



think! conference  
december 4-5, 2024

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## **Welcome! We're so glad you're here!**

Thinking knows no bounds, and the journey to reimagine education begins with a 360° perspective. This year's theme, think!360, inspires educators to think about teaching and learning in a 360-degree approach. This immersive event is not just a conference, it's a time for teams to come together to inspire, challenge, and reshape perspectives; to learn with and from each other; and to play with ideas.

Over the next couple of days, we'll explore a kaleidoscope of topics, learn from other educators who have brought their campuses full circle, and get inspired to make degrees of change. Whether you're a leader seeking fresh perspectives or a teacher eager to explore new ideas, we hope you'll think!360 by taking advantage of opportunities for collaboration and innovation in sessions and around the firepit.

From finding a thinking partner "outside your orbit" to taking stock in a complete 360° view of our work as educators, we hope everyone comes full circle to the core of why we do this work – doing what's best for kids!

So, we invite you into the magic that happens when we pause the activity of our daily lives and take time to think and play together. Learn. Imagine. Have the conversations. Ask the questions. And have some fun! Kids deserve educators like you who are brave enough to be bold, take risks, and think!360!

# floor map



## **tuesday, december 3**

12:00 pm	-	1:00 pm	preconference check-in (baron's hallway)
1:00 pm	-	4:00 pm	preconference - lead4ward 101 (baron's EFG)
1:00 pm	-	4:00 pm	preconference - being the leader your new teachers need! (baron's ABCD)
3:30 pm	-	6:00 pm	participant check-in (lost pines plaza)

## **wednesday, december 4**

7:30 am	-	8:30 am	participant check-in (lost pines plaza)
8:30 am	-	10:10 am	keynote (lost pines ballroom)
10:10 am	-	10:40 am	playground
10:40 am	-	11:30 am	sessions
11:30 am	-	1:15 pm	lunch on your own
1:15 pm	-	2:05 pm	sessions
2:05 pm	-	2:30 pm	playground
2:30 pm	-	3:20 pm	sessions
4:30 pm	-	6:30 pm	reception (riversong lawn)

## **thursday, december 5**

7:30 am	-	8:30 am	breakfast provided (lost pines foyer)
8:30 am	-	9:20 am	sessions
9:20 am	-	9:50 am	playground
9:50 am	-	10:40 am	sessions
10:40 am	-	11:10 am	playground
11:10 am	-	12:00 pm	sessions and closing



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## but wait there's more

### Everyone is invited to a reception featuring PDA!

wednesday - 4:30pm to 6:30pm  
on the riversong lawn  
don't forget to wear a costume  
from your favorite decade!



### Furry Love

research has proven that  
animal synergy dramatically  
reduces stress and anxiety

be on the lookout for furry friends



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### Chair Massages!

Lost Pines 123 Hallway



relax and recharge  
with a chair massage

sponsored by  
OnDataSuite

### Photo Ops

strike a pose  
with your peeps in the  
360 photo booth and photo kiosks



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GREAT MINDS

### Mindful Music Moments and Wellness

learn more about how to use  
wellness for classroom management

**STOP  
BY**

### Product Table

stop by the product table  
and check out our new  
mathmark resources

### Discounts

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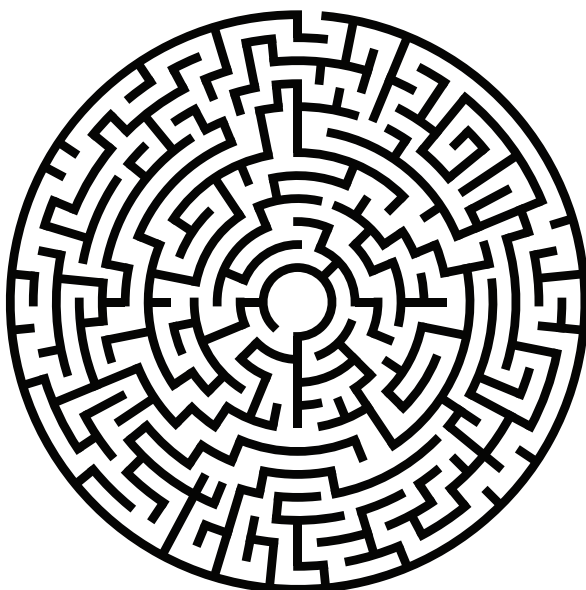
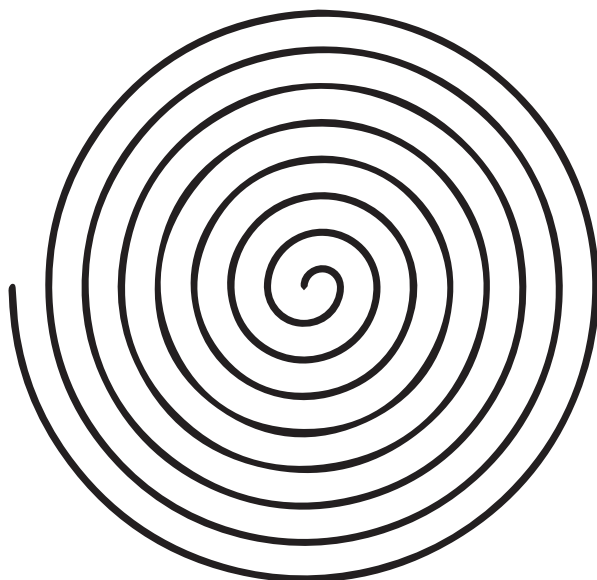
### Lunch Option

Discounted buffet lunch for  
conference participants at

**Heartwood House**

# think!360

keynote



## conference sessions - wednesday

10:40 am - 11:30 am

1:15 pm - 2:05 pm

Lost  
Pines  
1

**360° Student Assessment: Beyond Standardized Testing**  
Elizabeth Moll, Hutto ISD

**How to Take Your Initiative District-Wide**  
Julia Moore, Sherry Hite,  
& Amy Rohrbacher, Mesquite ISD

Lost  
Pines  
2 & 3

**Think Outside the Box: Make Your Meetings LIT with Relationship Building!**  
Holli Malloy & Jennifer Roach,  
Galena Park ISD

**360° Leadership: Navigating Complexity and Inspiring Change with 212°**  
Dr. Holly Grubbs, Mesquite ISD

Lost  
Pines  
4 & 5

**Engaging Learners**  
Brad Gibson, lead4ward

**Seeing Double: Shifting POV to Unlock Deeper Meaning**  
Lakisha Ball, lead4ward

Lost  
Pines  
6, 7, 8

**Student Data Binders: A Personalized Learning Experience!**  
Melody Boyd & Jessica Crawford, Klein ISD

**Harness the Power of Retrieval Practice for Lasting Learning**  
Haley Galyean, Tomball ISD

Baron's  
A, B, C

**A 360° Welcome for New Teachers and New Hires**  
Keli Soliz, lead4ward

**Dig Deeper Into the PLC Cycle**  
Alison Jalufka, Liberty Hill ISD

Baron's  
D

**Think!-ing Outside the Box**  
Tammie Hewitt & Kriste Davis,  
Shepherd ISD

**Co-Regulation in Trying Times: Mind-Body Approaches for Cohesive Learning Environments**  
Stacy Sims, The Well

Baron's  
E, F, G

**Talk, Read, Talk, Write**  
Alison Jalufka, Liberty Hill ISD

**360 Understanding for Math: Connecting HB1605, HQIMs, IMRA Process, and OERs ... including Texas Bluebonnet Learning!**  
Todd Davis, Texas Education Agency

Navarro  
y Bangs

**A 360 Approach to Algebra 1: Leveraging mathmark for Student Success**  
Carol Gautier, Math Consultant

**360° of Learning**  
Kellye Robinson, Conroe ISD

Austin

**Moments of Science: Using TikTok and YouTube #Shorts to Inspire Student Investigations**  
Elissa Griffin & Laurie Jack, Humble ISD

**Question Mastery: Enhancing Instruction Using the lead4ward IQ Tool**  
Maggie Calagna & Bianca Skelton,  
Clear Creek ISD

Houston

**Social Studies 360: Getting to Mastery Through Spiraled Instruction**  
John Wilks, Midland ISD

**Coming Full Circle: Creating an Inclusive Elementary Master Schedule**  
Kathy Clapsaddle & Sophia Acevedo,  
lead4ward

