

# MCEC 2025 Schedule 2.17.25

## Tuesday, April 1, 2025 Pre-Conference Workshops

Pre-Registration Required at [www.montanacec.org](http://www.montanacec.org), "2025 Conference", "Registration"

Early Conference Registration 8:00 am. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 - 6:30 p.m.

	Copper 1	Copper 2	Copper 3
9:00 am- 3:00 pm		Genevieve Thomas - Explicit Instruction	
4:30 pm - 7:00 p.m.	IEP Copilot - <i>AI to Increase Special Education Capacity and Effectiveness</i>		

Pre-Conference Happy Hour 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

### **Explicit Instruction Pre-Conference Workshop**

Genevieve Thomas, School Services of Montana

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

\$65 fee; comes with materials

In this interactive, full-day training, participants will build their capacity to design and deliver explicit instruction, an evidence-based instructional approach recognized as a "high-leverage practice" by the Council for Exceptional Children. They will explore the 16 essential elements of explicit instruction and learn how to structure explicit instruction lesson plans. Through engaging demonstrations and hands-on activities, participants will have opportunities to apply their learning directly to their unique teaching contexts. By the end of the day, educators will leave with practical tools and strategies to implement explicit instruction confidently and effectively.

### **AI to Increase Special Education Capacity and Effectiveness Pre-Conference Workshop**

Ian Lovett, Playground IEP

4:30 pm to 7:00 pm: \$20

In this interactive, hands-on workshop hosted by Playground IEP, you will learn the history and develop a technical understanding of AI, and will experience first-hand using AI to build capacity and increase effectiveness with your Special Ed Team, and improve differentiated instruction for all students.. We will also explore legal implications of AI, and developing a legally informed AI policy.. Register now to secure your spot!

# Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Registration in Main Lobby 7:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

8:45 - 9:00 Welcoming; Conference Info (light breakfast options)

**9:00 am- 10:30 am Welcoming Keynote! Tim Odegaard; Empowering Students with Dyslexia - Boosting Self Esteem and Mental Health” in Main Ballroom**

Time	Special Education Law, Policy, and Leadership Copper 3	High Quality Instructional Practices & Interventions Copper 2	Behavior, Mental Health, and MTSS Copper 1
10:45 am-12:00 pm	Secondary Transitions Panel – OPI, MEC, VR/Pre-ETS & Independent Living Services	Building Better BIPs: Collaborative Strategies for Implementation and Revision - Kim Stoddard, PJ Thomas; Anaconda Schools	Identifying Risk and Instructional Needs within an MTSS Model - Tim Odegaard
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch on your own			
1:45 pm-3:00 pm	Responsible AI for Special Education - Ian Lovett, IEP Playground	Becoming the leader in your classroom, using data that informs your instruction and transforms your results: Danielle Thompson	Unleashing the Power of Emotional Literacy for Success and Growth for All - Marci Parks
3:15 pm-4:30 pm	The Big 3: Leading with Heart - Rose Jones	Becoming the leader in your classroom, how to take data that informs your instruction and transforms your results: Danielle Thompson	Early Childhood Numeracy - Marci Parks
4:45 pm-6:00 pm	FBAs in a New Light: Understanding What’s Happening "Upstream" of Observed Behaviors - Dr. Leslie Rogers	MSDB; Best Practices for Teaching Students with Visual Impairments - Kerri Norick	The Things They Carry, Poverty & Trauma - Bridget Kelly & Juliana Robinson

6:15 - 7:45 pm MCEC Evening Awards/Appetizers/Drinks/Social/Networking

## Thursday, April 3, 2025

### Time

**Special Education  
Law, Policy, and  
Processes** **Copper 3**

**Instructional Strategies and  
High-Quality Practices**  
**Copper 2**

**MTSS & Interventions**  
**Copper 1**

7:30 - 8:00 Coffee and Light Breakfast/Morning Social/Vendor Visits

**8:00 am- 8:45 am CSPD Awards & Keynote:**  
**Susie Hedalen, MT OPI Superintendent of Public Instruction**

9:00 am-  
10:15 am

2024 Legislative  
Updates: Rob Watson

Word Study interventions  
for Upper/Elementary  
Middle School": Genevieve  
Thomas

From Research to  
Practice: Practical Tier 3  
Math Strategies For  
Long Division Mastery:  
Dr. Leslie Rogers

10:30 am-  
11:45 am

OPI Special Education  
Leadership Session:  
Danni McCarthy

Seizure Recognition and  
Response Training for School  
Personnel: Jessica Veach

Shawna Heiser and Hank  
Bohanon "Connecting  
Students to Systemwide  
Supports"

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Yes I Can Awards & Luncheon  
Sponsored by 95 Percent Group

1:45 pm-  
3:00 pm

Building a Better BIP -  
Elizabeth Kaleva

AI and Students with  
Learning Differences and  
Language Disorders -  
Carolyn Long

Developing Buy-In and  
Ongoing Support for MTSS  
in Secondary Settings -  
Hank Bohanon

3:15 pm-  
4:30 pm

2024: A Year in Review  
Elizabeth Kaleva

ASD Criteria: Katie  
Matingley, OPI

Reaching and Teaching  
Students with  
Neurodiversity: Functional  
Behaviors and High Quality  
PBIS Practices - Shawna  
Heiser