disproportionate discipline practices, and (2) the strategies districts and schools are using to identify disproportionality.

We'll discuss strategies through five focus areas: curriculum, awareness, relationships, environment, and discipline (CARED). We'll share sample resources and interventions for each focus area.

You'll learn evidence-based practices from both one another and the facilitators, helping to enhance the quality of life for all students.

**Perfect for:** School professionals

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## APBS Talks

**Location:** Park View



### Habits of Researchers

Sponsored by APBS Committee on Research



**Dr. Allison Bruhn**  
**University of Iowa**  
Professor of Special Education  
Executive Director of the  
Scanlan Center for School  
Mental Health

Join successful scholars in the field of PBS to learn about effective practices for researchers.

Drs. Bruhn and Machalicek will share insights on how to:



**Dr. Wendy Machalicek**  
**University of Oregon**  
Professor of Special Education  
and Clinical Sciences

(1) build relationships/mentorships in the field, (2) manage your time, (3) get the most out of a project, (4) obtain funding, and (5) maintain a healthy perspective on your career.



### The Advice You Probably Didn't Get

Sponsored by APBS Committee on Mental Health and PBS Disparities

**Dr. Ruthie L. Payno-Simmons**



Dr. Payno-Simmons will lead a discussion tailored to women navigating the path to success in PBS. She'll explore strategies for building and sustaining a rewarding career in PBS. Attendees will gain practical insights into leveraging their unique strengths, overcoming common challenges, and aligning personal and professional values to advance in the field.

Join us to uncover the often-overlooked advice that empowers women to excel in PBS, shape their careers with confidence, and foster equity and diversity in behavioral support practices.

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## Session F: 11 a.m.12 p.m. CST



### Let's Get Supportive: Using PBIS Across the Agency for Staff and Individuals Served

**Location:**  
Grand A

**Presenter(s):** Anna Cole, Mandy Sullivan, Sarah Ward

**Author(s):** Anna Cole, Mandy Sullivan, Sarah Ward

**Focus area:** IDD

**Level:** Beginner

Regardless of age or ability, PBS can be an effective way to enhance someone's life. We all know behavior influences behavior. At Com Well, we took this perspective and used positive behavior supports to encourage staff to model appropriate alternatives for our individuals. This can help shape positive behaviors for individuals, promote collaboration and teamwork between staff, and create a better, more efficient work environment.

We will first explain how everyone within the agency can be involved, using a rainbow approach. We'll discuss a step-by-step approach, including what data to collect, setting goals as an agency, and implementation. We believe this approach can be easily adapted to fit into a variety of settings to support both staff and the individuals served.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners and organizations/agencies



### Role of Climate Anxiety, Hope, and Community Empowerment in Predicting Climate Change

**Location:**  
Grand B

**Presenter(s):** Liam Davis-Bosch

**Author(s):** McKenna Parnes, Isabelle Pardew, Julia Turner, Sarah Schwartz

**Focus area:** Mental Health

**Level:** Intermediate

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

We will explore the role of climate anxiety, hope, and community empowerment in shaping students' willingness to take action on climate change.

We'll share our findings from a mixed methods intervention study where we implemented a climate change curriculum in high school classrooms. We'll explore whether and how familial and community empowerment can buffer against distress and promote student engagement, with a focus on historically marginalized groups. The tracked climate-related behaviors varied, including voting for candidates based on their climate positions, sharing information on social media, displaying climate action messages through attire or signs, and signing climate-related petitions and student-inputted answers.

Learn how a child's community contributes to their self-efficacy and learn ways to foster a greater sense of empowerment among high school students.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Impact of PBIS Fidelity to Staff Retention Within Psychiatric Residential Treatment of Facilities

**Location:**  
Grand C

**Presenter(s):** Mikayla Lawless, Christopher Delap

**Author(s):** Mikayla Lawless, Christopher Delap, Lydia Shontz, Layla McEniry

**Focus area:** Mental Health

**Level:** Advanced

During this session, you'll learn about the role of PBIS framework in organizational capacity-building and jump-starting a continuous improvement cycle.

