

NOV. 7 - 8 | INDIANAPOLIS

# GOOD TEACHING CONFERENCE

GROUNDED IN TEACHING. UNITED IN PURPOSE.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Indiana State Teachers Association is a professional association organized to sustain quality public education, improve students' education opportunities and advance the professional status of educators.

#### **PURPOSE**

To develop and organize members as leaders, professionals and active citizens to improve the professional status of educators and educational opportunities for Hoosier kids.

#### **GOALS**

- Unified voice we are stronger together.
- Economic security and professional working conditions for educators.
- Premier public education system that serves all kids regardless of ZIP code, culture or ability.

#### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1. Build strong locals.
- 2. Increase membership and engagement.
- 3. Advocate for educational issues.
- 4. Fight for racial and social justice.

#### Thank you for our valued sponsors and partners.









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ISTA designed a conference app that will help you have an enjoyable and stressfree conference experience.

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Welcome to the Good Teaching Conference!

Thank you for joining us this year. I encourage you to make the most of your conference experience and participate in all that the conference has to offer.

Great teachers can change lives forever and you have shown your greatness by dedicating every day to ensuring that your students reach their full potential. By attending this conference, you are showing your commitment to continued growth and learning.

This weekend, I hope that you learn something new, forge new relationships and shop ISTA ReSupply (for aspiring educators and educators in the first seven years of their career).

Jennifer Smith-Margraf

Have a great conference!

Jennifer Smith-Margraf

ISTA President

#### Friday, Nov. 7

6 - 7:30 p.m. | Check-in and Dinner Reception | Second-Floor 6:30 - 7:20 p.m. | Keynote Address, Sam

Parmerlee | Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C

7:30 - 8:20 p.m. | Workshops - Block A1\*

8:30 - 9:20 p.m. | Workshops - Block A2\*

#### Saturday, Nov. 8

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. | ReSupply | First Floor Cafe'

8 - 9 a.m. | Check-in | Second-Floor

9 - 9:50 a.m. | Welcome & Keynote Address, Edward DeShazer | Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C

10 - 10:50 a.m. | Workshops - Block B\*

11 - 11:50 a.m. | Workshops - Block C\*

Noon - 1 p.m. | Lunch | Second-Floor Conference Rooms

1 - 1:50 p.m. | Workshops - Block D\*

2 - 2:50 p.m. | Workshops - Block E\*

3 p.m. | Closing Remarks & Prizes



\*For workshop descriptions and locations, please visit pages 10-22 or visit the website by scanning the QR code.



#### Sam Parmerlee

Sam Parmerlee is the educator behind @TheEDQueen, where she shares practical strategies, mindset shifts, and supports for working with students who display challenging behavior. She currently serves as an Assistant Director of Special Education and has previously worked as a district behavioral consultant supporting more than 10,000 students across Indiana. Before that, Sam taught in a selfcontained special education classroom for students with behavioral disorders. Her passion lies in helping educators reframe the way they view behavior, with a focus on brain-based regulation, social-emotional learning, and building strong collaboration with teachers and administrators.



### **Edward DeShazer**Speaker | Consultant | Author



https://edwarddeshazer.org

Edward experienced many challenges as a special education student in Milwaukee, WI. He was suspended from school over thirty times, expelled from school three times, and spent time at three different alternative schools. He was able to overcome these obstacles and receive an academic, and athletic (football) scholarship to attend college. He received his Bachelor's Degree and his Master's Degree. He is currently working towards his Doctoral Degree. He is currently the Executive Director of Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy (GHTCA.) GHTCA is a private K-8 school in Milwaukee, WI. Under his leadership, GHTCA went from a one-star school ranking to a fourstar school in six years. In 2021, he was nominated by BizTimes as the Notable Minority Executive in Wisconsin. In 2023, he was nominated as a Notable BIPOC Executive in Wisconsin.



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#### Nov. 7

**7:30 – 9:20 p.m.** Blocks A1 & A2

#### Building our Union: How Helping ESPs Get a Bill of Rights Also Helps Teachers | Second-Floor Conference Room A | Andie Renner-Miller, ISTA member

Union members will benefit if ESPs are able to get their Bill of Rights, and this would uplift teachers to get more rights as well. When we fight together we win. Learn about the ESP Bill of Rights, why it's important and how active teachers can support this initiative and stand in solidarity with ISTA education support professional members. Teachers will be able to take back this information to get ESPs to join the union.

