

Time	Room	Event	Breakout Sessions
Tuesday 7:00 am - 8:00 am	McGill	Registration/ Exhibit Hall Opens	EXHIBITS OPEN ALL DAY
Tuesday 8:00 am - 9:00 am	McGill	General Session/ Orientation/ Keynote Speaker: Danny Brassell	<b>Keynote: A Baker's Dozen of Lessons Learned from the Teaching Trenches</b> It takes a special person to be a teacher. Every day presents new challenges, and our attitudes and expectations shape our success. Join Danny as he shares a fast-paced, humorous and motivational keynote designed to show you how you make a difference in the lives of your students. From teaching preschoolers to rocket scientists, Danny shares his own trials and tribulations in the classroom as well as why he loves to teach. You'll learn his secret to good teaching and leave feeling invigorated.
9:00 am - 9:15 am	BREAK		
Time	Room	Presenter	Workshop Title & Description
Tuesday 9:15 am - 10:30 am Session	McGill	Julie Morrill	<b>Professional Learning in Literature During Tough Economic Times – The Georgia Department of Education's Approach</b> During tough economic times, teachers must still perfect their craft. With the release and adoption of the Common Core Curriculum and Georgia's Literacy Plan, professional learning remains at the forefront. This session will provide insight into a variety of professional learning opportunities related to literacy instruction that are available to educators in Georgia, as well as nationally. <b>(K-12) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH1	Debbie Miller	<b>Having At It: Creating Cultures of Thinking and Understanding</b> We all want the students we teach to be thoughtful, strategic, and independent readers and learners. Debbie will speak about intentional ways we can accomplish these goals, including comprehension strategy instruction, designing lessons based on the principles and practices we believe in, and instilling the spark of agency in our students and ourselves. <b>(K-5) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH2	Michael Smith	<b>Making It Matter: Harnessing the Power of Inquiry to Support Students' Reading and Writing, Part 1</b> In my sessions we'll focus on devising instruction that engages students in the here-and-now even as it prepares them for the future. In my first workshop we'll focus on building units around essential questions. In the second we'll focus on discussion and activity strategies that promote inquiry about and engagement in particular texts. <b>(6-12) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH3	Lori Oczkus	<b>Interactive Think Aloud Lessons: Surefire Ways to Engage Students and Improve Comprehension</b> Are you looking for ways to actively engage learners while dramatically improving the comprehension of ALL of your students? Learn exciting and practical lessons from Lori's brand NEW book and DVD published by Scholastic <i>"Interactive Think Alouds: 25 Sure-Fire Ways to Engage Students and Improve Comprehension"</i> . This rich array of research-based, yet fun and motivating ideas brings familiar comprehension strategies to life for students. Target even the most challenging strategies such as clarifying, inferring, and synthesizing in hands on activities. Put joy back into learning as you scaffold your lessons using mentor texts, props and characters, gestures, strategy starters, drama and music. Best of all- your students' comprehension will soar! <b>(K-6) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH4	Deborah Wiles	<b>What Makes Writing Good? How to Read Like a Writer</b> Bring your work in progress and/or questions about helping students with their writing, and learn ways to use models of good writing to improve your (and your students') work. Learn how to teach "organically" using your passion and enthusiasm coupled with your teaching skills and quality children's literature, and how to work side by side with authors to make literature and literacy intersect. <b>(K-12) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH5	Karen Caine	<b>Writing Persuasively with the Qualities of Good Writing</b> Persuasive writing can have voice, imagery, internal thinking, and stunning language! In this workshop, Karen will give teachers practical information on how to teach students to write persuasive letters, op-ed's, and persuasive personal essays while simultaneously enjoying the process of writing. This session will focus on helping students get fresh ideas, use mentor texts and revise for clarity and craft. <b>(3-8)</b>
10:30 am - 10:45 am	BREAK		
Time	Room	Presenter	Workshop Title & Description
Tuesday 10:45 am - 12:00 pm Session	McGill	Tony Vlachakis	<b>Rethink Your Curriculum with GeorgiaStandards.org</b> You probably already know that you can access the Georgia Performance Standards from GSO, right? Are you also aware that an entire English Language Arts curriculum is available on GSO as well? How about a GSO video library that offers many ELA best practice videos? Discover how to access countless ELA support materials and resources through the state's official site of the Georgia Performance Standards. <b>(K-12) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH1	Karen Caine	<b>Drafting and Revising: Watching Your Writing Take Shape</b> Many of our students love to keep writer's notebooks, but dislike drafting and revising. In this workshop Karen will show teachers how to teach students how to write strong first drafts and how to become stronger revisers of their own work—all while enjoying this part of the writing process. This session will begin by exploring the 10 most common myths related to drafting and revising and will then give teachers ideas for minilessons to help students revise well. <b>(3-8)</b>