Supporting direct service providers is critical for Kansas mental and behavioral health organizations. We'll highlight two discrete efforts to respond to this need by implementing PBIS strategies within Psychiatric

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



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UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF). The results from these data sets are similar, showing a positive link between PBIS fidelity and staff retention, influenced by the rate of behavioral incidents. We'll break down these results, what they mean for attendees, and recommendations for next steps.

**Perfect for:** Organizations/agencies and mental health professionals



## The Kids Aren't OK and Neither are We: The Mental Health Care Works Campaign for Humanity

**Location:**  
Grand G



**Presenter(s):** Monica Taylor-Desir, Brook Choulet, Tonja Myles, Rawle Andrews

**Author(s):** Rawle Andrews

**Focus area:** Mental Health

**Level:** Intermediate

Mental health has reached a crisis point in our country. The way patients and family caregivers approach their mental health should mirror their physical healthcare, from conversation to prevention to treatment.

The APA Foundation is committed to being the voice that says: "Mental Health Care Works." This session will feature clinicians and persons with lived experience who are supporting this national campaign to raise awareness and change attitudes.

This expert panel will discuss best practices to address mental health concerns, encourage struggling individuals and families to speak with health care providers about these conditions, and ultimately normalize the public's attitude towards mental health and well-being.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners, mental health professionals, school professionals, community/family supports, and organizations/agencies

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



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## Are Educators Burnt Out? A Statewide Inquiry Plus Actionable Steps

**Location:**  
Grand H

**Presenter(s):** Ashley Rila, Gerta Bardhoshi, Allison Bruhn

**Author(s):** Derek Rodgers

**Focus area:** Mental Health

**Level:** Intermediate

Education is considered one of the most stressful occupations, and it's a significant public health issue. Through a statewide inquiry, we investigated educator burnout in various positions (e.g., teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, administrators) through a survey and interviews.

We'll report quantitative and qualitative outcomes by educator position and discuss actionable steps related to interventions and policy.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



## The Impact of a Tier 2 Professional Development on CICO Implementation and Student Outcomes

**Location:**  
Grand F

**Presenter(s):** Farya Haider, Amanda Witte, Chandra Essex, Mackenzie Riedel

**Author(s):** Farya Haider, Amanda Witte, Chandra Essex, Mackenzie Riedel, Scott Eckman

**Focus area:** Tier 2

**Level:** Intermediate

Effective implementation of Tier 2 student supports under a MTSS framework is highly dependent on building staff knowledge and competencies. The Nebraska State Personnel Development Grant team supported six districts' Tier 2 implementations with professional development, implementation monitoring, and evaluation. You will learn:

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	





TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

1. About the components of professional development centered around installing Tier 2 data, systems and practices, with an emphasis on examining and integrating Check-In/Check-Out.
2. How to monitor the fidelity of Tier 2 systems and practices.
3. How to evaluate the impact of the Tier 2 system on outcomes.

**Perfect for:** School professionals, and state and district leaders



### Missouri Tiered Supports: Creating a Statewide Continuum of Care in Human Services

**Location:**  
Regency A

**Presenter(s):** Nicole Jones, Kathleen Deppeler

**Author(s):** Nicole Jones, Kathleen Deppeler

**Focus area:** IDD

**Level:** Advanced

Individuals with IDD require a full continuum of care across the lifespan to ensure meaningful quality of life outcomes. Missouri's Department of Mental Health has developed a tiered supports framework to build the capacity of human service organizations and community partners within the state.