Robertson  
& Leftwich

**Turn Your Parent-Family Engagement 360°**  
Shannon Sawyer, Victoria ISD

**The 360° of Shared Small Groups**  
Kari Bush, Betsy Horner & Elizabeth  
Miranda, Clear Creek ISD

Milam

**When Students Start to Believe**  
Jerry Toups, Lamar CISD

**Growth 360: Developing All Levels of Leaders**  
Katie Braden & Jen Penton, Rockwall ISD



## conference sessions - wednesday

2:30 pm - 3:20 pm

Lost Pines 1	<b>Crafting Comprehension Through Text Analysis</b> JoLynn Ibarra, Hutto ISD
Lost Pines 2 & 3	
Lost Pines 4 & 5	<b>Student Success: Growth Wins!</b> John Fessenden, lead4ward
Lost Pines 6, 7, 8	<b>360 Professional Learning</b> Jennifer Paden & Megan Humphrey, Rockwall ISD
Baron's A, B, C	<b>Apathy &amp; Anxiety: Helping Kids Cope</b> Brad Gibson, lead4ward
Baron's D	<b>Igniting Potential: Transformative Professional Growth for Educators</b> Candice Adcock, Mesquite ISD
Baron's E, F, G	<b>360 Understanding for Reading Language Arts: Connecting HB1605, HQIMs, IMRA Process, and OERs ... including Texas Bluebonnet Learning!</b> Todd Davis, Texas Education Agency
Navarro y Bangs	<b>Math Merry-Go-Round: Spinning Into Fluency with Hands-On Strategies</b> Kim O'Neal, lead4ward
Austin	<b>Phenomenal 3D Teaching: Reshaping Science Education with the New TEKS</b> Andrea Alvarado, Pflugerville ISD
Houston	<b>Stories Fuel the World: Inspire, Ignite, and Impact</b> Phuong Lien Palafox, Communication Advocate
Robertson & Leftwich	<b>Pon de Replay: Play the Playlist Again</b> Heather Self & Laura Lovett, Belton ISD
Milam	<b>Bold Instruction Using the Science of Learning</b> Melissa Dubke & Susan Thomas, ResponsiveEd
Dewitt	<b>Mindful Music Moments</b> Stacy Sims, The Well

## conference sessions - thursday

8:30 am - 9:20 am

9:50 am - 10:40 am

Lost Pines 1	<b>Thrive360: Moving Second-Year Teachers from Surviving to Thriving</b> Katie Braden & Magen Jacks, Rockwall ISD	<b>Revolution: A Cyclical Approach to Gaining Ground Each School Year</b> Joy Harris Philpott, Hays CISD
Lost Pines 2 & 3	<b>Small Tweaks, Big Impact!</b> Michelle Hall, Willis ISD	<b>Not by Chance but by Design: Strategic Planning with HQIMs</b> Courtney Christian, Temple ISD
Lost Pines 4 & 5	<b>Call to Courage (Dare to Lead™)</b> Dr. Lizzy Pérez, Certified Dare to Lead™ Facilitator	<b>360 Impacts from Legislative Sessions</b> Mark Terry, TEPSA
Lost Pines 6, 7, 8	<b>Got Math Scores? Where Do We Go From Here?</b> LaTonya Hudson, Humble ISD	<b>Math Fluency 360</b> Abby Loggains, lead4ward
Baron's A, B, C	<b>Rhythm of a Leader: Nobody Would Believe What We Do!</b> Sophia Acevedo, lead4ward	<b>Seeing the Whole Picture with the lead4ward Field Guides: A 360° Strategy!</b> Stephanie Zelenak, lead4ward
Baron's D	<b>Take Time to Assess Your Assessments</b> Emily Cram, Eduphoria	<b>Complete the Cycle: Hire, Develop, Retain</b> Jennifer Roach & Holli Malloy, Galena Park ISD
Baron's E, F, G	<b>Real-Time Literacy Routines: Support from Core Instruction to Intervention</b> Gayla Wiggins, lead4ward/LITERACYcentral	<b>Reading Rehab: Take a 360° Look at Your Reading Intervention</b> Laura Lovett & Heather Self, Belton ISD
Navarro y Bangs	<b>Leading Through the Generation Gaps of Your Staff</b> Emily Fraser, Georgetown ISD	<b>Adapting the Instructional Strategies Playlist</b> LaTonya Hudson, Humble ISD
Austin	<b>Blueprint for Success: Navigating Change Management in High-Quality Math Instructional Material Adoptions</b> Dr. Josh Galindo, Great Minds	<b>Cementing Learning Through Creative Connections in Science</b> Andrea Alvarado, Pflugerville ISD
Houston	<b>Social Studies Comprehension 360°</b> Jodi Denton, lead4ward	<b>Unlocking Access: Embracing Rigorous Instruction for All</b> April Greathouse, Grand Prairie ISD & Kathy Clapsaddle, lead4ward
Robertson & Leftwich	<b>The EB Experience: VIP Access to Inspiring Instruction</b> Celina Meraz, lead4ward	<b>Come Full Circle Using DMAC and lead4ward</b> Deanna Greene & Julie Furlow, ESC7/DMAC
Milam	<b>Designing Real-World Units for Science that Empower Student World-Changers</b> Laurie Jack, Elissa Griffin & Diane Mallard, Humble ISD	<b>Get Families Orbiting the School Through Family Engagement</b> Renea Moore, Mesquite ISD
Dewitt	<b>Mindful Music Moments</b> Stacy Sims, The Well	<b>Handwriting Lab: Rethinking Feasible Instruction for the <i>Other</i> Piece of Literacy</b> Beth Nuñez, Clear Creek ISD

## conference sessions - thursday

11:10 am - 12:00 pm

Lost Pines 1	<b>Rethink! Data</b> Yvette Espinoza, Killeen ISD
Lost Pines 2 & 3	<b>Calibrate Your Compass for Coaching</b> Alexis Marks, Lamar CISD
Lost Pines 4 & 5	<b>All-Around Insight: Success with High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIMs)</b> Stephanie Zelenak, lead4ward
Lost Pines 6, 7, 8	<b>Take Your Math Stations to Another World</b> Megan Humphrey & Jennifer Paden, Rockwall ISD
Baron's A, B, C	<b>Student Success ... it's All About Learning to Sail</b> John Fessenden, Alex Kavich, & Clee Upchurch, lead4ward
Baron's D	<b>Experiencing 3D Learning with Relevant Phenomena</b> Jennie Ramsey, lead4ward
Baron's E, F, G	<b>Mentorship in Action: Elevating Educators</b> Melissa Dubke, Ashley Sanchez, & Susan Thomas, ResponsiveEd
Navarro y Bangs	<b>Surround Sound: Engaging the Whole Community</b> Sarah Borowicz & Stacey Zielonka, Anderson-Shiro CISD
Austin	<b>Full-Circle Learning: Using the Explore-Before-Explain Approach to Make Meaningful Notes</b> Laurie Jack & Elissa Griffin, Humble ISD
Houston	<b>A New Type of Inquiry-Based Learning</b> Katy Wilson, Spring Branch ISD
Robertson & Leftwich	<b>The Daily 360: Helping New Teachers Succeed in Daily Lesson Planning and Delivery</b> John Wilks, Midland ISD
Milam	<b>Meaningful Assessment Built for Texas: Turn-Key Solutions with SchoolCity</b> Jerry Karacz & Wendy Coffman, Renaissance/SchoolCity & Michelle Fontenot, Spring Branch ISD

## wednesday, dec. 4 - 10:40 - 11:30 am

### 360° Student Assessment: Beyond Standardized Testing

Lost Pines 1

Elizabeth Moll, Hutto ISD

**audience:** secondary - teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, student learning reports

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Wishful Thinking

How can we redefine student assessment to capture the full spectrum of learning and growth?

We'll rethink student assessment by exploring holistic methods that go beyond standardized tests. We'll delve into portfolios, project-based learning, and self-assessment techniques, focusing on capturing the complete spectrum of student growth. Learn how to implement these strategies to foster a more comprehensive understanding of student progress. By adopting a 360-degree approach, we aim to address the whole person, encouraging critical thinking, creativity, and self-reflection, ultimately doing what's best for kids and ensuring their success.

### Think Outside the Box: Make Your Meetings LIT with Relationship Building!

Lost Pines 2 & 3

Holli Malloy & Jennifer Roach, Galena Park ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Would You Rather

Think! outside the box and create a 360° view of leadership by incorporating relationship-building themes or activities at every meeting!

Do your meetings create a 360° view on leadership? Learn how to provide engaging professional learning with relationship building. Discover how to create relationship/team building and leadership lessons into every meeting through themes and activities. Learn how to transform the intangible (relationships) into the tangible. We'll share ideas that can be used tomorrow to develop and lead effective and engaging training, helping those you lead to be more effective in their roles.

### Engaging Learners

Lost Pines 4 & 5

Brad Gibson, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** multiple

Let's take a 360° look at why some kids don't like school and what we can do about it.

Move from teacher-centered instruction with passive, bored students to exciting, engaging instruction where students move, do the talking, comprehend content, correct mistakes, and deepen connections. Get ready to move, interact, and have lots of fun as we rehearse activities that engage students to learn academic vocabulary, analyze complex visuals, comprehend difficult text, and THINK! TALK! WRITE! You'll be able to use the strategies we practice in the session with students the very next day!

# **notes**

**who · what · how**

to content • to experience • to each other

## wednesday, dec. 4 - 10:40 - 11:30 am

### **Student Data Binders: A Personalized Learning Experience!**

Lost Pines 6, 7, 8

Melody Boyd & Jessica Crawford, Klein ISD

**audience:** elementary - math teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Positive Pings

How can personalized data folders be tailored to fit the needs of each student?

