

Rising Educator Conference Breakout Session Descriptions



Aspiring Educators Track



New & Early Career Educators Track

Blast Off! Using NGSS to Teach STEAM

PK – 8: STEM & Related Arts

Dr. Barbara Wylie, Program Chair, Ivy Tech Community College & ISTA Member

Participants will create mock satellites for launching. Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) will be utilized and shared, as well as how this lesson meets requirements for the Indiana state standards through the integration of STEAM.

Close Reading

PK – 5: Literacy

Amy Crosser, ISTA Member & NBCT

What is close reading? How can it improve your students reading and writing? Learn ideas and ways you can incorporate close reading into your reading program.

Creating Great Writers: Using Mentor Texts to Teach Grammar & Writing Skills

PK – 12: Literacy & Classroom Strategies

Courtney Corcoran, ISTA Member

Make grammar and writing exciting using engaging mentor texts. With mentor texts, students learn valuable grammar skills that can be transferred into their own writing by analyzing and practicing sentences from mentor texts. Use conferencing to check for understanding.

Culturally Responsive Teaching & Reflection

PK – 12: Literacy, ELL, Social Studies & Social Issues

Emily Chestnut, ISTA Member

Discuss examples of kids' experiences as immigrants or oppressed peoples and use that to become more culturally aware. Novels will be used to paint a picture and participants will be invited to explore biases and ways to incorporate diverse cultures.

Data Driven Classroom Behavior Management

PK – 12: Special Education, Classroom Management & Classroom Strategies

Chrystal Streeter, ISTA Member & NBCT

Learn how to collect and evaluate classroom behavior data to manage and address classroom behavior. Find methods to manage behavior data as part of the Response to Intervention and Functional Behavior Assessment processes and identify the function of maladaptive classroom behaviors.

Degrees, Not Debt

PK – 12: Student Loan Forgiveness

Rob Belcher, ISTA UniServ Director

Do you have federal student loans? Were the loans after 1998? Would you like to save money? This session is an overview of programs to lessen student debt. It would be helpful to bring your loan information, your adjusted gross income from your last tax return and a laptop or tablet. You can explore savings for which you might qualify.



Early Career Panel for Aspiring Educators

PK – 12: Career Readiness

Andrew Fultz, Gianna Mesarina, Arnetta Shade, Bianca Tinklenberg & April Wireman, ISTA Members

This panel is comprised of current ISTA early career educators who have recently transitioned into their own teaching careers. Each will share their best secrets for success. Ask questions of the panelists.

Effectively Integrating Technology into a Blended Learning Environment

3 – 8: Literacy, STEM & Classroom Strategies

Courtney Corcoran, ISTA Member

Digital literacy and effective use of technology are important components of the successful classroom. In this session, participants will learn the importance of planning and executing meaningful, effective lessons in a blended learning environment.

Empowering Student Choice: From "My Way" to "Their Way"

3 – 12: Classroom Strategies

Dakota Hudelson, ISTA Member

Participants will look at common areas of the classroom where teachers often prescribe learning activities and explore ways to give students options instead. The presenter will focus on how to empower students to choose the best option for them.

Executive Functioning: What Is It & How Do You Address Deficits?

PK – 12: Classroom Strategies & Brain-based Learning

Lindsey Conn, Brandywine Elementary

Explore the 10 aspects of executive functioning and how they help students function within the classroom. The presenter will teach about identification, intervention, goals and accommodations for executive functioning skill deficits.

Exploring What Works & Why

PK – 12: Brain-based Learning

Jen Alexander, MA, NCC, SB-RPT

Learn to recognize the signs of developmental trauma in students. Discover how to link those signs to neurological differences as well as begin to understand what to do as trauma-sensitive educators in order to help traumatized youth.