The session will include implementation examples from adult community services, implementation and program resources, training and collaboration opportunities, and priority actions for individuals and organizations alike.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners and organizations/agencies



### Strategies for Effective Family-School Partnerships within a Multi-Tiered System of Supports

**Location:**  
Regency B

**Presenter(s):** Karen Gifford, Kiki McGough, Alejandra Gallego

**Author(s):** Alejandra Gallego

**Focus area:** Families and Parent Supports

**Level:** Intermediate

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU		



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

This interactive session explores the Framework of National Standards for School Partnerships as the foundation for successful Family-School Partnerships. Educators will learn to identify strategies and skills they can use to partner more effectively with diverse cultures and family structures within school-wide positive behavioral supports.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners, school professionals, and organizations/agencies



## Lunch On Your Own, Networking Break and Exhibit Hall

12p.m. – 1:15 p.m. CST

Location: **Foyer**

## Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

### Session G: 1:15 p.m.2:15 p.m. CST



#### Policy to Practice: Universal Mental Health Screening in California and Washington

Location: **Grand A**

**Presenter(s):** Stephanie Moore, Kali Patterson, Larissa Gaias, Alice Amaya, Kelcey Schmitz

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Mental Health

**Level:** Intermediate

Universal Mental Health Screening (UMHS) is a key component of school mental health within MTSS. UMHS is a proactive approach that involves systematically assessing the social, emotional, behavioral, mental health and well-being of all students within a class, grade, school or district.

During this session, participants will explore how California and Washington are at the forefront of UMHS statewide policy and practice. Our panel brings together researchers, practitioners, and technical

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

assistance providers to explore state-specific strategies, share key findings and resources, and discuss collaborative efforts.

You'll learn how these legislative-initiated efforts are shaping comprehensive, equitable, and preventative mental health support within an MTSS framework to transform school practices and inform policy.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Using Family-School Partnerships to Promote Positive Behavior Support during Middle School

**Location:**  
Grand B

**Presenter(s):** Andy Garbacz

**Author(s):** Andy Garbacz

**Focus area:** Families and Parent Support

**Level:** Intermediate

Learn how to use family-school partnerships to promote positive behavior support during middle school and enhance outcomes for middle school students with behavior concerns.

We'll share research-supported strategies from a series of family-school partnership intervention studies to demonstrate the impact of partnership-centered strategies during middle school to advance positive behavior.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Empowering Youth With Internalizing Behaviors Through a Multi-tiered Systems of Supports

**Location:**  
Grand C

**Presenter(s):** Anna Hebb, Kristen O'Sullivan, Kim Dupre

**Author(s):** Whitney Jones, Wendi Jenkins

**Focus area:** Mental Health

**Level:** Beginner

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Want the most recent MTSS best practices, but don't have time for all the research? We looked at more than 601 articles, so you don't have to.

We'll focus on addressing the needs of students experiencing internalizing behaviors such as depression, anxiety, and social withdrawal, emphasizing the rising trend in mental health concerns.

MTSS can foster academic, social, and emotional well-being in educational settings. Research shows how MTSS can create inclusive environments that meet students' emotional and behavioral needs when educators, mental health providers, and community partners collaborate. We encourage strengthening these partnerships to support students with internalizing behaviors and promote overall wellness in schools.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners, school professionals, community/family supports, and organizations/agencies



## Tier 2: Building Capacity Statewide for Human Service Organizations

**Location:**  
Grand G

**Presenter(s):** Nicole Jones, Carl Hoeningner

**Author(s):** Nicole Jones

**Focus area:** IDD

**Level:** Advanced

It's time to move from crisis intervention to risk prevention. Human service organizations often deal with crisis for the people they support. Too often, organizations are only reacting to crisis, and this tends to become an endless loop of reactive strategies which are both unsustainable and often create poor outcomes for both staff and the individuals supported.