#### Chair Massages | Second-Floor Staff Conference Room | Body Techniques

Experience ultimate relaxation with our chair massages. Enjoy a seven-minute session with trained massage therapists in a serene environment. Participants must sign up for specific times to ensure individual attention and the opportunity to truly unwind and destress. Make the most of this chance to relax and rejuvenate.

Facial Class | Second-Floor Executive Conference Room | Pamper Me Right Experience an individualized facials class with a skilled teacher. Learn how to perform a facial using high-quality Mary Kay products. This workshop will provide step-by-step guidance, ensuring you master the techniques for a professional-grade facial. Perfect for anyone looking to enhance their skincare routine or expand their beauty skills.

#### **Puppy Cuddling | First-Floor Lobby**

Indulge in a heartwarming session of puppy cuddling designed to melt away your stress. Capture adorable moments as you cuddle with playful puppies and create unforgettable memories. This unique experience will leave you feeling relaxed and rejuvenated.

#### Spin Art | Second-Floor Conference Rooms B - C | Indy Mesa

Our spin art table features two spinners, allowing participants of all ages and skill levels to create their own unique pieces of art. With ample space to watch and support others, this workshop fosters a collaborative and encouraging environment. Attendees will have the chance to make a beautiful piece of art to take home, ensuring everyone leaves with a memorable creation.

#### Yoga | First-Floor Conference Room A | Tre Ronne, Richmond Community Schools & Danielle Hendricks, Yoga Instructor

Experience a rejuvenating blend of mat and chair yoga, accessible to all ages and experience levels. This workshop is designed to help you stretch, relax and calm your mind. With a focus on both physical and mental wellbeing, the session will include gentle stretches and meditative practices to enhance relaxation. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced yogi, this workshop offers a welcoming environment for everyone.

Nov. 8

**10 – 10:50 a.m.** Block B

#### Brains Need Breaks: Boosting Focus and Learning in the Junior High Classroom | Second-Floor Staff Conference Room | Jennifer Stahl, ISTA member

This session will address the short attention spans of adolescents, and the benefit of brain breaks in the classroom. It will address benefits related to student focus, classroom management, teacher-student relationships and enhanced learning outcomes. Educators will leave with a dozen brain break ideas that they can implement immediately into any classroom.

From Survey to Support: Demystifying ENL Enrollment, ILPs and Accommodations | First-Floor Conference Room B | Adriana Don, Erick Martinez & Veronica Velasco Torres, ISTA members Educators will leave this session with a clearer understanding of the ENL enrollment process, including the purpose and limits of the Home Language Survey and how to read and apply an ILP. By breaking down WIDA Composite Score ranges (1–2, 3–4) and highlighting the needs of Long-Term English Learners (LTELs), participants will gain practical, student-centered strategies they can implement immediately. This session is especially valuable

for general education teachers, special educators and instructional coaches who support English learners but often feel

and legally required.

uncertain about what's appropriate, effective

12

#### Hammer & Screw | Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C | Edward DeShazer, Motivational Speaker

As a student who spent many years in special education and in and out of alternative schools, Edward understands what it takes to reach your hardest to reach students. Using his own turbulent experiences as a student paired with his experience in educational leadership, Edward will guide you through the practical strategies that helped him turn Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy from a one-star school to a four-star school in six years. By learning more about the science of behaviors, schools can better support their students.

#### Inclusive Classrooms and Communities | Second-Floor Executive Conference Room | Lexi Hunt & Hailey Weaver, ISTA members

This session will help educators understand the importance of diversity and inclusion in learning environments. Educators will explore practical strategies to support students with varied learning needs. Participants will explore different viewpoints and the challenges students face, which will assist educators in building empathy and understanding along the way. Through collaboration and discussion of real classroom scenarios, educators will brainstorm solutions with peers from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Attendees will leave with:

 Greater awareness of the challenges students and families may encounter and strategies to address them

- Websites, tools and resources to make lessons and activities more inclusive
- Connections with other educators for sharing experiences and ongoing support

# The Use of Role Playing, Social Stories and Puppetry to Promote Re-Regulation Skills, Active Listening and Conflict Management | First-Floor Conference Room A | Joyce Click, ISTA-Retired member

Discover practical strategies to help students manage stress, address peer conflicts and become active, empathetic listeners through engaging activities.

#### **Key Activities:**

- Use of Puppetry in Role-Playing Social Stories
- Conflict Management Through Role Playing
- Drama Games and Brain Breaks to Ignite Active Listening

Join this enriching session to gain hands-on techniques that you can immediately apply in your educational setting.