	MMH2	Tim Rasinski	<b>Constructivist Approaches to Phonics and Vocabulary Instruction: Word Study that Works!</b> Word decoding, vocabulary, and spelling are essential skills in learning to read. In this session Dr. Rasinski will share effective and engaging methods for helping students learn to learn and take delight in words. <b>(K-8) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH3	Katie Wood Ray	<b>The Role of Reading Immersion in the Teaching of Writing</b> Former National Poet Laureate Ted Kooser once said, "Before you write one poem, you need to read at least one hundred poems." Reading immersion may be the single most important teaching tool in the writing workshop. Writers need to be immersed in reading examples of particular genres in order to understand their features, forms and potentials. In this session, Katie will give an overview of all sorts of texts teachers across grade levels might use for reading immersion in the writing workshop. <b>(3-8) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH4	Deborah Hopkins	<b>The Sky's the Limit: Boosting Achievement for English Learners</b> English learners face a daunting challenge: they are learning a new language and, at the same time, are being held accountable for the same grade-level content and concepts as their English-speaking peers. The good news: these students enter our classrooms as <i>language-enriched pupils</i> , with powerful linguistic assets that can be used as a springboard to higher achievement. In this interactive session, participants will learn classroom-proven strategies for tapping into academic and linguistic assets to accelerate achievement. We'll experience the strategies first-hand, exploring how to use the primary language as a resource, how to employ meta-linguistic awareness to facilitate transfer, and how to build vocabulary in powerful, memorable, and highly entertaining ways! Be ready to sing, to chant, to draw, to discuss deeply, and to watch your students' vocabularies – and confidence – GROW! <b>(K-12) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH5	Bob Wortman	<b>Taking Nonfiction Into Writing for the Primary Grades</b> Direct instruction in nonfiction reading strategies connects beautifully with nonfiction writing. Examples from 1st and 2nd grade classrooms illustrate how examining text features in great nonfiction books, making connections, asking questions and reading for details impact expository writing for our youngest writers. <b>(K-3) RTI &amp; ELL</b>

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Tuesday 1:15 pm - 2:30 pm Session	McGill	Lynn Wilson, Helen Bennett, Carol Pickens	<b>Smart Teaching in the Primary Grades: Developing Content Based Literacy Communities</b> Experience practical strategies for teaching reading comprehension and critical thinking in this hands-on session illustrating the power of integrated instruction couched in best practice. The read aloud component of the literacy block forms the basis for teaching reading comprehension, as well as the science and social studies GPS. <b>(K-5) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH1	Danny Brassell	<b>Vocabulary Strategies Every Teacher Needs to Know</b> Learn how to improve reading skills through stronger vocabulary. Join Danny to learn innovative ways to support vocabulary growth beyond a solid foundation of read-alouds and sustained silent reading time. You'll learn strategies that build on your students' prior knowledge. And, you'll explore a variety of engaging activities to support strong vocabulary. <b>(K-8) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH2	Debbie Miller	<b>Thoughtful Choices: Showing Students How</b> In this session, Debbie will share classroom lessons/actions that show children how to make wise, purposeful choices when it comes to choosing books for independent reading, and responding to them in a variety of authentic ways. <b>(K-2) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH3	Katie Wood Ray	<b>Supporting Young Writers Through Illustration Study in the Writing Workshop</b> The youngest writers in grades K-2 use drawings as well as writing to make meaning when they compose. Based on Katie Ray's newest research and book, this session will suggest possibilities for making illustration study a vital part of the primary writing workshop. Children can grow in understanding both the process of writing and the qualities of good writing through illustration study when forward-thinking teachers help make the "composing connection" clear. <b>(K-3) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH4	Deborah Wiles	<b>Finding Your Voice, Claiming Your Story</b> Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, novels, picture-books and more — all writing begins with personal narrative. We teach personal narrative writing to our students and ask them to satisfy and master all sorts of standards and rubrics, across the curriculum. But ultimately, story grows out of our courage to write from the inside out, to touch the truth of our lives, the depths of our hearts, and the craziness of our souls. This is how we find our voices and help our students find theirs. Bring your notebook, your sense of humor, and a great willingness! For session two, I will bring a cart full of children's literature and examples of how to mesh that literature with writing standards. We'll do good work together. <b>(K-12) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH5	Bob Wortman	<b>Student Writers Standing on the Shoulders of Great Authors</b> Sharing, examining and expanding on the works of great authors to "try out" writing in the style of Byrd Baylor, Ralph Fletcher, Ella George Lyons and others provides concrete supports for student writers. Examples of specific writing strategies that tie to a variety of books and the work of 2nd-5th grade students will be provided. <b>(K-12 focus on 3-8) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