We'll provide information on how Missouri's Department of Mental Health is working to develop a full continuum of care for human service organizations, and specifically how Schoolwide Tier 2 is being adapted

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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

for the human service field. You will learn more about how Missouri is identifying individuals who are either at risk or experiencing high risk, and how to mitigate risk and prevent poor outcomes without unduly taxing limited clinical resources. We'll include implementation examples for human service organizations, and provide examples of assessments and tools being used to build Tier 2 targeted supports within human service organizations.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners and organizations/agencies



### Screening for Students with Disabilities: An Intersectional Understanding of Student Need

**Location:**  
Grand H

**Presenter(s):** James Sinclair

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Mental Health

**Level:** Beginner

Little is known about the implementation and data usage of universal screening that is inclusive of students with disabilities. This presentation promotes an equity-centered approach to universal screening and presents data by examining student demographics through an intersectional lens. We will discuss universal screening findings and implementation factors for universal screening of students with disabilities.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Leveraging AI-Powered Automated Feedback to Support Positive Behavior Practices in Classrooms

**Location:**  
Grand F



**Presenter(s):** Jessica Boyle, Joseph Wehby

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Classroom

**Level:** Beginner

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU		



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Can AI tools support teacher practice with automated feedback? The presenters have explored this challenge and will share:

1. The development process for creating an AI-powered automated feedback model that uses classroom audio to detect evidence-based classroom management practices.
2. Teachers' perceived benefits and concerns around automated feedback.

You'll learn: practical insights into developing AI tools for classroom use, more about teachers' perceptions of automated feedback, and about the broader implications of using these technologies to support teacher practice and improve student outcomes.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Using Technology to Support Behavioral Intervention and Decision-making

**Location:**  
Regency A

**Presenter(s):** Allison Bruhn, Ashley Rila, Joseph Wehby  
**Author(s):** Allison Bruhn, Beth Provis, Erin Appleby

**Focus area:** Classroom

**Level:** Intermediate

Research on self-monitoring interventions indicates they are effective in improving a range of behaviors in K-12 students. However, few studies have examined the extent to which behavior change maintains over time. Further, most educators are not trained in how to intensify or fade behavioral interventions based on student response.

We'll discuss the research and development of technology to support behavioral interventions and decision-making in the classroom, with special attention to stakeholder voice and the impact on students and teachers alike.

**Perfect for:** School professionals

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN



## Increasing Praise to Reprimand Ratios Under Real-World Conditions Using CW-FIT

**Location:**  
Regency B

**Presenter(s):** Daniel Cohen, Carl Sumi, Jacky Williams, Howard Wills  
**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Classroom

**Level:** Intermediate

Class-Wide FIT (CW-FIT) is a classroom management program proven to increase student engagement while reducing problem behavior in elementary, middle school, and special education classrooms.

During this session, we'll provide details on the core components of CW-FIT, including: 1) lessons and pre-corrects used by teachers to address common problem behaviors; 2) a group contingency framework through which student groups earn points for engaging in desired behavior; 3) behavior specific praise; and 4) rewards that are earned by teams for reaching goals set.

We'll include real-life examples from a study including more than 100 classrooms. We will also describe how trainers and program developers can apply lessons learned to create implementation supports focused on building capacity among existing staff, and leveraging online platforms to streamline professional development and performance feedback delivery by expert trainers.

**Perfect for:** School professionals

## Session H: 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. CST



## From Challenges to Triumphs: Empowering Families Today for a Better Tomorrow

**Location:**  
Grand A



**Presenter(s):** Gereen Francis  
**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Families and Parent Supports

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU		





TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

### Level: Intermediate

Do you want to learn how to support families in managing challenging behaviors? This presentation equips attendees with practical knowledge and insights into effective family behavior management through the Empowering Families! Positive Behavior Support workshop, created by Gereen Francis, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Attendees will gain an understanding of how to apply evidence-based strategies that promote positive outcomes in family dynamics.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners, school professionals and organizations/agencies



### Positive Behavior Support and Adult Students with Disabilities Transitioning to Adulthood

**Location:**  
Grand B



**Presenter(s):** Christina Gushanas  
**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Individual Students and Tier 3

### Level: Intermediate

Currently, there is a lack of guidance on how to support adult students with disabilities who receive special education services. We will discuss evidence-based and effective positive behavioral interventions and supports that promote the transition from school to adult life (i.e., postsecondary education, employment, and community participation) for adult students with disabilities.

