



MISSISSIPPI

"Navigating the Currents in Special Education" 2025 Fall Conference

Monday, September 22, 2025		
Time	Event	Location
8:00 - 11:30	Vendor Checkin/Set-up	Vendor Village
8:30 - 11:30	MDE SPED Directors Quarterly Meeting	Nashville
11:30 - 1:00	Registration/ Visit Vendor Booths	Lobby/ Vendor Village
1:00 - 2:15	Welcome and Conference Opening Ceremony MS CEC President, Paige Pigott-Brown. Natchez-Adams Consolidated School District ROTC Opening Keynote Speaker Tony Green, MDE	Nashville
2:15 - 2:30	Snack/Break/Visit Vendor Booths	Vendor Village
2:45 - 4:00	Concurrent Session 1	Various Locations



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Time	Event	Location
7:15 - 8:00	Registration	Lobby
7:15 - 8:00	Coffee and Water/Visit Vendor Booths	Vendor Village
8:00 - 9:00	Welcome & Introduction, MS CEC Past-President Michelle McClain Keynote Speaker Kim Campbell	Nashville
9:00 - 9:15	Break/Visit Vendor Booths	Vendor Village
9:15-10:30	Concurrent Session 2	Various Locations
10:30-10:45	Break/Visit Vendor Booths	Vendor Village
10:45 - 12:00	Concurrent Session 3	Various Locations
12:00 - 1:15	Lunch Teacher of the Year Award presented by MS CEC Board and Administrator of the Year Award presented by MS CASE	Nashville
1:30 - 2:45	Concurrent Session 4	Various Locations
2:45 - 3:00	Break/Visit Vendor Booths	Vendor Village
3:00 - 4:15	Concurrent Session 5	Various Locations
7:00 - 10:00	Riverboat Block Party	Natchez Grant Hotel



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Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Time	Event	Location
8:00 - 8:30	Coffee and Water/Visit Vendor Booths	Vendor Village
8:30 - 9:45	Concurrent Session 6	Various Locations
9:45 - 10:00	Break/Visit Vendor Booths	Vendor Village
10:00 - 11:15	Concurrent Session 7	Various Locations
11:15 - 11:30	Closing Session/Door Prizes/Business Meeting	Nashville



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Room	Session 1 2:45 - 4:00	Presenter
St. Louis	Building Foundational Literacy in Self-Contained Classrooms	Dr. Aly Neelis, Poplarville Schools
Memphis	Rolling with the River	Paige Pigott-Brown, North Pike
Greenville	From Frustration to Foundation: Helping Students Struggle Productively	Tara Jackson and Alison Reed, RCU Mississippi State
Concordia	Bridging Connections: Building Meaningful Relationships	Dr. Sara Bardwell and Denise Harrison, MDE
Vicksburg	Efficiency Meets Individualization	Christy Bostic and Hanna Lawler, MDE
St. Francisville	Seeing the Whole Picture: A Comprehensive Guide to IDEA Data, Compliance, and Continuous Improvement	Sharon Coon and MDE OSE Data Team
Baton Rouge	Fuel Your Fire: Self-Care for Educators Who Give Their All	Jacqui Thweatt-Burton, Thweatt Advanced Behavior Associates, INC
New Orleans	SPED Bootcamp	Katie Charleville, Petal School District



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Room	Concurrent Session 2 9:15 - 10:30	Presenter	Concurrent Session 3 10:45-12:00	Presenter
St. Louis	Blurred Line: Discipline, Disability, and Need for Clarity	Erin Jostes and Ellen Ellis, Pearl Public School District	Shake, Rattle and Roll	Kim Campbell
Memphis	Understanding the OSEP DMS Report: Legal Implications for Mississippi Special Education (Administrators only)	Mary Margaret Gay - Legal Counsel MDE OSE	Understanding the OSEP DMS Report: Legal Implications for Mississippi Special Education	Mary Margaret Gay - Legal Counsel MDE OSE
Greenville	Do You UnderSPED It? What SPED Students and Parents Would Like You To Know.	Dr. Anthony O'Neal, Perry County School District	From Classroom to Career	Missy Tatum, Kurzweil Education
Concordia	Leading with Inclusion	Carrie LaBatte and Kori Chavis, Ocean Springs	Co-teaching in the Inclusive Classroom	Kristen Crawford, Long Beach School District
Vicksburg	Increasing Confidence and Knowledge of General Education Teachers in the Field of Special Education	Tammy White, MDE	Maintaining Child-Centered IFSP Meetings	Jitka Elizarraras, Mississippi State
St. Francisville	Let's Rock the Boat	Catherine Moxley & Dr. Haley Horton, Pontotoc County	Leading with the Calendar: A Month-by-Month Guide to Staying Aligned and Compliant in 2025–2026	Sharon Coon and Vanessa Virgil Ruffin, MDE
Baton Rouge	Connected Classrooms From Plans to Practice	Dr. Terri Rhea, Yazoo County School District	Awareness to Action: Childfind to Eligibility - Part I	Stacy Davis & Jodie Fortenberry, Clinton Public
New Orleans	Ensuring Student Success: Leading the Charge in Child Find Compliance and Impact	Amy Stampley, Stone County School District	Facilitating Effective and Compliant IEP Meetings for Building Level Administrators	Lori Sturdivant, Winona Montgomery Consolidated