Help your students develop their independence and effectiveness as they set goals and take ownership of their learning. We'll discuss binder set-up, resources, and the systematic process. You'll have the opportunity to learn more about using Autocrat to personalize each student's data or take a deeper dive into the binder process. We had a 20% Meets increase this year in STAAR. This process works!

### **A 360° Welcome for New Teachers and New Hires**

Baron's A, B, C

Keli Soliz, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, instructional coaches, teacher leaders, teachers

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** teacher induction materials

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Vote With Your Feet

How can we welcome new teachers and new hires with intention, thoughtfulness, and support?

A warm welcome and thoughtful onboarding process can positively impact the first impression your new hires have of your organization and increase the likelihood of retaining those high-quality teachers. Get ready to explore a dynamic tool designed to empower mentors, campus leaders, and district champions. This isn't just about filling out paperwork; it's about igniting passion and ensuring every new teacher – whether they're new to the district, a late hire, or just joining your team – feels welcomed and equipped for success. Learn to anticipate and answer critical questions, create a supportive environment, and focus on the details that matter most!

### **Think!-ing Outside the Box**

Baron's D

Tammie Hewitt & Kriste Davis, Shepherd ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** snapshots, scaffolds, academic vocabulary, data tools, instructional strategies playlist, quickchecks, teacher learning reports

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Thought Bubbles, insta-GRAPHIC

Is it possible for every student to have access to the best teacher? We think so.

We're excited to share an idea for think!-ing outside of the traditional classroom setting box. Hear how we transformed an entire grade level by giving students access to the best teacher and incorporating technology. Come hear how we have used innovative practices in our rural school to build a high-level teacher model while growing our own.

# **notes**

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## wednesday, dec. 4 - 10:40 - 11:30 am

### Talk, Read, Talk, Write

Baron's E, F, G

Alison Jalufka, Liberty Hill ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, rla teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Dance It - Chance It

Looking for a simple, rigorous routine to help build student efficacy in communicating ideas and making their learning visible?

The Talk, Read, Talk, Write approach is a practical routine for learning in all content areas. We'll offer a step-by-step guide for implementing structured conversations, active reading, and high-quality writing in any subject area. Let's help students be better communicators and increase their academic writing skills.

### A 360 Approach to Algebra 1: Leveraging mathmark for Student Success

Navarro y Bangs

Carol Gautier, Math Consultant

**audience:** secondary - math teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders, sped

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** mathmark

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Jig Saw "Sell", Musical Mix-Freeze-Group

How can mathmark's Algebra 1 help our middle schoolers (or high schoolers) be successful Algebra students, and how are the activities in Algebra 1 different from other mathmark grade levels?

mathmark's Algebra 1 is a brand new type of support for Algebra 1 students! Its targeted Skill Builders, Concept Connectors, and Testing Success Guides for linear and quadratic functions support students as they learn new skills, combine concepts, and prepare for STAAR or unit tests. We'll look at the types of support and show how they can be used with both middle and high school students.

### Moments of Science: Using TikTok and YouTube #Shorts to Inspire Student Investigations

Austin

Elissa Griffin & Laurie Jack, Humble ISD

**audience:** secondary - science teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** academic vocabulary, instructional strategies playlist, think it up

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** 3-2-1 Summary, Thinking Inside/Outside the Box

How can using TikTok or YouTube #Shorts engage students in hands-on science and engineering practices, spark curiosity, and enhance learning experiences?

Let students create "moments of science" and transform into scientists as they bring their social world into the classroom for full-circle science application. Discover practical strategies to ignite curiosity, enhance hands-on learning, and foster inquiry using trending and familiar media to empower students to think scientifically from all angles. Embrace the art of spontaneous teaching with a student-centered, low-prep approach that promotes questioning, problem-solving, and critical thinking while remaining dedicated to what truly matters ... doing what's best for our students.



# **notes** **who · what · how**

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## wednesday, dec. 4 - 10:40 - 11:30 am

### Social Studies 360: Getting to Mastery Through Spiraled Instruction

Houston

John Wilks, Midland ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, social studies teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** scaffolds, instructional strategies playlist, think it up

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Who Am I?, Odd One Out

With all the events, people, and dates we cover in social studies, how can we build connections that help students retain information and make meaning of it all?

Emphasizing our social studies standards that spiral through historical eras (including making connections to the present) helps students retain information and engage in historical analysis. We'll share strategies that helped our students move past the mountains of trivia so they could get into the "why" of history and civics, developing critical thinking skills they can use in the here and now. Learn how to make history come alive and help students engage full circle.

### Turn Your Parent-Family Engagement 360°

Robertson & Leftwich

Shannon Sawyer, Victoria ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Fact or Fib Showdown, High-Five Summary, Mind Bender

Are you struggling to meet the Title 1 requirement of parent-family engagement on your campus? How can we engage more family members on campus and benefit our students?

Teaching a child takes everyone, especially their families. Increasing parent-family engagement ensures a full 360° circle of support for a child. See how STEM Middle School increased family involvement by over 100% with creative events layered with fun and purpose, benefiting our students and their families.

### When Students Start to Believe

Milam

Jerry Touns, Lamar CISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** field guides

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Thought Bubbles

How can teachers inspire students to begin to believe in themselves and activate a growth mindset?

Growth mindset is activated when teachers inspire students to believe in themselves. Becoming a source of inspiration is a skill that can be taught and is done primarily through nonverbal communication. We'll explore nonverbal communication skills that will grow students academically as well as nurture a positive school climate that can be felt even by campus visitors. Learn life skills that will change your students' lives!

# **notes**

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## wednesday, dec. 4 - 1:15 pm - 2:05 pm

### How to Take Your Initiative District-Wide

Lost Pines 1

Julia Moore, Sherry Hite & Amy Rohrbacher, Mesquite ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** snapshots, instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Rise and Shine, Pair-Square-Share

Tried to turn something around and it just didn't take off like you hoped it would? How can you help your district make changes that worked on your campus?

We'll share the systems, tools, and practical strategies that helped us get our problem-solving process (lead4ward's Think-Along plan) streamlined throughout Mesquite ISD elementary campuses with successful results. This process can be used in any content area to help leadership teams streamline an initiative and ensure its effectiveness.

### 360° Leadership: Navigating Complexity and Inspiring Change with 212°

Lost Pines 2 & 3

Dr. Holly Grubbs, Mesquite ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Café Conversations

How can harnessing the transformative power of 212° within a comprehensive 360° leadership approach empower us to navigate complexity, foster innovation, and inspire lasting change?

Discover how empowered leaders ignite lasting change in schools through practical strategies and collaborative practices that leverage incremental improvements. Let's explore how focused leadership can transform educational outcomes, one degree at a time, while uncovering the impact of adopting a 212° mindset within a comprehensive 360° leadership framework.

### Seeing Double: Shifting POV to Unlock Deeper Meaning

Lost Pines 4 & 5

Lakisha Ball, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - rla teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, quickchecks, thinking stems

How do we get students to think from multiple angles – not just for a lesson but for 365 days a year?

Let's explore how shifting points of view can unlock deeper meaning in both reading and writing. By examining how perspective – whether in fiction, nonfiction, or student writing – shapes understanding, we can gain practical strategies to help students explore diverse viewpoints, enhance their interpretation skills, and bring their learning full circle. Join us to learn how perspective can create a 360° experience in the classroom, fostering deeper thinking for 365 days of the year.

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**wednesday, dec. 4 - 1:15 pm - 2:05 pm**

## **Harness the Power of Retrieval Practice for Lasting Learning**

Lost Pines 6, 7, 8

Haley Galyean, Tomball ISD

**audience:** elementary - math teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders, sped

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** academic vocabulary, instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Fact or Fib Showdown, Vocabulary Pyramid, Total Recall

How can we leverage the time we have in the classroom to maximize student learning and foster deep mathematical understanding?

Retrieval practice is a cognitive technique that involves actively recalling information from memory; it strengthens neural pathways and fosters deeper understanding. When applied to mathematics, retrieval practice can lead to improved problem-solving skills, increased mathematical fluency, and enhanced critical thinking abilities. We'll explore the science behind retrieval practice and its remarkable impact on enhancing mathematical comprehension and retention.

## **Dig Deeper Into the PLC Cycle**

Baron's A, B, C

Alison Jalufka, Liberty Hill ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Rise and Shine

Have you ever wanted to dig deeper into the components of the PLC Cycle?

Teams need clarity, and PLCs are no different. We'll explain the steps in the PLC Cycle (picking priority standards, defining mastery, creating and analyzing assessments, planning for instruction, and planning for intervention and extension). We'll also explore ideas and tools your collaborative teams can use.