Attendees will leave with practices grounded in literature, which they can begin implementing with adult students with disabilities immediately. We'll share future areas for research, too.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### What Does Research Say About Including Student Voice in Self-Regulation Interventions?

**Location:**  
Grand C

**Presenter(s):** Sara Estrapala

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
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**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Tier 2

**Level:** Intermediate

Listen up – it's students sharing what they need! Self-regulation interventions are a widely researched strategy for improving student behavior in schools. However, little is known regarding the extent to which student voice is implemented with these interventions. Through our session, we'll share results from a meta-analysis of behavioral self-regulation intervention research conducted in high schools, with an emphasis on practical considerations for implementation.

The first goal of our presentation is to recommend self-regulation intervention configurations that work best across student characteristics (e.g., gender, race, disability status) and different contexts (e.g., regular, alternative, correctional schools). Our second goal is to provide recommendations for the most effective ways to include students in intervention design decisions (e.g., identifying behaviors to address, writing goals). We will accomplish this goal by reviewing how student voice is included in intervention design decisions and evaluate the extent to which student voice inclusion moderated intervention outcomes. Third, we will provide resources for implementing self-regulation interventions and incorporating student voice in their classrooms.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



**Empowering Implementers: Using Time Studies to Address Burnout and Enhance PBIS Implementation**

**Location:**  
Grand G

**Presenter(s):** Hank Bohanon, Alejandra Vazquez, Eleanor Chandler

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Integration and Alignment

**Level:** Intermediate

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
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By empowering educators to manage their time more effectively, time-use studies may offer a tool to improve PBIS implementation and reduce burnout.

This session explores educators' challenges in balancing professional responsibilities and introduces practical strategies to optimize workflow, enhance support systems, and drive meaningful change in schools. Participants will learn how to apply time-use studies to advocate for more effective collaboration and leadership practices, ultimately fostering a healthier, more sustainable work environment.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners, school professionals and agencies



### SELebrating Integration: Embedding SEL into PBIS Lifelong Student Success

**Location:**  
Grand H

**Presenter(s):** Kirsten Thomas-Acke

**Author(s):** Erica Lingrell

**Focus area:** Integration and Alignment

**Level:** Beginner

It's time to SELebrate! During this session, we'll equip school teams with practical strategies for implementing TFI item 1.3. Our interactive session focuses on integrating Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) into PBIS practices. Using CASEL-based tools, participants will learn to embed SEL competencies into their Behavior Matrix, fostering a supportive environment that enhances student success.

Our workshop emphasizes the integration of SEL and PBIS to create an inclusive, supportive educational environment for students throughout their educational journey. Participants will explore how embedding SEL into PBIS systems supports lifelong skill development, fostering resilience, empathy, and positive behaviors.

**Perfect for:** School professionals

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



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## Improving Access to Extracurricular Activities for Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disability (EBD)

**Location:**  
Grand F

**Presenter(s):** Sean Wachsmuth

**Author(s):** Jason Stanoch

**Focus area:** Equity

**Level:** Advanced

It's time to play by new rules! Including students with EBD in extracurricular activities requires schools to think outside the box. Challenging behaviors, strained relationships with coaches and advisors, and no pass/no play rules create barriers to the clear benefits of participation.

During our presentation, we'll outline the current research regarding the benefits of extracurricular activity participation for students with EBD and present solutions to common barriers aimed at increasing opportunities for these students.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



## Buffers Across the Tiers: Strategies that Mitigate Adversity and Interventions that Enhance MTSS

**Location:**  
Regency A



**Presenter(s):** Megan Szeto

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Mental Health

**Level:** Intermediate

As trauma-responsive care takes hold in schools, school-based providers require concrete service-delivery options for students affected by traumatic experiences. This presentation aims to describe actionable, evidence-based approaches that can be framed within existing multi-tiered systems of supports. It will further outline interventions that align with existing school practices to facilitate positive outcomes for students.