**11 – 11:50 a.m.** Block C

#### Be Curious About AI, Not Judgmental | First-Floor Conference Room A | Jason Wilburn, ISTA member

If Ted Lasso were talking about AI, he'd say: "Don't sit on the sidelines—get in the game!" This session invites you to approach AI with curiosity, not skepticism.

You'll explore fun, practical ways AI can save time, reduce stress and even bring a little magic to your lessons. Participants will leave ready to try tools that support your teaching superpowers. Think of AI in education like falling out of a lucky tree and landing in a pool of Sour Patch Kids—overwhelming at first, but with curiosity (not judgment), it becomes surprisingly delightful and useful.

#### Paying it Forward: Why and How to Support Pre-Service and New Teachers | Second-Floor Staff Conference Room | Shauna Oakwood, ISTA member

In this session, educators will explore the importance of volunteering to support teachers during their preservice journey and early career. Discussion will focus on the classroom experiences preservice teachers need, along with strategies for helping colleagues grow into strong educators who are committed to meeting students' needs and creating rich learning experiences.

#### Principal Panel | Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C | Wes Upton, Mooresville High School Principal, Adam Welcher, Laura G Hose Elementary School Principal & Jeremy Woolley, Pike High School Principal

This session features administrators from different school settings. Hear what urban, suburban and rural districts are looking for in candidates and what type of corporation might be the best match for you.

### The Importance of a Multicultural Education | First-Floor Conference Room B | Huha Adeel, ISTA Aspiring Educator

This session will empower educators with the knowledge and tools to understand why multicultural education is not just important, but essential. Participants will explore the vital role of cultural competency in shaping inclusive classrooms where all students feel seen, valued and supported. By integrating multicultural communication and sociological awareness into early education, schools can foster empathy, critical thinking and social responsibility.

#### Key Takeaways:

- Cultural competency as a core teaching skill
- Tools for practicing inclusive teaching
- Building a cohesive classroom with a culture of belonging
- Self-reflection on how they can be more culturally competent

# The Whole Staff Approach, Educators Working Together | Second-Floor Executive Conference Room | Andie Renner-Miller, Shalonda Morrow & Charles Ward, ISTA ESP members

Each educator in each job classification will learn the benefits of knowing and understanding each educators role and importance to the whole school and to each student. Each person will learn how to collaborate with equity across the job classifications. Each educator will be able to equitably collaborate with all other educators to provide the best relationships and interventions for students.

1 - 1:50 p.m.

Block D

### From Paper to Practice: Making IEPs Work in Real Classrooms | First-Floor Conference Room A | Tina Jones, Special Education Coordinator

Educators will leave this session with a toolkit of customizable templates and strategies that simplify IEP implementation and ensure legal compliance without increasing burnout. This session empowers both special and general educators to work together in delivering consistent, personalized support that meets students where they are and helps them grow.

#### Fueling Innovation: Finding and Creating Grants for Educators | First-Floor Conference Room B | Ruby Nemeth, ISTA member

This session will guide educators in discovering and designing grant opportunities to support classroom innovation, professional growth and personal renewal. The presentation will highlight how grants empower educators and why this work is essential for teacher development and equity. Participants will explore national opportunities such as the Eli Lilly Teacher Creativity Fellowship, the NEA Global Learning Fellowship, Fund for Teachers, DonorsChoose and Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms. Local and state-level resources, as well as online tools like GrantWatch and GetEdFunding, will also be discussed.

Attendees will learn how to craft strong proposals by identifying a compelling need, aligning with funder goals and clearly outlining impact, budget and timeline. Practical strategies for success—such as starting early, reusing strong proposals and seeking feedback—will be shared.

The session will feature real examples of grant-funded projects and their impact on students and schools. Participants will leave with a resource handout and actionable steps to begin their own grant journey immediately.

## Ignite the Spark: Boosting Student Engagement Across the Content Areas | Second-Floor Executive Conference Room | Amanda Guieb & Amanda Wilson, ISTA members

This session will encourage educators to think creatively about how to utilize examples given to increase student engagement in their own classrooms. Educators will take away versatile strategies that are easily adaptable across content areas and various grade levels after developing an awareness of the importance of student engagement.