Fabulous Formative Assessment with Tech

PK – 12: Literacy, STEM, Special Education, ELL, Social Studies, Related Arts & Classroom Strategies

Kara Guiff, ISTA Member

Learn how to leverage the power of technology to give formative assessments, find what students know and plan for next instructional steps. Attendees will explore several tech tools together.



First Year Teacher Survival Guide

PK – 12: Classroom Management, Classroom Strategies & Wellness Strategies

Amber Seibert, ISTA Member

Learn about strategies, resources and tools to not just survive, but thrive during your first year of teaching. Presented by a districtwide First Year Teacher of the Year awardee.

Get Answers to Your Legal Questions

PK – 12: Association & Legal Issues

Eric Hylton, ISTA Legal Counsel & Matt Elder, ISTA UniServ Director

Do you have questions about what rights you have as an educator, or what is included in your Association's collective bargaining agreement? Pose questions and get answers in this interactive session.



Get Involved with Your Local Association

PK – 12: Association

Donna Bernens-Kinkead, Myra Farmer, Paul Farmer & Bruce Thomas, ISTA Members

Many rising educators want to get involved with your local association, but don't know how. The presenters will focus on everything from being involved with a social or new teacher welcome committee to serving on bargaining or local boards to being an association representative.



Hiring Tips & Mock Interviews for Aspiring Educators

PK – 12: Career Development

Alicia Gatewood, Barton Lewis, Melinda Miller, Matt Schiebel, Diana Spence & Calie Vandermark, PK – 12 Principals

Principals from different school corporations will offer relevant tips for hiring and conduct mock interviews to assist aspiring educators as they prepare to apply for teaching positions upon completion of degrees.



How to Present Your Passion

PK – 12: Classroom Strategies

Angielena Williams, ISTA Member

Explore various ways to present your passion – or your area of expertise – to your students. This presenter will combine discussion with hands-on activities to discover best practices for a successful classroom experience.

Individualized Formative Data

6 – 12: STEM, Classroom Management & Classroom Strategies

Kristen Skates, ISTA Member

Master how to create an exit ticket and bell ringer system. These systems provide individualized feedback about common errors and follow up opportunities for learning into the next day as a bell ringer based on missed questions.

Management 101

3 – 12: Classroom Management, Classroom Strategies & Parent Involvement

Kara Doenges & Jennifer Luce, ISTA Members

Get help implementing successful organizational and management strategies that will allow all students to learn and be successful. Learn from two veteran middle school teachers and hear how they make it all work.

Micro-credentials 101

PK – 12: Association & Professional Development

Brandy Bixler, Digital Learning Specialist, NEA & Sonia Jasso Yilmaz, Senior Policy Analyst, NEA

In this interactive session, review the what and why of micro-credentials (MC), their value and how they are created and assessed. Explore the NEA MC virtual catalog and learn how to engage in the MC process from next steps to networking and NEA edCommunities.

Multimedia & Management in the Kindergarten Classroom

PK – 2: Literacy, STEM, Classroom Management, Classroom Strategies & Parent Involvement

Teresa Pavloff, ISTA Member

Discover how to use multimedia to address areas of classroom engagement and management along with tips and tricks to keep your students learning all day long. ClassDojo, YouTube and other websites will be highlighted.

New Teacher Real Talk

PK – 12: Social Issues, Classroom Strategies & Wellness Strategies

Patsy Hall, ISTA Member & Alyssa Roberts, Data & Project Coordinator, IPS

At the start of a teacher's career, you are given many pieces of advice. But, which are the most meaningful? In this session, discuss at least 10 strategies you should always do to strengthen your long-term teacher stamina.

Opportunity Audit

PK – 12: Association

Mark Smith, Senior Policy Analyst – Education Policy & Practice, NEA

Devise and implement plans to address gaps in your school community. NEA's Opportunity Audit enables educators to organize with colleagues and your community to dive deeper to address those gaps collectively.