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

**Perfect for:** School professionals



## Tier 2 Interventions: What's Available Beyond Check-In/Check-Out?

**Location:**  
Regency B

**Presenter(s):** Scott Fluke

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Tier 2

**Level:** Intermediate

Check-In/Check-Out is a powerful Tier 2 intervention – but it is not right for all students! This session will expand your menu of evidence-based Tier 2 interventions. This session is especially for school-based professionals who are ready to support a wider range of students through PBIS. Learn about specific interventions for students who want to avoid work, students with internalizing concerns, students with social skills deficits, and students who struggle with homework completion.

**Perfect for:** School professionals

## Session I: 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. CST



## Video Self Modeling Training for Families to Support Behavior Change of Children with IDD

**Location:**  
Grand A

**Presenter(s):** Anthea Naylor

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** IDD

**Level:** Intermediate

We can help parents and caregivers – ones who have children with intellectual and developmental disabilities – build agency, hope, and self-determination, with the help of new research!

During this session, we'll discuss research that explored how parents/caregivers can implement a Video Self Modeling (VSM)

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU			Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU		



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

intervention to support behavior change in the home. The results shine a new lens on how parents can develop their capacity to manage concerning behaviors. We'll describe how to implement PMI training, with rich examples of transformation and behavior change in both participants and their children with IDD. We'll explore VSM through a new lens as an effective evidence-based intervention to support parent/caregiver journey towards self-determination and hope.

**Perfect for:** Home practitioners and school professionals



### Ways BCBAs Can Collaborate with Teachers to Support PBS Practices in Classroom Settings

**Location:**  
Grand B



**Presenter(s):** Cheryl Light-Shriner, Cassie McConkey, Sangjee Ha  
**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Classroom

**Level:** Intermediate

When classroom teachers and Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA's) work together, educators feel more confident and have the right tools to succeed – leading to stronger student outcomes, too.

Through this session, we'll walk through classroom scenarios that demonstrate how BCBAs and teachers can work together to customize positive behavior supports within specific teachers' personal style, classroom routines, and organizational structure to prevent behavioral problems. We'll introduce a collaboration template that you can use to work together and enhance the learning experience. We're sharing cross-disciplinary collaboration challenges and possible solutions during our discussion.

Finally, we'll work together through a planning and brainstorming session, walking through scenarios and situations from your own classrooms – and providing specific recommendations, too.

**Perfect for:** School professionals

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Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
	Gen Learning ACE CEU				Ethics Ace CEU			NASP CPD CEU	



TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN



## An Examination of Effective Instruction, Student Behavior, and Anxiety in Classroom Instruction

**Location:**  
Grand C

**Presenter(s):** Terrance Scott, Todd Whitney

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Classroom

**Level:** Intermediate

We want our participants to all get an A+ for managing anxiety. Through this presentation, we'll discuss a series of studies exploring how teacher and student anxiety, effective teaching practices, and student behavior are interconnected in a classroom setting. Students with challenging behaviors often experience anxiety, which can worsen when they struggle in school. Although effective teaching can improve student outcomes, both teacher and student anxiety can negatively impact the classroom environment and teacher-student relationships.

The studies, conducted in virtual classrooms, examine how teacher and student anxiety affect each other during instruction. The main research questions are: (1) How does the use of effective teaching practices influence teacher and student anxiety? (2) How does teacher anxiety impact teaching and student behavior? (3) Are effective teaching strategies different for students of different ages?

