



INNOVATE '17

CONFERENCE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Wednesday, August 9th & Thursday, August 10th

DAY ONE: Wednesday, August 9th

Keynote: Leading for Excellence: Start Right Now

Presenter: Jeff Zoul

Session Description: In his opening keynote address, Jeff Zoul will share a framework for leadership excellence, as well as practical strategies for leading change and innovation in our schools today. The session will focus on four key behaviors of leadership excellence as well as the importance of establishing trust, communicating with intention, and connecting with other thought leaders around the world in order to successfully plan, implement, and monitor successful school improvement work. Before we can ask others to change, we first need to establish our “Why?” and model what we are asking of others. This keynote will help school leaders focus not only on why we must continuously grow and innovate to best serve our students, but also on how we can lead such work effectively and the importance of starting right now!

Jeffrey Zoul, PH.D, is a lifelong teacher, learner and leader. During Jeff’s distinguished career in education he has served in a variety of roles, most recently as Assistant Superintendent for teaching and Learning in Deerfield, Illinois. Jeff also served as a teacher and coach in the state of Georgia for many years and has taught graduate courses at the university level in the areas of assessment, research and program evaluation. He is the author/co-author of many books, including “What Connected Educators Do Differently, Start. Right. Now,” ”Teach and Lead for Excellence, Improving Your School One Week at a Time” and “Professional Learning: Tools to Connect and Empower Teachers.” Jeff’s undergraduate degree is from The University of Massachusetts and his doctoral degree is from the University of Alabama. He has been recognized for his work as an educational leader numerous times, including receiving the 2014 Bammy Educators’ Voice Award.

Breakout Sessions:

Title: [Design Thinking for School Leaders \(AM AND PM\)](#)

Presenter: Nicole L'Etoile, Principal: John Horgan School, West Warwick

Session Description: Participants will collaborate and develop strategies in order to address common challenges that they are tackling in their schools. During this session the facilitator will bring participants through the various stages of problem solving using Design Thinking: **discovery, interpretation, ideation, experimentation and evolution.** School leaders develop questions, interview each other, receive feedback from others, and come up with a solution for their problem.

Title: [Future Ready Learning: Action Steps for School Leaders \(AM AND PM\)](#)

Presenters: Bristol Warren Team: Tom Driscoll, Mario Andrade, and Diane Sanna

Session Description: In this session, ways to put a Future Ready vision of teaching and learning into action at the school level will be collaboratively discussed. Examples of actions steps that administrators in BWRSD have taken across each “gear” to leverage technology in ways that personalize instruction and promote deeper learning for all students will be discussed. **Topics will include:** **Establishing a Future Ready Vision of Teaching and Learning:** *What will be your school’s focus, what will you “own?” (Personalization, collaboration, student voice?;* **Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment:** *How are teachers leveraging technology to personalize learning experiences?;* **Personalized Professional Learning:** *How is technology expanding access to high quality, ongoing, job embedded professional learning?;* **Robust Technology Infrastructure:** *How are you assessing the quality and availability of devices in your school?;* **Budget and Resources:** *How are teachers and school leaders evaluating the academic return on investment of digital learning?;* **Data & Privacy:** *Are all educators aware of legal and ethical responsibilities to ensure security, accuracy and privacy of student data?;* **Community Partnerships:** *In what ways are digital learning tools leveraged to facilitate interaction with parents, businesses and educational organizations beyond the school?;* **Use of Space and Time:** *How is technology used to explore new designs for personalized learning where the use of time is adaptable and flexible?;* **Collaborative Leadership:** *How do you establish a school culture that encourages innovation and builds capacity of digital learning leaders?*

Title: [Top 10 Ways to Make RTI Work \(AM and PM\)](#)

Presenters: Andrea Spas, Steve Morrone, and Jennifer Poore

Session Description: This session will provide attendees with an overview of critical practices that are essential for the success of a universal K-12 RTI model: from roll out process to reflection. Participants will walk away with key action steps, flowcharts and protocols that they can put into practice for use in their respective buildings. An admin team from Chariho, representing elementary, middle and high school will address audience questions spanning the grade levels.