## **Co-Regulation in Trying Times: Mind-Body Approaches for Cohesive Learning Environments**

Baron's D

Stacy Sims, The Well

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Movement and Discourse, Extended Thinking

How can we shift our campus culture through our own well-being practices?

We can't address student achievement without looking at what is happening to children (and ourselves) from a holistic perspective. The Well works at the intersection of arts and wellness with an emphasis on the science of human regulation. We'll explore a framework and simple, applicable ways to begin to shift classroom and culture toward sustainable ease.

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## wednesday, dec. 4 - 1:15 pm - 2:05 pm

### **360 Understanding for Math: Connecting HB1605, HQIMs, IMRA Process, and OERs ... including Texas Bluebonnet Learning!**

Baron's E, F, G

Todd Davis, Texas Education Agency

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, math teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

Do you have a clear understanding of HB1605, HQIMs, OERs, and the IMRA process for confidence in selecting and implementing math instructional materials, including Texas Bluebonnet Learning?

With the release of COVID Emergency Release (CER) products, the prioritization of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM), the demands on educators' time for lesson design, and the requirement to develop OER instructional materials for Texas schools through HB1605, leaders may feel confused about how these moving parts connect and how they inform selection and implementation of math instructional materials. This session will help you answer:

- What should we know about HQIMs and what are our HQIM options?
- What are Texas Bluebonnet Learning math materials, how do they compare to CERs, and how are they adopted and funded?
- What implementation support and product training will be offered?
- How can we leverage instructional materials to come full circle to the core of why we do this work – doing what's best for kids?

### **360° of Learning**

Navarro y Bangs

Kellye Robinson, Conroe ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - rla teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, thinking stems, teacher learning reports, student learning reports

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** IQ Slap Down, Fixer Upper

Students have taken an assessment, so now what? How can we hold students accountable for their own learning and give them a 360-degree perspective?

It's crucial to build in time for students to understand what they missed on an assessment, exit ticket, etc. It's equally important to give them opportunities to practice those skills. We'll share our process and the resources we use to help students understand expectations and learn from their mistakes (Teacher Learning Reports, Student Learning Reports, Learning from Mistakes Instructional Strategies Playlist, and Thinking Stems). See how your students can benefit from 360 degrees of learning!



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**wednesday, dec. 4 - 1:15 pm - 2:05 pm**

## **Question Mastery: Enhancing Instruction Using the lead4ward IQ Tool**

Austin

Maggie Calagna & Bianca Skelton, Clear Creek ISD

**audience:** grades 3-5 - rla teachers, instructional coaches

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** IQ analysis tool, instructional strategies playlist, quickchecks

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Ball Toss Boogie, IQ Slap Down, Rise and Shine

How can we purposefully plan/design questions and engaging experiences that bridge classroom instruction to STAAR?

We'll discuss how to use lead4ward's IQ Tool to analyze STAAR items and create generic question stems. We'll look at how these stems can be used in interactive read-alouds, engaging student collaboration, and common formative assessments. We will share using rla examples - you can use your creativity to transfer to different content areas. Come learn with us as we bridge the gap between classroom instruction and the rigor of STAAR.

## **Coming Full Circle: Creating an Inclusive Elementary Master Schedule**

Houston

Kathy Clapsaddle & Sophia Acevedo, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary - district leaders, principals, instructional coaches

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, think it up

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Dance it - Chance it, Fact or Fib Showdown, Thinking Inside/Outside the Box

How do we build a sustainable master schedule that maximizes the talents of ALL personnel (from specialists to paraprofessionals) to positively impact student achievement?

Students with IEPs do better when they receive high-quality Tier 1 instruction, and collaboration between classroom teachers and special educators is a major driver of those improved outcomes. Yet teachers often report that the campus schedule continues to be the primary barrier to collaboration. How can we maximize two educators in the classroom, and how can the campus leader design a schedule that allows this to happen in a systematic, sustainable way? Join us as we begin the discussion on designing effective inclusive schedules on elementary campuses. You'll gain a new framework and new ideas for getting started.

## **The 360° of Shared Small Groups**

Robertson & Leftwich

Kari Bush, Betsy Horner & Elizabeth Miranda, Clear Creek ISD

**audience:** elementary - principals, teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** snapshots, scaffolds, field guides, frequency distribution, thinking stems

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Card Sort, Idea Shuffle

How can teachers change their mindset from *my* students to *our* students?

Small groups play a critical role in student growth. And we know "trust is a must," especially when teachers are sharing students. We'll explain how we built trust on our campus, the structures needed to share students throughout the grade level, and strategies for partnering with someone outside your "orbit." Discover the impact small groups can have when everyone gets involved!

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**wednesday, dec. 4 - 1:15 pm - 2:05 pm**

## **Growth 360: Developing All Levels of Leaders**

Milam

Katie Braden & Jen Penton, Rockwall ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, teacher induction materials

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Café Conversations, Connect the Dots

How do we create a culture of growth through intentional support and opportunity?

We'll share how Rockwall ISD nourishes a professional's desire to grow, creates varied pathways to leadership, and commits to a culture of learning and opportunity for all. From beginning classroom teachers to experienced administrators, we've used a targeted approach to grow our staff to leadership positions, continue their learning paths, and mentor others.

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**wednesday, dec. 4 - 2:30 pm - 3:20 pm**

## **Crafting Comprehension Through Text Analysis**

Lost Pines 1

JoLynn Ibarra, Hutto ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - rla teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** scaffolds, quickchecks, thinking stems

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Connect the Dots

How can analyzing author's craft boost students' comprehension and writing skills?

Experience two ready-made lessons to understand how analyzing author's craft can boost comprehension and strengthen analytical writing skills. These well-rounded lessons and strategies fully integrate reading, writing short- and extended-constructed responses, discussion, and reflection. These lessons can be taken back and implemented immediately in any classroom! Come ready to read and write!

## **Student Success: Growth Wins!**

Lost Pines 4 & 5

John Fessenden, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** quicklooks

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Café Conversations

Students generally move from grade to grade ... the question is: Are they growing? Are they making one year's growth for one year of instruction?

In the A-F Accountability system, #growthwins! The question is, what is "growth" – and how, exactly, is growth measured or determined? We'll explore the Academic Growth measure as it is defined and used in the A-F Accountability system. Come learn how focusing on growth is about #mastersstaymasters and #30for30. Growth can transform classroom instruction and support student learning and student success! Growth: It's what we do!

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## wednesday, dec. 4 - 2:30 pm - 3:20 pm

### 360 Professional Learning

Lost Pines 6, 7, 8

Jennifer Paden & Megan Humphrey, Rockwall ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** scaffolds, instructional strategies playlist, thinking stems

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Nine Squares

Ever feel like professional learning gets lost in a black hole? Giving specific feedback grows educators by leaps and bounds!

District professional learning ignites and inspires educators, but we quickly fall into old habits as school goes on. Our math cohorts offer a continuous improvement cycle through professional learning, observation and feedback, and reflection to keep the learning in orbit. Explore the process to improve implementation of guided math, learn how to give bite-sized feedback, and tailor future learning to the needs of educators. Let's do a 360 with professional learning to keep the learning going!

### Apathy and Anxiety: Helping Kids Cope

Baron's A, B, C

Brad Gibson, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, think it ups, thinking stems, quickchecks, field guides

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Ball Toss Boogie, Rise and Shine, Hot/Cold

More than ever, students are demonstrating apathy and/or anxiety in the learning environment. How do we help kids care and cope?

Most classroom management issues are eliminated when positive relationships are a priority and when students are actively engaged in their learning. Whether you're new to the profession, alternatively certified, or just need a classroom management refresher, join us for practical tips, tools, and strategies in the four major components of classroom management: building positive relationships, addressing student behavior, infusing engaging instruction, and managing space and materials!



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### **Igniting Potential: Transformative Professional Growth for Educators**

Baron's D

Candice Adcock, Mesquite ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, quickchecks, think it up, thinking stems

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** multiple

Can professional growth empower educators to ignite their passions and propel student success?

Embark on a transformative journey of personalized professional learning, uniquely tailored to educators' T-TESS goals with a 360° perspective on growth and achievement. Discover how this customized approach not only enhances student success but also nurtures teachers' passions. We'll share the cohort model and strategies that empowered our teachers to revolutionize their classrooms, driving continuous improvement from every angle. With personalized professional development, we've not only fueled our teachers' growth and enriched their teaching practices but we're achieving student success campus wide!

### **360 Understanding for Reading Language Arts: Connecting HB1605, HQIMs, IMRA Process, and OERs ... including Texas Bluebonnet Learning!**

Baron's E, F, G

Todd Davis, Texas Education Agency

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, rla teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

Do you have a clear understanding of HB1605, HQIMs, OERs, and the IMRA process for confidence in selecting and implementing RLA instructional materials, including Texas Bluebonnet Learning?