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Room	Concurrent Session 4 1:30 - 2:45	Presenter	Concurrent Session 5 3:00 - 4:15	Presenter
St. Louis	Lower the Lifeboat: The Power of a Strong Support Team	Ellen Hill and Tami Harrell, Pontotoc County	Why Wait?	Theresa LaPrade, Hattiesburg Public
Memphis	No Session		Inclusion in Action: Co-Teaching That Closes Gaps and Builds Belonging	Grace Massey, Lowndes County School District
Greenville	Game On: Exploring Trivial Pursuit as a Reading Intervention	Elaine Baxter and Dr. Patricia Hampshire, Mississippi State	Empowering Families for Education, Collaboration, and Transition	Kellie Fondren, Dr. Patricia Hampshire, and Valerie Webb, Mississippi State
Concordia	The Ultimate Monitoring Toolkit: Build It Before They Visit	Julie Etheridge, MSCEC & Christie Rowcliff, MDE	Early Learners, Big Steps: The ABCs of using HLPS to Support Transition from Part C to Part B	Dr. Blair Crigler, MDE
Vicksburg	Pre-Oping for the Text Base and the Mental Model	Mackenzie Allred and Kenny Gibson, MDE	Breaking into the Mental Model	Kenny Gibson and Mackenzie Allred, MDE
St. Francisville	Seeing the Whole Picture: A Comprehensive Guide to IDEA Data, Compliance, and Continuous Improvement	Sharon Coon - MDE OSE Data Team	AI in Action: Using AI to Personalize and Enhance IEP Development	Ashley Chism, Pearl Public
Baton Rouge	Everyone at the Table	Joshua Bingham, Attala County	Maximizing IDEA Funding: Navigating MOE, Budget Control, and Grant Accountability	Michael Gibbons & Mary Knight, MDE
New Orleans	Awareness to Action: Childfind to Eligibility - Part II	Genevieve McAlpin, Tupelo Public	Special Education on the Federal Level: What's Happening Now, What's on the Horizon, and How Does it Impact YOU?	Dr. Bridget Bright, CASE



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Room	Concurrent Session 6 8:30 - 9:45	Presenter	Concurrent Session 7 10:00 - 11:15	Presenter
St. Louis	Leading with the Calendar: A Month-by-Month Guide to Staying Aligned and Compliant in 2025–2026	Sharon Coon and Vanessa Virgil Ruffin, MDE	Single-Case Design: Exploring The Impact of Equine Therapy on Self-Esteem and Social Skills in Special Education Students	Jodie Fortenberry, Clinton Public School District
Memphis	Mastering IEP Paperwork: A Step-by-Step Guide	Kristi Higginbotham, MDE	Enhancing Student Outcomes	Alice Stringer, MS DEBH/ Brookhaven School District
Greenville	DIY: Using Special Ed Connection	Kelly Whiting, LPR	AI for Special Education: Supercharge Your Teaching!	Dr. Alison Buehler, Mississippi University for Women
Concordia	Reclaiming the Table: Keeping Student Needs at the Center of the Conversation	Pam Dollar, Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities	Smooth, Effective, and Timely: Transition from Part C to Part B	Candice Taylor & Monica Wimberley, MDE
Vicksburg	BMOD: The Behavior Blueprint	Krystal Tiblier, Ocean Springs School District	Reaching ALL Subgroups including SPED with GOOD Tier I Instruction, Technology, and Differentiation	Dr. Mina Lightsey, Laurie Brewer, Chaffie Gibbs, and Dr. Leigh Mobley, Excellen Group
St. Francisville	Incorporating the Power of Assistive Technology in the Classroom	Denise Harrison, MDE	IEP Rights and Roles: Understanding Custody, Guardianship, and Legal Authority	Kashonda Day, Adam and Reese Law Firm
Baton Rouge	From Compliance Keeper to Instructional Leader: Navigating the Ever-Changing Role of the Special Education Director	Dr. Jennifer Boykin, Clinton Public	Supporting Struggling ad Dyslexic Readers through Structured Literacy	Garrett Ivey, EPS Learning
New Orleans	MS CASE Board Meeting and Q&A	CASE Board	Special Education on the Federal Level: What's Happening Now, What's on the Horizon, and How Does it Impact YOU?	Dr. Bridget Bright, CASE