Professional Development in Your Pajamas

3 – 12: Special Education, Classroom Management, Classroom Strategies & Parent Involvement

Emily Astroski & Mindy Schultz, ISTA Members & Robin Thoma, Project Coordinator, Indiana State University

As a new teacher, you will need support with classroom management, curriculum, communication with parents and standardized testing. Find a new way to access this information and professional development.

Promoting Attention & Interest: Strategies for Student Engagement

3 – 12: Student Engagement

Kristy Nystrom, ISTA Member

Easy-to-implement strategies will be introduced for increasing engagement by promoting positive feelings and not allowing for “opt outs” so students overcome fears and are willing to take more risks in the classroom.

Social Media & Educator Ethics

PK – 12: Social Issues & Parent Involvement

Callie Marksbarry, ISTA-Retired Member

Learn the ins and outs of educator ethics with discussions and guidance for the personal and professional use of and decision making regarding social media. How can you protect yourself when social media is such an integral part of everyone’s life?



Start Like a Rock Star

PK – 12: Classroom Management

Janet Abrams, ISTA UniServ Director

The presenter will review the good, bad and ugly of teaching, covering the do’s and don’ts, so you can become a rock star teacher.

Stay Calm & Teach On! Classroom Management in 2018

3 – 12: Classroom Management

Joyce Click, ISTA Member & NBCT

See technique demonstrations from an educator with 40 years of experience and explore resources that provide guidance to rising educators on classroom management. You will gain practical ideas that you can use immediately.

Tech Talk: Best Practices

PK – 12: Literacy, Social Studies, Related Arts & Social Issues

Annie Schoenfelt, ISTA Member

Learn the 4 Cs – critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity – and specifically, how to integrate them into classrooms in authentic ways, using Liz Kolb's Triple E framework. Focus on learning objectives first and technology second.



Tomato Soup & Things I Didn't Learn in Teacher School

PK – 12: Social Issues

Larry Perkinson, ISTA Member

Through stories, learn insights into the hearts and struggles of students. Building relationships can be an antidote for the physical and emotional challenges students face. Learn to recognize student barriers, which will help realize student potential.

Trauma-sensitive Discipline Practices

PK – 12: Brain-based Learning

Jen Alexander, MA, NCC, SB-RPT

Explore your ideas related to discipline, and from there, learn about the role of restorative discipline practices in trauma-sensitive schools. Help break the school-to-prison pipeline.

Use Your Educator Voice

PK – 12: Association

Mark Smith, Senior Policy Analyst – Education Policy & Practice, NEA

Make your voice heard in ensuring students get what they need to succeed. The presenter will provide participants with knowledge of how to use NEA's Opportunity Checklist to make your voice heard.



Veteran Educator Panel for New & Early Career Educators

PK – 12: Career Readiness

Debbie Argenta, Joyce Click, Amy Crosser, Kristine Etter, Chrystal Streeter & Doug Taylor, ISTA Members

This panel is comprised of current ISTA educators who have decades of experience in schools and the classroom. Each will share their best secrets for success. Ask questions of the panelists.



Workshop Centered Classroom

3 – 5: Literacy, Math & Classroom Strategies

Holly Meyer, ISTA Member

Learn how to use the workshop model in reading and math class. Use a center-based approach to teach math and reading and see how class would be run using this model that encourages differentiation.



Yoga, Meditation & Flexible Classrooms

3 – 12: Classroom Management, Classroom Strategies, Wellness Strategies & Brain-based Learning

Brittany Bleicher, ISTA Member

Learn and practice a few easy ways to integrate yoga and meditation practices into your classroom. Evaluate and implement flexible seating options for your students and find grants for the equipment you need.

You Can Do This! Effective Classroom Management

PK – 5: Classroom Management

Debbie Argenta, ISTA Member & ISTA Hoosier Educator of the Year

Classroom management is extremely important – it can make or break your career. Learn some great steps that have stood the test of time. Ideas, handouts and visuals will be shared to help you with classroom management. You can do it!