2:30 pm - 2:45 pm		BREAK	
Time	Room	Presenter	Workshop Title & Description
Tuesday 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm Session	McGill	Tony Vlachakis	<b>Looking for an Industrial Strength Curriculum Search?</b> Come and learn of the over 55,000 free searchable online educational resources through Verizon Foundation's Thinkfinity.org. Be prepared to be amazed by all the Thinkfinity Content Partners. These discipline-specific, standards-based web sites include lessons for teachers, activities to use in and out of the classroom, games for young children and teen, adult literacy resources and reference materials for English Language Arts. <b>(K-12) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH1	Deborah Hopkins	<b>Why Is a Giraffe's Neck So Long? Accelerate Content Literacy by Tapping Into Students' Natural Curiosity</b> It's a fact: children are deeply, persistently, scientifically curious! Why is the sky blue? How does water turn into ice and back again? Where do rainbows come from? And, yet, for many there comes a time when science becomes "too hard", often because they find the textbook to be intimidating. So: how can teachers keep the spark for science burning brightly? How can we help them successfully access the expository text in their content textbooks? In this session, we'll explore creative ideas and strategies for success across all dimensions of learning: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking about science (or any content area). We'll discuss the importance of academic discourse in the content classroom. And, we'll share resources and strategies designed to motivate your students to engage, connect, and maximize learning in the content classroom. <b>(K-5) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH2	Lori Oczkus	<b>Reciprocal Teaching at Work: New Strategies/Lessons for Dramatically Improving Reading Comprehension</b> Many students decode and yet don't comprehend what they read. How can we improve the comprehension of all students, especially our struggling readers? The Fabulous Four, or reciprocal teaching strategies (Palincsar and Brown), predict, question, clarify, summarize, work as a powerful package to begin to yield dramatic results in reading comprehension in as little as 15 days! Lori Oczkus will share her very best NEW lessons for using reciprocal teaching strategies with the whole class during shared reading, in guided reading with small groups, and in literature circles. Creative ways to incorporate and improve comprehension while differentiating instruction for a wide range of learners will be presented. <b>(K-6) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH3	Tim Rasinski	<b>Effective and Engaging Instruction in Reading Fluency, A Critical but Often Neglected Goal of the Reading Curriculum</b> Fluency in reading has been found to be a key element of any successful reading program (National Reading Panel). Despite its importance many students fail to achieve sufficiently in fluency and overall reading achievement. Moreover, many teachers do not feel fully competent in their knowledge and teaching of this critical reading component. In this workshop, Dr. Tim Rasinski will provide theoretical and research background and give definition to fluency. He will share approaches to assessing and monitoring progress in this key aspect of reading and, most importantly, he will share effective and engaging strategies for teaching these all-important reading components that will move students toward better comprehension and greater proficiency in reading. <b>(K-12) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH4	Michael Smith	<b>Making It Matter: Harnessing the Power of Inquiry to Support Students' Reading and Writing, Part 2</b> In my sessions we'll focus on devising instruction that engages students in the here-and-now even as it prepares them for the future. In my first workshop we'll focus on building units around essential questions. In the second we'll focus on discussion and activity strategies that promote inquiry about and engagement in particular texts. <b>(6-12) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
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Wednesday 8:00 am - 9:00 am	McGill	General Session/ Orientation/ Keynote Speaker: Allen Dodge	<b>Keynote: A View of the Top</b> The federal "Race to the Top" program seeks to develop models of successful long-term, systemic improvements in teaching and learning. It continues using data from standardized tests to document the effects from all kinds of changes. But what does the top really look like? How is it different from the system in which we operate? Today's keynote presentation gives us a view inside the school system that consistently achieves the highest standardized test scores in the world - Finland.