During this session, we'll discuss how teachers can manage anxiety and stay focused on effective teaching, even in challenging situations.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



## The Effects of Student-Led Tootling to Decrease Disruptive Classroom Behavior

**Location:**  
Grand G



**Presenter(s):** Jillian Thoele

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Classroom

**Level:** Intermediate

*Schedule is subject to change. Check Cvent for the latest schedule.*

Mainstage Session	Concurrent Session	APBS Talk	Pre-conference Learning	Exhibit Hall	Refreshments	Networking	Design Lab	Birds of a Feather	President's Pick
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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Say hello to students supporting students and tootle-loo to negative behaviors! This session focuses on Tootling, a classroom strategy where students report their peers' positive behaviors to encourage good conduct. In Tootling, students fill out "tootle cards" with examples of prosocial behaviors, and reinforcement is provided when these cards are randomly selected to be shared with the class. It also includes a group-contingency approach, where the entire class benefits from positive behavior, reinforcing individual students' actions.

During this session, we'll share a study that used a single-case research design to compare the effects of student-led and teacher-led Tootling on disruptive behavior and academic engagement in five elementary students. We'll connect current research with practical classroom applications and suggest future research to improve positive behavior support strategies in different settings.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



## Integrating Screening for Suicide and Social, Emotional and Behavioral Risk within PBS

**Presenter(s):** Joseph Latimer, Alton Honors  
**Author(s):** NA

**Location:**  
Grand H

**Focus area:** Mental Health

**Level:** Advanced

We're in this together – data shows that MOST states are seeing increased social, emotional, and behavioral (SEB) concerns in school-aged children. Since school settings are the most effective avenue for supporting student well-being, improving school-based systems is critical.

Through this session, we'll describe the key components for integrating universal screening for SEB risk and suicide risk within PBS. Specifically, we'll blend research findings with current

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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

experiences of a university-district research to practice partnership. We'll focus our discussion on integrating these models into the supports within PBS. We'll share real-world examples of integrating each model within your school's PBS. We'll also explore practical guidance on implementing the models across settings (i.e., urban and rural school districts). You'll walk away with resources, including a best practices guide for universal screening and manuals for connecting screening data to inform intervention.

**Perfect for:** School professionals



### Scaling Up Implementation in Early Childhood: Community-Wide

**Location:**  
Regency B

**Presenter(s):** Anna Winneker, Denise Perez Binder, Lise Fox, Meghan von der Embse, Myrna Veguilla Figueroa

**Author(s):** NA

**Focus area:** Early Childhood

**Level:** Beginner

Community-wide implementation offers a promising approach for scaling up PBS across the variety of local early childhood programs. Join this session to learn more about how the structure of community-wide implementation can offer a comprehensive and sustainable approach to promote community-wide implementation teaming and the structures used for scale-up.

We'll describe the concept of community-wide implementation and how cross-sector teams collaborate to offer professional development and implementation coaching. We'll briefly describe the Pyramid Model and its application within the mixed delivery system of early childhood programs, discuss how cross-sector implementation teams are convened for community-wide implementation, and introduce you to the tools used to guide community-wide implementation. We'll share examples from various community-wide efforts to illustrate the features of community-wide implementation, too.

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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

**Perfect for:** School professionals, organizations/agencies, home practitioners and community/family supports



## Nurturing Teacher Well-being Early: A Foundation for Healthy Schools

**Location:**  
Grand F

**Presenter(s):** Talida State, Imad Zaheer

**Focus area:** Mental Health

**Level:** Intermediate

Research consistently reveals that educators face significantly higher levels of psychological stress and burnout compared to other professions. These pressures have resulted in an increasing number of educators leaving the profession, contributing to a nationwide teacher shortage crisis. That's why recognizing the critical importance of teacher well-being is so essential.

Through this session, we'll present findings from a survey on stress and coping strategies among students in a university-based teacher preparation program. Our study had three main goals, which we'll dive into during the presentation: 1) identify stressors during student teaching, 2) explore effective coping strategies taught in the program, and 3) gather suggestions for program improvements. We'll share our findings and what it means for our work during this presentation.