With the release of COVID Emergency Release (CER) products, the prioritization of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM), the demands on educators' time for lesson design, and the requirement to develop OER instructional materials for Texas schools through HB1605, leaders may feel confused about how these moving parts connect and how they inform selection and implementation of RLA instructional materials. This session will help you answer:

- What should we know about HQIMs and what are our HQIM options?
- What are Texas Bluebonnet Learning RLA materials, how do they compare to CERs, and how are they adopted and funded?
- What implementation support and product training will be offered?
- How can we leverage instructional materials to come full circle to the core of why we do this work – doing what's best for kids?

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**wednesday, dec. 4 - 2:30 pm - 3:20 pm**

## **Math Merry-Go-Round: Spinning Into Fluency with Hands-On Strategies**

Navarro y Bangs

Kim O'Neal, lead4ward

**audience:** preK-2 - district leaders, math/preK-2 teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, mathmark

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Jigsaw Sell, Stop, Plop, & Roll, Insta-GRAPHIC

How do we make computational fluency less procedural and more engaging and effective for preK-2 students?

Hop on for a thrilling ride on the math merry-go-round, where we'll spin through the essentials of computational fluency with a complete 360° view of our teaching practices! We'll take you on a hands-on, vertical journey that explores creative strategies and thinking techniques that make math come alive for young learners. Let's make math as exciting as a carousel ride, all while circling back to our ultimate goal: enriching our students' mathematical experience with innovative, hands-on approaches.

## **Phenomenal 3D Teaching: Reshaping Science Education with the New TEKS**

Austin

Andrea Alvarado, Pflugerville ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - science teachers, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** snapshots, field guides, instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Fan Favorite, Would you Rather, Show-Glow-Grow

What does 3D learning look like? How can phenomena, RTCs, SEPs, and content help students think and act like scientists and engineers to grasp complex science concepts?

In this dynamic, hands-on session, we'll engage in a condensed version of a science standards model. See how integrating phenomena, RTCs, SEPs, and content engages students deeply with science concepts, develops critical thinking skills, and makes learning more relevant. Collaborate with fellow educators to reimagine and implement a 360° approach to teaching science. Discover practical strategies to inspire, challenge, and reshape how we teach and how students learn.

## **Stories Fuel the World: Inspire, Ignite, and Impact**

Houston

Phuong Lien Palafox, Communication Advocate

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Ball Toss Boogie, Would You Rather

How can the power of stories support our educational responsibilities, become a powerful tool to fuel student connections, and reignite our passion for teaching?

We'll explore a 360-degree approach to using stories to maximize educator time, effort, and impact. Centering on the transformative power of literacy, we'll examine meaningful methodologies and practical, ready-to-use strategies for embedding storytelling that fuels educational engagement. Guided by both evidence-based data and human-centered practices, you'll be inspired to challenge norms and embrace narratives to reimagine your role in today's educational landscape. Let's unlock the potential of stories together.

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## wednesday, dec. 4 - 2:30 pm - 3:20 pm

### Pon de Replay: Play the Playlist Again

Robertson & Leftwich

Heather Self & Laura Lovett, Belton ISD

**audience:** elementary - teachers

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** data tools, frequency distribution, instructional strategies playlist, teacher learning reports

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Dance It Chance It, Ball Toss Boogie, Rise and Shine, Positive Pings, Mystery Bag, Word Whack, Tic Tac Tally, Idea Shuffle, IQ Slap Down, Balloon Bop, Total Recall, Insta-GRAPHIC

Orbit around lead4ward resources and tools for a 360 view that's easy for you.

As we orbit around lead4ward tools and resources, you'll see how easy it is to create activities and assessments that follow the Teacher Learning Reports using the Instructional Strategies Playlist. We'll explore activities aligned with reading and math TEKS. Get ready to see a 360 view of the playlist because we're going to dive right in! Pon de replay!

### Bold Instruction Using the Science of Learning

Milam

Melissa Dubke & Susan Thomas, ResponsiveEd

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, think it up, thinking stems, quickchecks

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Fact or Fib Showdown

What are best practices for encouraging students' long-term learning and enhancing teaching effectiveness?

Let's shed a little light on innovative educational approaches with research on the science of learning and lead4ward instructional resources. Illuminate your understanding of research focusing on how students learn and its practical teaching implications. Discover the power of the easy, low- to no-prep Instructional Strategies Playlist from lead4ward. Empower educators to improve their students' long-term memory and guide their district to take significant steps forward in the classroom.

### Mindful Music Moments

Dewitt

Stacy Sims, The Well

**audience:** everyone

Take a breather for your own well-being and regulation, and learn how to use mindful movement, curiosity, and music for classroom management.

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## thursday, dec. 5 - 8:30 am - 9:20 am

### Thrive360: Moving Second-Year Teachers from Surviving to Thriving

Lost Pines 1

Katie Braden & Magen Jacks, Rockwall ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** teacher induction materials

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Mind Bender, What's On Your Plate?

What support do our new(er) teachers need to refine their skills and thrive?

You've survived the first year of teaching. Subsequent years should be a breeze, but they aren't! Let's explore how collaboration and dialogue help us support new(er) educators while they continue to learn. The goals are lofty but with a reflective focus on specific strategies, we can help them develop a stronger knowledge of students, a purposeful culture of learning, and meaningful next steps.

### Small Tweaks, Big Impact!

Lost Pines 2 & 3

Michelle Hall, Willis ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** snapshots, academic vocabulary, data tools, instructional strategies playlist, quickchecks, think it up, thinking stems, sorting cards

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** quickchecks: Ping Pong Summary, Sentence Frames, Hot Seat

What element of instruction makes the biggest impact for students?

Research tells us that the level of the cognitive tasks we require of students makes a bigger impact on their learning than almost anything else. So, are we making sure that the learning tasks in every classroom are challenging enough to produce the learning we aim to see? Take a deep dive into the practical strategies for layering thinking that we used to significantly boost scores at Turner Elementary this year. Teachers will walk away with plug-and-play ideas and leaders will walk away with look-fors to ensure that all students are thinking at high levels!



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## thursday, dec. 5 - 8:30 am - 9:20 am

### Call to Courage (Dare to Lead™)

Lost Pines 4 & 5

Dr. Lizzy Pérez, Certified Dare to Lead™ Facilitator

**audience:** prek-2, elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** think it up, thinking stems

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Connect 4 Thinking

Where do you want to show up? What do you need to do to better serve the people around you, the people and stakeholders you want to lead?

Educators' courage has been tested beyond measure, especially since 2020. Year after year we're being called upon to bridge the gap between work and socio-emotional well-being for ourselves, students, and staff while trying to maintain our sanity and find ways to motivate, inspire, and be brave – all at the same time. With all this external noise, it's even more important for educators to identify their call to courage. Learning about your call to courage with people beyond your usual circles helps foster innovation and flexible thinking. Courage knows no bounds! Let's dare to lead and find our call to courage. Together.

### Got Math Scores? Where Do We Go From Here?

Lost Pines 6, 7, 8

LaTonya Hudson, Humble ISD

**audience:** elementary - math teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** snapshots, academic vocabulary, field guides, frequency distribution, instructional strategies playlist, teacher learning reports, student learning reports

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Rock and Roll Item Review, Odd One Out, Dance-It Chance It, IQ Slap Down, Make the Case, Pick Up the Slip Up

What is the data telling us? What are some engaging ways to target math instruction without boring students or worksheeting them to death?

Learn how to adapt the Instructional Strategies Playlist for your grade level or content area! Collaborate and redesign the playlist to make the strategies more useful in your classroom, maximize student learning, and increase student engagement. We'll offer detailed instructions and low-prep strategies that are ready to go!

### Rhythm of a Leader: Nobody Would Believe What We Do!

Baron's A, B, C

Sophia Acevedo, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Café Conversations, Odd One Out

Let's groove to "the rhythm of a leader!"

Join the lead4ward crew in this high-energy session where we'll explore the rhythm of your month-by-month leadership journey – from managing the logistics of the school to leading the professional learning community. We'll grab some markers and "jam" through the months as we spotlight essential tasks, can't-miss moments, and some unbelievable stories!

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**thursday, dec. 5 - 8:30 am - 9:20 am**

## **Take Time to Assess Your Assessments**

Baron's D

Emily Cram, Eduphoria

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, instructional coaches

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** academic vocabulary, data tools, field guides, frequency distribution

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Justified List, Fact or Fib Showdown

Ever wondered if your local assessments are truly effective?

Learn how to evaluate your assessments using Eduphoria-Aware. Aware offers a built-in test analytics tool and a brand-new tool that allows you to correlate your local assessments to your end-of-year assessments. Learn if your assessments are effective, which questions are causing issues, and how to improve your overall assessment. We'll also explore a series of best practices for helping to determine how item response analysis allows you to identify potential areas of improvement for assessment writing.

## **Real-Time Literacy Routines: Support from Core Instruction to Intervention**

Baron's E, F, G

Gayla Wiggins, lead4ward/LITERACYcentral

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, literacy teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, IQ released items tool, thinking stems, snapshots, field guides

How can purposeful literacy routines enhance student comprehension and analysis, supporting all learners from core instruction to targeted interventions?