#### Redirecting the Undirectable | Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C | Sam Parmerlee, Keynote Speaker

This session focuses on shifting how educators engage with students who display chronic disruptive behaviors. Rather than relying on traditional discipline alone, participants will explore strategies that build understanding, strengthen relationships and create more positive classroom dynamics.

Attendees will leave with practical tools to address disruption in ways that foster student growth, maintain a supportive learning environment and help every student stay engaged in learning.

### Sustainable Practices for Teachers Who Want to Stay in the Game | Second-Floor Staff Conference Room | Mary Feagley, ISTA member

While all educators are welcome, this session is especially geared toward middle and high school teachers looking for practical, nononsense strategies to sustain their energy, focus and passion in a demanding profession. Burned out, stretched thin and still expected to do more with less? You're not alone and you're not doing it wrong. In this candid and practical session designed specifically for middle and high school educators, we'll cut through the noise of trendy "self-care" and get real about what it takes to stay healthy, focused and fulfilled in the classroom without burning out. We'll explore boundary-setting, energy-saving routines and mindset shifts that support longterm sustainability, not perfection. You'll leave with ready-to-use strategies you can implement this week and maybe even permission to stop doing a few things that no longer serve you.

**2 – 2:50 p.m.** Block E

Art Therapy How it works in the Classroom and For You | First-Floor Conference Room A | India Cruse-Griffin, Mid-Western Artist & Educator

Do you ever feel like you're pushing through the school day just to survive—exhausted and out of breath? In today's world, it can be harder than ever to pause, breathe and accomplish what you set out to do in the classroom. Yes, artificial intelligence can be a helpful tool for creating, learning and problemsolving. But how do we also teach our students and ourselves to be self-starters, free thinkers and creative individuals? Let's be real, it takes more than a lesson plan. It requires a plan for both your classroom and your own well-being. This session focuses on creativity, classroom management and self-care. Together, attendees will explore how art can be used to create the learning environment we want while supporting both students' and educators' mental health. Participants will engage in a group discussion, study the work of professional artists, create a vision board based on their goals and leave with a readyto-use lesson plan, example artwork and classroom materials.

### Classroom Management Workshop - Practical Applications | Second-Floor Executive Conference Room | Sharon Carson, ISTA member

The interactive workshop will be beneficial to all levels of teaching experience. The presenter will provide proven classroom management tools and participants will share additional tools they have used successfully in their classrooms. College teaching prep courses are often inadequate in preparing teachers for the real life situations found in the classroom.

This workshop is an opportunity for teachers to share their experiences and good teaching classroom management tools. Participants will gain new and effective classroom management tools that can be applied immediately.

Every Kid Deserves a Champion | First-Floor Conference Room B | Keisha Nickolson & Katina Hale, ISTA members

This session will provide educators, new and veteran, the opportunity to self reflect on their classroom management skills and their approach to build relationships with their students. Participants will benefit from being reflective about their current practice and what goals they have to start, continue and end their school year on a positive note with ALL students even the ones that are struggling in our classrooms. Attendees will be able to immediately implement strategies and interventions (e.g. 2x10, The Helper, etc.) to build relationships with students and their families. Participants will work/discuss in whole group and small group. Resources (e.g. handouts and QR codes) will be offered as well.

How Good Professional Behaviors Can Develop into Good Teaching | Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C | Brittany Dyer, Associate Director of the Professional Edge Center & Lyndsy Eslinger, ISTA member

This session will highlight professionalism for aspiring educators and/or educators trying to take the next steps within their education career.

Participants will review professional guidelines and key onboarding essentials, including handbooks and workplace expectations. This should help potential teachers and those looking to impress others around them gain the skills they need to continuing growing professionally.

American Fidelity Aspiring Educators Associate Staff Organization Early Career Educators Educators Rising-Indiana **Education Support Professionals Emerging Leaders I-PACE ISTA-Retired** ISTA Officer Candidates Leadership Pathways Membership Resource Center **NEA** Fund Professional Staff Organization Racial Affairs Committee Year-Round Organizing

# Association Indiana State Teachers

ISTA CERTIFIES THE RECIPIENT ATTENDED THE

# **Good Teaching Conference**

of Professional Growth Plan Points

This certificate recipient earned the above Professional Growth Plan points for attending the Good Teaching Conference, a professional development and learning event, hosted by the Indiana State Teachers Association.

November 7 - 8, 2025

Jennifer Anite-Margrap

Jennifer Smith-Margraf

ISTA President

\*Participants receive one point for each hour they are in attendance.

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#### INDIANA STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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