**Perfect for:** School professionals and organizations/agencies



## Exhibit Hall, Poster Sessions, and BINGO

5 p.m. - 6 p.m. CST

**Location:** Foyer

APBS has developed a unique BINGO game to help move conference attendees around the exhibit hall. Each attendee will receive a BINGO card upon check-in and must visit and receive a sticker from all participating exhibit booths to be entered in the prize drawing. Currently, **the grand prize is a \$500 gift card**, and other prizes may be added as we get closer to the show.

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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## Award Ceremony

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CST

**Location:** Grand DE

Join us for an exciting award ceremony! Help us celebrate amazing individuals who are making significant contributions in the field of PBS.



## Ticketed Event:

## Innovation Zone and Champagne Toast

7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. CST

**Location:** Grand DE & Foyer



Join us to hear our exciting Innovation Zone mainstage speaker, Dr. Steve Perry, who is presenting “Doing Better, Together.”

Dr. Perry brings both inspiration and experience to the Innovation Zone. He has a long history as a champion for children and families, from grassroots political organizing, to running a shelter for people experiencing housing instability, to founding successful schools for underserved youth.

His courage and piercing insights provide a fascinating perspective that is not often found in public discourse. Dr. Perry fearlessly speaks about race, class, gender, and political affiliation, with a surprising touch of humor that inspires us to do better.

What started as the belief that if people can do better, they should, remains Dr. Perry’s life pursuit. Join us for an evening of innovation and inspiration, headlined by Dr. Perry!

Next, explore the Innovation Zone, picking the sessions you’d like to join.

**Innovation Zone Breakout Sessions Start at 8:45 p.m. CST**

### Fireside Zone

**Location:**  
Grand B

Join us for an engaging fireside chat featuring keynote speaker Lola Dada-Olley. Lola will share her insights and experiences in an intimate and conversational setting.

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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

<b>Equity Zone</b>  <b>Location:</b> Grand G	<p>Hosted by our dynamic team, Drs. Kaci Ellis and Imad Zaher, this session promises to delve into Lola's personal journey, highlighting how <i>incremental progress is still progress</i>.</p> <p>You'll be able to <b>ask questions and engage in a meaningful dialogue</b>, making this a not-to-be-missed event for anyone looking to be inspired and informed!</p>
	<p>Come join us for a <b>live recording of the Beyond the Science podcast</b>.</p> <p>Beyond the Science is a thought-provoking podcast that goes beyond the technical aspects of Applied Behavior Analysis. The team explores the personal stories, challenges, and achievements of professionals in the field – all while providing valuable insights for parents, caregivers, and individuals outside the profession.</p> <p>Through engaging conversations and expert guest interviews, this podcast creates meaningful discussions that resonate...well? Beyond the Science.</p>
	<p>There is <i>no health without mental health</i>. The American Psychiatric Association Foundation is working in your community to provide the support and resources we all need to prioritize mental well-being where you live, learn, work, worship, and play.</p> <p>Backed by the medical expertise of the American Psychiatric Association Foundation and industry-leading strategic partners, we administer community-changing programs, public education campaigns, grants and awards to increase mental health literacy, connect individuals to needed care and shift attitudes toward mental health.</p> <p><b>Explore and learn about programs the foundation offers to ensure professionals like you have the resources you need to succeed.</b></p>
<b>Mental Health Zone</b>  <b>Location:</b> Grand F	
<b>Technology Zone</b>  <b>Location:</b>	<p>SyncGrades believes that every student's success starts with clear, accessible, and actionable data.</p>

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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW:  
UNITING PBS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## Grand C

The team works to bridge the gap between siloed data sets and the redundant, labor-intensive systems that educators face daily.

SyncGrades transforms complicated tasks into simple, intuitive experiences, ensuring that every stakeholder can focus on what truly matters — student success.

**Explore how SyncGrades can make a difference in your school today and hear Ron Gonzales share how bridging the gap between technology and positive behavior support helps support all stakeholders.**

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