Discover effective literacy routines designed to enhance reading comprehension and analysis across core instruction, inclusion support, and targeted interventions. We'll introduce purposeful, consistent routines that empower all students to become confident, independent readers and writers. Through a structured 4-step approach, learn to anchor comprehension and guide students in real-time literacy support, ensuring each step in the reading process builds strong foundations for success. Join us to explore these impactful strategies and create a road map for literacy excellence in every classroom.

## **Leading Through the Generation Gaps of Your Staff**

Navarro y Bangs

Emily Fraser, Georgetown ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, instructional coaches

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Focused Listing, 3-2-1 Summary

With a variety of generations represented in our staff, how do we meet the needs of Baby Boomers and Generation Z equally?

Educators have a variety of needs. Because of the world we live in, Baby Boomers are still rocking the classroom and Generation Z is starting to change what the profession looks like (and that's ok!). We'll look at the different ways we communicate with our staff to respect everyone's needs and build a positive culture.

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**thursday, dec. 5 - 8:30 am - 9:20 am**

## **Blueprint for Success: Navigating Change Management in High-Quality Math Instructional Material Adoptions**

Austin

Dr. Josh Galindo, Great Minds

**audience:** elementary - district leaders, principals, science teachers, instructional coaches

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** scaffolds, academic vocabulary, data tools

Ever wondered how to implement an HQIM in your district?

Adopting a high-quality instructional material (HQIM) is more than just selecting a curriculum – it's about managing complex change across the district. We'll explore the critical implementation supports needed for success, starting with engaging in the Math RBIS and establishing a robust district math framework. You'll learn how to guide varied stakeholder groups through the layers of change management, from leadership alignment to classroom practice shifts, and leave with a blueprint for developing a comprehensive implementation plan that ensures long-term success. Join us to discover how your district can effectively prime itself for a smooth and impactful HQIM adoption.

## **Social Studies Comprehension 360°**

Houston

Jodi Denton, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, social studies teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Card Sort, Connect the Dots, Tic Tac Tally, Summary Salad

How can we rehearse and deepen comprehension of content?

Using the playlist, we will scaffold strategies to deepen comprehension and move from remembering to connecting. We will engage in a series of hands-on activities to activate the Social Studies “ways to show” process standards that culminate in a quick writing exercise.

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### **The EB Experience: VIP Access to Inspiring Instruction**

Robertson & Leftwich

Celina Meraz, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, rla/slar teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** academic vocabulary, data tools, instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Texas Two-Step, Balloon Bop, Thinking Inside/Outside the Box

How can dynamic and engaging strategies reshape the learning experience for Emergent Bilinguals?

Buckle up for a thrilling ride through research-based practices that support Emergent Bilinguals! We'll loop through the exciting pathways of the NEW ELPS and their instructional implications, ensuring that every student has access to grade-level content. We'll explore the dynamic journey of second language acquisition, diversified support, and culturally sustaining practices that empower EBs – and can be implemented tomorrow! Hold on tight; this experience will energize your approach and help your students thrive!

### **Designing Real-World Units for Science that Empower Student World-Changers**

Milam

Laurie Jack, Elissa Griffin & Diane Mallard, Humble ISD

**audience:** secondary - science teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** snapshots, scaffolds, instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Musical Mix-Freeze-Group, Rock and Roll Item Review

How can we design units of instruction that inspire students to tackle real-world problems, apply science and engineering practices, and develop solutions from a 360° perspective?

We'll use AI and the Rooted in the Real World tool to expand ideas and design science units! Discover practical strategies for integrating multiple disciplines to solve real-world problems through anchoring phenomena. Explore ways for students to use Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs) to demonstrate their learning and design solutions for real-world issues. Whether you're a seasoned phenomena enthusiast or just beginning your journey, this session promises to inspire creativity, provide a 360° perspective, and ignite your students' curiosity and critical thinking.

### **Mindful Music Moments**

Dewitt

Stacy Sims, The Well

**audience:** everyone

Take a breather for your own well-being and regulation, and learn how to use mindful movement, curiosity, and music for classroom management.



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## thursday, dec. 5 - 9:50 am - 10:40 am

### **Revolution: A Cyclical Approach to Gaining Ground Each School Year**

Lost Pines 1

Joy Harris Philpott, Hays CISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Café Conversations

How can the cyclical nature of the school calendar help us gain traction and intentionally roll forward rather than spin in our tracks each year?

If this session had a playlist, it would include “Turn! Turn! Turn!” by the Byrds, “Revolution” by the Beatles, and “The Wheels on the Bus.” (You’re welcome for the ear worms.) While “going in circles” often has negative connotations, it’s through completing cycles of school years that we move forward. We’ll explore how to be fully present for those we serve (and for ourselves!) in each season of the school year so that we gain traction and move further down the road.

### **Not by Chance but by Design: Strategic Planning with HQIMs**

Lost Pines 2 & 3

Courtney Christian, Temple ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** field guides, instructional strategies playlist, student learning reports

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Three’s a Crowd, Insta-GRAPHIC

How can leaders design a PLC that provides teacher autonomy and ownership of instruction, engages students, ensures student growth, and uses the required HQIMs?

If you’re in the beginning stages/years of HQIM implementation, you no doubt have questions and concerns around planning and instruction. Or, like us, maybe you’ve even shed a few tears. We’ll share our solution: a strategic planning protocol that uses some of lead4ward’s best resources to ensure teachers understand the TEKS first, narrow broad TEKS, and have a strategy to engage students in learning ... all before approaching the actual content in the HQIM. Using this plan in our PLCs not only ensures the integrity of the HQIM’s delivery, but it also promotes ownership, flexibility, and creativity that leads to student success!

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## thursday, dec. 5 - 9:50 am - 10:40 am

### 360 Impacts from Legislative Sessions

Lost Pines 4 & 5

Mark Terry, TEPSA

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

What legislation made it through the 88th Legislative Session? What's on the horizon for the 89th?

The 88th Texas Legislative Session and subsequent four special sessions called by Governor Greg Abbott included a host of education-related topics and bills, including vouchers and school funding. We'll delve into the ins and outs of laws that will impact you, your students, and the communities in which we live and work.

### Math Fluency 360

Lost Pines 6, 7, & 8

Abby Loggains, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - principals, math teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Fact or Fib Showdown, Hand-Up/Hand-Over, Fan Favorite, Independence Day

Does our approach to math fluency empower our students to become independent thinkers who can tackle a variety of problems with a variety of solutions?

So often it's easy to look at math fluency from one perspective: "My kids just don't know their math facts!" Math fluency, however, goes so much deeper than just fact memorization. Let's investigate math fluency from a 360° perspective. We'll empower educators to support ALL levels of learners in math fluency and take them from dependent list-checkers and number-pluckers to independent strategists and problem-solvers.

### Seeing the Whole Picture with the lead4ward Field Guides: A 360° Strategy!

Baron's A, B, C

Stephanie Zelenak, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** field guides, instructional strategies playlist, teacher learning reports

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Texas Two-Step, Ball Toss Boogie

What if one tool could help us connect content, instruction, and assessment? How can the lead4ward Field Guides and the right guiding questions drive more meaningful discussion and planning?

We'll explore every angle of the lead4ward Field Guides and how they help teachers and leaders make the most of PLC planning time. We'll dig into the guiding questions that unlock ideas for understanding our standards within the context of instruction and assessment as well as promote productive instructional conversations and collaboration in PLCs. Join us to learn how the lead4ward Field Guides can give us insight for learning in every direction!

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**thursday, dec. 5 - 9:50 am - 10:40 am**

### **Complete the Cycle: Hire, Develop, Retain**

Baron's D

Jennifer Roach & Holli Malloy, Galena Park ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, instructional coaches

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, teacher induction materials

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Insta-GRAPHIC, Rise and Shine

Is your new teacher professional development linear? Would you like to see it come full circle?

We transformed our new teacher academy into a dynamic learning experience that revolves around engagement, choice, and relevance. We'll share how we reconfigured professional development for new teachers to create a comprehensive and impactful cycle. Gain insights into our innovative approaches, practical strategies, and the outcomes of this reimaged new teacher academy model.

### **Reading Rehab: Take a 360° Look at Your Reading Intervention**

Baron's E, F, G

Laura Lovett & Heather Self, Belton ISD

**audience:** elementary - rla teachers

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** data tools, instructional strategies playlist, teacher learning reports, student learning reports

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Undercover Agent, Dance It - Chance It

How do we see all 360 degrees of reading intervention?

Let's take a 360° look at how we can help each student become the best reader they can be! We'll discuss digging into data, setting goals, and finding resources to help meet those goals. We'll look at how to use the Instructional Strategies Playlist to turn up your intervention and how to use the Teacher Learning Reports and Student Learning Reports to guide your intervention. Come to this session if you need some reading rehab!

