



Program at a Glance

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Time	Event
7:00–8:30 a.m.	Registration and Breakfast Arizona Ballroom and Foyer
8:30–9:30 a.m.	Welcome: Sam Klein, Director of Special Projects Opening Remarks: Alissa Trollinger, Deputy Associate Superintendent, Exceptional Student Services, Arizona Department of Education Arizona Ballroom
9:30–10:30 a.m.	Opening Keynote Address: <i>Together We Are Limitless</i> Jeremy Poincenot Arizona Ballroom
10:30–10:45 a.m.	Break, Vendor/Exhibitor Hall Open Vaquero D&E
10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Concurrent Session 1
12:00–1:00 p.m.	Lunch Arizona Ballroom
1:00–2:15 p.m.	Concurrent Session 2
2:15–2:30 p.m.	Break, Vendor/Exhibitor Hall Open
2:30–3:45 p.m.	Concurrent Session 3
Evening Events	
2:30–6:30 p.m.	Youth/Young Adult Evening Event Arizona Ballroom
4:30–6:30 p.m.	Parent and Family Evening Event Vaquero G1– G2

Concurrent Sessions

Room	10:45–12:00 p.m.	1:00–2:15 p.m.	2:30–3:45 p.m.
First Floor			
Arizona Ballroom	Session Title TBD Jeremy Poincenot	No Sessions	No Sessions
Vaquero ABC	AI in Special Education: Trends, Cautions, and Practical Guidance for Educators, Leaders, and Families Dr. James Basham	AI in Special Education: Trends, Cautions, and Practical Guidance for Educators, Leaders, and Families Dr. James Basham	ADE Dispute Resolution: Insights Behind the Data 🕒 Nicole Barnette Laura Boever Jeffrey Studer
Vaquero F1–F2	Solid as a Rock: Structuring Strong SPED Leadership 🕒 Melissa McCusker	Prior Written Notice: Know the Requirements, Meet the Standard 🕒 Heidi Putnam Scott Dobkovsky	Supporting, Supervising, and (Sometimes Investigating) Your Staff 🕒 Tina Kauffmann Todd Liolios
Vaquero G1– G2	“You can’t tell me what to do!” Communication Strategies That Reduce Student Anxiety, Avoidance, and Defiance Celeste Nameth Doug Cutler Mitch Galbraith	Improving Students’ Ability to Set Goals, Manage Emotions, and Complete Challenging Tasks Using Self-Regulation Instruction and Individualized Supports Elise Heger	Be the Thermostat; Keeping your Cool when Behavior Heats Up Heather Schlemmer James Schlemmer

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Second Floor			
Arroyo C-E	Inclusive by Design— From Collaboration to Coherence: High Leverage Practices as the Bridge ☀️ Dr. Jocelyn Washburn	Inclusive by Design — Instructional Planning Through HLPs ☀️ Dr. Jocelyn Washburn	Work is Possible: Setting a Vision for Employment 🏠 Sean Roy Christopher Tiffany
Dunes AB	Accessible Digital Content that Works for Learners with Disabilities Dr. Brenda Smith Kristen Perez-Rickels	Closing Gaps & Improving Access to Educational Materials Dr. Brenda Smith Kristen Perez-Rickels	Overcoming Challenges to Meet Every Student's Needs: Creative Strategies for Small School Districts Melinda Suarez Jenny Bellah
Hyatt	Healthcare Transition Readiness for Children and Young Adults with Chronic Illness 🏠 Vinny Chulani Kellie Kruger Matthew Hoerth Bethany Brown	The Pyramid Model Big 5 Preschool Strategies #1: Use a Five-One Ratio of Positive Attention 🌱 Lenka Stogsdill Priscilla Sachs	The Pyramid Model Big 5 Preschool Strategies #2: Schedules and Predictability in Daily Schedules 🌱 Camille Verdugo Tamara Rosario
Markland	Journeys to Independence — Education 🌵 Diverse Ability Youth Ambassadors	Journeys to Independence — Employment and Independent Living 🌵 Diverse Ability Youth Ambassadors	Resource Haul: Leveraging Assessment Tools for Effective Secondary Transition Planning Elena Rosenthal Melissa Wojtak

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Sonoran AB	Mathematical Practices for Empowering Exceptional Learners ☀️ Eboney McKinney Marisa Tualla Laruel Cherry	Designing Futures: Bringing the Course of Study to Life! Lisa Livesay Emily Brown	Inclusive by Design: Voices from the Field on Co-Teaching, Collaboration, and Instructional Impact ☀️ Chelsey Branham Rob Wolf Heidi Edmondson Edie Dolan Kim Moran Dr. Andrea Wymore

Individualized Session Tracks

We are excited to offer conference attendees six session tracks. If you are not sure which session to attend, our key can assist you.

Sessions marked with:

 Saguaro are recommended for youth/young adults.

 Pathway indicate a Pre-ETS session.

 Adobe Home are recommended for parents and family members.

 Desert Wildflower are recommended for Early Childhood Special Education

 professionals. Compass are recommended for Special Education Directors.

 Arizona Sun with Connected Rays are related to academic and inclusionary practices.