Title: [Leadership: Infusing Social Emotional Learning into School Improvement \(AM ONLY\)](#)

Presenter: Nicole Bucka, Multi-Tiered System of Support Technical Assistance, Northern RI Collaborative

Session Description: Research is finally catching up with what veteran educators and parents have said for years: Social-emotional learning and health are key to academic outcomes and college and career readiness, but it is not yet deeply embedded in pre-service, nor is it in the standards explicitly, so it takes leadership to make it a priority. Learn the ten steps in the SEL Leadership Implementation Cycle and get resources associated with each step. Attendees will understand how to systematically build SEL into school improvement for true culture change (identify ten steps), **Assess** their school's 'readiness' (willing doesn't mean ready) and **Access** resources to assist with each step of the process.

Title: [Changes to the Standards and the Accreditation Process for K-12 \(AM only\)](#)

Presenter: George Edwards, NEASC

Session Description: The New England Association of Schools and Colleges has been involved in an extensive review and revision of the Accreditation process. The Association will be implementing changes to the Accreditation process and Standards for all schools beginning in 2020. This session will describe the changes and the timeline for implementation. The session will also discuss the benefits of Accreditation for elementary schools and middle school, as well as district Accreditation.

Title: SEL Innovations: Supporting Students with Anxiety (PM ONLY)

Presenter: Nicole Bucka, Multi-Tiered System of Support Technical Assistance, Northern RI Collaboration

Session Description: Research is finally catching up with what veteran educators and parents have said for years: Social-emotional learning and health are key to academic outcomes and college and career readiness, but it is not yet deeply embedded in pre-service, nor is it in the standards explicitly, so teachers and administrators need help. This session will be all about assisting students with anxiety in a tiered model.

Attendees will understand what anxiety is/is not and what it looks like in a classroom, access resources for supporting these students at each tier of a multi-tiered model: Tier 1/General Education for all students and Tiers 2 and 3/Intervention for some students.

TITLE: Unleashing Your Leadership Capacity through Literacy Classroom Visits (PM ONLY)

Presenter: Sandi Novak

Session Description: Do you wish to increase your students' ability to perform better in reading? Are your teachers immersed in reading instruction but the results don't seem to change over time? During this session, author of *Literacy Unleashed*, Sandi Novak, will guide participants' exploration to determine the status of independent reading best practices occurring within their schools or districts. The data is then used to apply professional development; and instruments are included to monitor the implementation of these learning opportunities.

Sandi Novak, an education consultant, has served as an assistant superintendent, principal, and teacher. With more than 35 years of experience in schools, Sandi provides professional development on several topics and initiatives, such as coaching principals and teacher leaders in developing strong literacy instruction, using data to monitor professional learning implementation, and developing school improvement plans focused on maximizing achievement for all students in literacy. She has authored three books: *Deep Discourse* (Solution Tree, 2016), *Literacy Unleashed* (ASCD, 2016), and *Student-Led Discussions* (ASCD, 2014). She also authored the On-line ASCD PD Course, *Building a Schoolwide Independent Reading Culture*.

DAY 2: THURSDAY, AUGUST 10th (*No need to make choices)

**Panel Discussion: “Statewide Assessment Changes 2017-18 School Year”
Massachusetts Principals and Rhode Island Principals**

Ed Camp:

Back by popular demand: This event brings together K-12 educators for collaboration and learning. This year, in addition to “**setting your own agenda**”, RIASP Ed Camp will also provide two pre-set offerings: “**Growing and Supporting Meaningful 21st Century Language Learning Experiences for Children**” facilitated by Sarah Steverman, RI Foreign Language Association President, World Lang. Program Coordinator, Westerly Public Schools and “**Reading Circles in the Content areas - Student Focused/ Inquiry-based Learning**” facilitated by Diane Feole English Teacher Cranston High School West and adjunct professor for Writing and Rhetoric and Secondary English Teacher Preparation.

Join with colleagues to tackle the issues that are keeping you up at night and hash out innovative solutions with your peers.

Organized by: Dan Kelley, NASSP President and colleagues

LUNCH AT NAUTIKA - 12:30PM
(East Greenwich Waterfront)