### **Adapting the Instructional Strategies Playlist**

Navarro y Bangs

LaTonya Hudson, Humble ISD

**audience:** elementary - teachers, instructional coaches

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Rock and Roll Item Review, Rock and Roll Vocabulary, Vocabulary Pyramid, Nine Squares, Texas Two Step, High Five Summary, Card Sort, Fact or Fib, Wishful Thinking, Vocabulary Dominoes

Help! Where can we find low-prep/high-yield strategies to engage our math and science students?

Learn how to adapt the Instructional Strategies Playlist for your grade level or content area! Collaborate and redesign the playlist to make the strategies more useful in your classroom and with your kids, maximizing student learning and engagement. We'll offer detailed instructions and low-prep strategies that are ready to go!

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## **Cementing Learning Through Creative Connections in Science**

Austin

Andrea Alvarado, Pflugerville ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - science teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, think it up

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** 3-2-1 Summary

How can students creatively reflect on their learning to deepen scientific understanding and forge new connections?

Inspire student learning through creative expression! Discover nontraditional methods like poetry and analogy to deepen scientific understanding. Explore how these approaches empower students to make meaningful connections, fostering deeper retention and knowledge application. Let's rethink assessment and ignite student ownership in a 360° learning environment.

## **Unlocking Access: Embracing Rigorous Instruction for All**

Houston

April Greathouse, Grand Prairie ISD & Kathy Clapsaddle, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** scaffolds, instructional strategies playlist, think it up

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Thinking Inside/Outside the Box, Dance it - Chance it, Ball Toss Boogie

Should educators lower their expectations for students with disabilities, or can we design instruction that engages all students in deeper thinking, fosters an inclusive culture, and addresses diverse student needs?

Discover how changes to STAAR Alt-2 became an opportunity to revolutionize education for all students with IEPs. Explore how we shifted the narrative to emphasize access to classroom instruction, not alternate instruction. Embrace rigorous instruction for all by effectively adapting lessons to meet diverse student needs. Gain practical insights for delivering inclusive education and fostering an environment where every student thrives. Let's reshape education through building access for all!

## **Come Full Circle Using DMAC and lead4ward**

Robertson & Leftwich

Deanna Greene & Julie Furlow, ESC7/DMAC

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** data tools, teacher learning reports

How do we use lead4ward and DMAC to drive data full circle?

Taking a 360° approach to student assessment involves integrating data from STAAR results and local assessments. We'll take a comprehensive approach to maximize student progress using powerful reporting tools from lead4ward and DMAC. By integrating these resources effectively, we can gain deeper insights into student performance and tailor interventions for mid-year progress evaluation. Leveraging student groups in DMAC also enhances our ability to monitor progress and adjust instructional strategies.



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## **Get Families Orbiting the School Through Family Engagement**

Milam

Renea Moore, Mesquite ISD

**audience:** preK-2 - principals, preK-2 teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** quickchecks

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Jig Saw “Sell”, Would You Rather, Card Sort

How can family engagement nights transform the educational experience, foster stronger home-school partnerships, and enhance student success?

Unlock the potential of family engagement nights to create a 360° educational experience. We'll offer practical strategies for organizing events that foster meaningful connections between families and schools. Learn how to design inclusive, engaging activities that encourage families to actively participate in their children's education. By building strong home-school partnerships, we can enhance student learning and support academic success from every angle. Family engagement nights can revolutionize the educational journey, involving families in a holistic approach that benefits every child's development.

## **Handwriting Lab: Rethinking Feasible Instruction for the *Other* Piece of Literacy**

Dewitt

Beth Nuñez, Clear Creek ISD

**audience:** preK-2 & elementary - district leaders, principals, rla teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** scaffolds, academic vocabulary, instructional strategies, playlist, quickchecks, student learning reports

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Café Conversations, One Minute Paper

As students develop phonics skills, handwriting is critical to building and demonstrating literacy. How can we feasibly implement systematic intervention for more automatic handwriting?

Although there is support for handwriting programs and the importance of handwriting, a gap exists between evidence-based handwriting instruction and current classroom practices. Recognizing the context of today's teachers, trends of handwriting instruction reflect its fading presence in the packed educational agenda. Effective handwriting intervention must include evidence-based components (e.g., systematic routines, cognitive training elements, and motor learning-based themes), but most importantly, the intervention must be feasible for teachers to implement. The Handwriting Lab methods are highly focused and employ a daily, easy-to-implement routine.

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### Rethink! Data

Lost Pines 1

Yvette Espinoza, Killeen ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** academic vocabulary, frequency distribution, instructional strategies playlist, IQ released items tool

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Each One Teach One, Vocabulary Pyramid Game

What if using data could transform our daily routine into something exciting and impactful, rather than feeling like a mundane task?

Imagine a teacher using student data to see beyond test scores. By using data from various sources (Centralized Reporting System, Eduphoria, NWEA, etc.) teachers can self-reflect and reassess daily routines and teaching practices to focus on setting attainable goals year to year. Recognizing where students have performed historically can help teachers set realistic growth expectations and celebrate student achievement. Tapping into student interests to motivate learning reaches students at every level while allowing teachers to tie student interests back to classroom content.

### Calibrate Your Compass for Coaching

Lost Pines 2 & 3

Alexis Marks, Lamar CISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** snapshots, academic vocabulary, field guides, frequency distribution, instructional strategies playlist, quickchecks, think it up, thinking stems

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Mystery Bag, What's On Your Plate?

How can coaches leverage lead4ward tools and resources to maximize their impact?

Embarking on a journey to enhance your instructional coaching skills with lead4ward tools and resources is like setting out on an expedition with a well-packed bag. Let's orient your "map" to align with the content(s) and grade level(s) you assist. As you familiarize yourself with the terrain, you'll discover methods to support teachers, facilitate PLCs, and navigate your role. Once you've established your surroundings, you'll calibrate your compass to align your coaching efforts with the priorities of your campus. Get a 360-degree view of your landscape and chart the course toward making a lasting impact on the people you serve.

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## **All-Around Insight: Success with High-Quality Instructional Materials**

Lost Pines 4 & 5

Stephanie Zelenak, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Show and Tell and Teach, Play It Say It, Vocabulary Pyramid, Just the Facts, Compare-Contrast Model, IQ Slapdown, Think and Throw, Would You Rather?

How do we customize high-quality instructional materials with our trusted resources and best teacher moves without compromising integrity?

Instructional materials offer consistency and provide support to address challenges such as scarce planning time and varied levels of teacher content knowledge or experience. There can be challenges, however, with implementation when teachers feel their autonomy is compromised or there is no place for their trusted resources and proven best practices. We'll explore how scripted instructional materials can be enriched for maximum alignment with the standards, student engagement, and learning while still implementing HQIMs with integrity! Together, we can achieve success all around and improve instructional delivery that balances structure and teacher voice and choice!

## **Take Your Math Stations to Another World**

Lost Pines 6, 7, 8

Megan Humphrey & Jennifer Paden, Rockwall ISD

**audience:** elementary - district leaders, principals, math teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** scaffolds, think it up, thinking stems

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** What's On Your Plate?

What if learners had the opportunity to explore concepts, orbit ideas, and deepen mathematical thinking every day?

We went from keeping learners busy (using stations as a classroom management tool) to implementing quality math stations as part of our daily math workshop. We'll share how we used lead4ward tools to create engaging stations and boost the rigor of current stations. Run a systems check before takeoff ... we're taking mathematicians to another galaxy of thinking and learning!

## **Student Success ... It's All About Learning to Sail**

Baron's A, B, C

John Fessenden, Alex Kavich & Clee Upchurch, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, sped, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Musical Mix-Freeze-Group

What is the role of AI in student success?

A little boy says to his friend, "I taught my dog to whistle." His friend remarks, "I don't hear him whistling." To which the boy responds, "I said I taught him. I didn't say he learned." This scene perfectly captures our mission: student success depends on Student Learning – the S and the L in the word Sail. But what about the middle letters: AI? We'll explore the role of two important AIs: Authentic Instruction and Artificial Intelligence.

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## **Experiencing 3D Learning with Relevant Phenomena**

Baron's D

Jennie Ramsey, lead4ward

**audience:** elementary & secondary - science teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** field guides, sentence stems

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Fact or Fib Showdown, IQ Slapdown

Are you ready for some practical science ideas and strategies you can implement in your classroom right away?

Join us for an immersive session where we'll dive into the world of 3D learning, seamlessly integrating science and engineering practices (SEPs), core science content, and recurring themes and concepts (RTCs) as our TEKS require. The new science standards are an opportunity to transform our science teaching, inspire our students, and make science fun!

## **Mentorship in Action: Elevating Educators**

Baron's E, F, G

Melissa Dubke, Ashley Sanchez & Susan Thomas, ResponsiveEd

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, quickchecks, teacher induction materials

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Snap and Chat, What's on Your Plate?

How can we provide continuous, targeted growth for rock-solid mentor teachers while ensuring they execute the mission of our district's teacher induction program?

Take flight with us to uncover ways in which your district can put a spin on the way it provides mentor support and monitoring. From initial new mentor training to ongoing guidance, take a bird's-eye view to explore how ResponsiveEd nurtures mentors at every turn throughout a school year. Embrace the journey to reimagine mentorship, elevate educators, and keep your veteran mentors coming back!

## **Surround Sound: Engaging the Whole Community**

Navarro y Bangs

Sarah Borowicz & Stacey Zielonka, Anderson-Shiro CISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist

How do we leverage the strengths of our whole community to engage all stakeholders in supporting student outcomes?

It takes a 360° view to recognize that the opportunities for enhancing and expanding student learning may be right in our own backyard. Each community has unique strengths and opportunities schools can tap into to create experiences that connect students and staff to the whole community. We'll explore unique ways to think bigger and broader to build the village that supports the whole child.



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## **Full-Circle Learning: Using the Explore-Before-Explain Approach to Make Meaningful Notes**

Austin

Laurie Jack & Elissa Griffin, Humble ISD

**audience:** secondary - science teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** academic vocabulary, instructional strategies playlist

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Vote with Your Feet, Fact or Fib Showdown, 3-2-1 Summary, Justified List

How can we help our students shift from passive note-taking to meaningful note-making to foster deeper sense-making and authentic engagement?

Our focus on explore-before-explain and student-centered note-making strategies have transformed classroom learning. Teachers have shifted their mindset, realizing “a good explore will have students learning the content before any explanation.” Experience a sample lesson anchored in the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, integrating science and engineering practices, phenomena, student ideas, and collaborative strategies. Engage with an AI chat tool to deepen understanding and imagine how your students could use AI tools, too. You’ll gain practical strategies, resources, and digital tools to transform your lessons and foster curiosity, critical thinking, and active learning in your classroom.

## **A New Type of Inquiry-Based Learning**

Houston

Katy Wilson, Spring Branch ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** field guides, instructional strategies playlist, thinking stems

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Idea Shuffle, Thought Bubbles

The measure of our success as educators is not by what answers students can give, but by what questions they are able to ask.

What would classrooms look like if teachers asked fewer questions and students asked more? An investment in this approach to learning can build the capacity of all students: to think more clearly and deeply beyond the surface level of the curriculum, to learn more, and to feel a greater ownership of their learning. We’ll introduce a new strategy to get students to ask their own questions with the goal of creating classrooms that are alive with dialogue, inquiry, and respect for students’ minds.

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## **The Daily 360: Helping New Teachers Succeed in Daily Lesson Planning and Delivery**

Robertson & Leftwich

John Wilks, Midland ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** instructional strategies playlist, quickchecks, thinking stems, teacher induction materials, teacher learning reports, student learning reports

**lead4ward instructional strategies:** Choose and Chat

How can we help new teachers plan and deliver high-quality instruction from day one?

Train new teachers on how to close the loop on daily lessons. From unpacking the TEKS, to setting the objective, to delivering instruction, to monitoring and adjusting on the fly, help them get from start to finish like veterans.

## **Meaningful Assessment Built for Texas: Turn-Key Solutions with SchoolCity**

Milam

Jerry Karacz & Wendy Coffman, Renaissance/SchoolCity & Michelle Fontenot, Spring Branch ISD

**audience:** elementary & secondary - district leaders, principals, instructional coaches

**lead4ward resources highlighted:** teacher learning reports, student learning reports

How can school district leaders effectively leverage assessment and reporting from lead4ward to drive student growth?

Come learn how Spring Branch ISD leverages SchoolCity assessments, data, and lead4ward reporting to support academic growth for all students. SchoolCity is a Texas specific K-12 platform for creating and administering standards-based assessments with instant scoring, formative feedback, and interactive reporting. Districts can use prebuilt or customized assessments aligned to their scope and sequence and the TEKS, gaining data on student learning and standards mastery. The platform features content authoring, distractor rationales for real-time feedback, and comprehensive reporting tools to inform instruction and drive improvement in standards mastery.

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## presenters

Sophia Acevedo	lead4ward	Megan Humphrey	Rockwall ISD
Candice Adcock	Mesquite ISD	JoLynn Ibarra	Hutto ISD
Andrea Alvarado	Pflugerville ISD	Laurie Jack	Humble ISD
Lakisha Ball	lead4ward	Alison Jalufka	Liberty Hill ISD
Sarah Borowicz	Anderson-Shiro CISD	Jerry Karacz	Renaissance
Melody Boyd	Klein ISD	Abby Loggains	lead4ward
Katie Braden	Rockwall ISD	Laura Lovett	Belton ISD
Kari Bush	Clear Creek ISD	Holli Malloy	Galena Park ISD
Maggie Calagna	Clear Creek ISD	Alexis Marks	Lamar CISD
Courtney Christian	Temple ISD	Celina Meraz	lead4ward
Kathy Clapsaddle	lead4ward	Elizabeth Moll	Hutto ISD
Emily Cram	Eduphoria	Julia Moore	Mesquite ISD
Todd Davis	Texas Education Agency	Renea Moore	Mesquite ISD
Jodi Denton	lead4ward	Beth Nuñez	Clear Creek ISD
Melissa Dubke	ResponsiveEd	Kim O'Neal	lead4ward
Yvette Espinoza	Killeen ISD	Jennifer Paden	Rockwall ISD
John Fessenden	lead4ward	Phuong Lien Palafox	Communication Advocate
Emily Fraser	Georgetown ISD	Dr. Lizzy Pérez	Certified Dare to Lead™ Facilitator
Dr. Josh Galindo	Great Minds	Jennie Ramsey	lead4ward
Haley Galyean	Tomball ISD	Jennifer Roach	Galena Park ISD
Carol Gautier	Math Consultant	Kellye Robinson	Conroe ISD
Brad Gibson	lead4ward	Shannon Sawyer	Victoria ISD
April Greathouse	Grand Prairie ISD	Heather Self	Belton ISD
Deanna Greene	DMAC	Stacy Sims	The Well
Elissa Griffin	Humble ISD	Keli Soliz	lead4ward
Dr. Holly Grubbs	Mesquite ISD	Mark Terry	TEPSA
Michelle Hall	Willis ISD	Jerry Touns	Lamar CISD
Joy Harris Philpott	Hays CISD	Gayla Wiggins	lead4ward/LITERACYcentral
Tammie Hewitt	Shepherd ISD	John Wilks	Midland ISD
LaTonya Hudson	Humble ISD	Katy Wilson	Spring Branch ISD
		Stephanie Zelenak	lead4ward



## 2024 think! conference

This certificate verifies that

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The conference was sponsored by lead4ward, LLC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ervin Knezek".

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Ervin Knezek, President  
lead4ward, LLC

**lead4ward®**

Dear thinkers,

This is a love letter. To our profession. To each of you.

In each of our lives we often wonder, “Do I make a difference? Does all of this work really matter?” Each of us must answer that question for ourselves. For those of us who are part of the lead4ward crew, the question isn’t IF you make a difference – rather it is HOW you make a difference. Coming to a conference like this means you take risks, you try new things, and you open your mind and your heart to what could be. You belong among this crazy group of people who are brave enough to dance, bold enough to play, and smart enough to think360!

You make a difference by trusting yourself - often times, most of the time, you just know when something isn’t working just right. You are rarely satisfied with doing what you are told; you need to understand why. You think beyond the rule, make things your own, adapt on the fly, and are never afraid to revise, abandon, regroup, or retry. You trust that no child will be harmed when you lean into common sense and remember that ultimately your success is not about what you teach, but rather who you teach.

You make a difference by creating a sense of purpose in your schools and in your classrooms. You know your kids. No...you REALLY know your kids, beyond the data and the scores; you know their interests, their vulnerabilities, their families, their hopes, and their fears. You know them because you remember that you were once that child hoping a teacher would see you for who you are.

You make a difference by providing structure and inspiring autonomy. You delight in their success and share their struggle. You know that teaching and learning are about the mistakes we make, how we learn from them, and how we grow. We are so often afraid of getting it wrong that we forget that is the only way we learn. The measure of success for your students and for you, is not that you don’t make mistakes, but rather how you respond to them.

You make a difference by building up your kids’ confidence and competence. You help them find their areas of strength, their passions. In each face, you see potential. In each mind, you feel promise. In each heart, you sense fear but you also sense hope. You think about your kids way too much and feel like it is not enough. Go gently with yourself.

From the lead4ward crew to you. Thank you. You inspire a generation of kids who will leave this world a little better than they found it. Look around you. You are in the presence of genius. Over the next days, find time to play, to learn, to relax, and to think360. You are loved.

Love,

the lead4ward crew







February 4 – Baytown – Hyatt Regency Baytown-Houston

February 11 – Irving Convention Center

February 12 – Irving Convention Center

February 18 – Round Rock – Kalahari

February 19 – Round Rock – Kalahari

February 24 – Virtual

February 25 – Virtual

February 5, 13, & 26 – Virtual Extended Sessions

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