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	MMH1	Karen Caine	<b>Writing Persuasively with the Qualities of Good Writing</b> Persuasive writing can have voice, imagery, internal thinking, and stunning language! In this workshop, Karen will give teachers practical information on how to teach students to write persuasive letters, op-ed's, and persuasive personal essays while simultaneously enjoying the process of writing. This session will focus on helping students get fresh ideas, use mentor texts and revise for clarity and craft. <b>(3-8)</b>
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Wednesday 10:45 am - 12:00 pm Session	McGill	Tony Vlachakis	<b>Utilizing Free Online Simulations &amp; Interactives for Balanced Assessment</b> Expand the teaching of performance-based standards in English Language Arts by providing challenging opportunities for all learning styles. Want to engage students by having them demonstrate depth of understanding, explanation, interpretation and application? Then attend this GeorgiaStandards.Org session to learn how to utilize free online simulations and interactives into the ELA curriculum. <b>(K-12) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH1	Debra Hopkins	<b>The Sky's the Limit: Boosting Achievement for English Learners.</b> English learners face a daunting challenge: they are learning a new language and, at the same time, are being held accountable for the same grade-level content and concepts as their English-speaking peers. The good news: these students enter our classrooms as <i>language-enriched pupils</i> , with powerful linguistic assets that can be used as a springboard to higher achievement. In this interactive session, participants will learn classroom-proven strategies for tapping into academic and linguistic assets to accelerate achievement. We'll experience the strategies first-hand, exploring how to use the primary language as a resource, how to employ meta-linguistic awareness to facilitate transfer, and how to build vocabulary in powerful, memorable, and highly entertaining ways! Be ready to sing, to chant, to draw, to discuss deeply, and to watch your students' vocabularies – and confidence – GROW! <b>(K-12) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
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	MMH5	Danny Brassell	<b>Writing Fun!</b> Discover exciting ideas and engaging ways for turning young students into writers! In this interactive session, you'll learn how to model the writing process. You'll learn how to publish student stories using a variety of approaches. Best of all, you'll learn how to empower your students to take an active role in their own growth through constant written reflection. <b>(K-3) RTI &amp; ELL</b>

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	MMH1	Danny Brassell	<b>Creating Lessons from Newspapers</b> Create a month's worth of lessons from a newspaper! In this engaging session, Danny demonstrates dozens of ways you can use a newspaper to meet language arts standards while making reading and writing enjoyable experiences for students. You'll explore how to create lessons with newspapers across all of the content areas. And, you'll learn how to incorporate newspapers into daily routine. <b>(K-6) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
	MMH2	Deborah Wiles	<b>What Makes Writing Good? How to Read Like a Writer</b> Bring your work in progress and/or questions about helping students with their writing, and learn ways to use models of good writing to improve your (and your students') work. Learn how to teach "organically" using your passion and enthusiasm coupled with your teaching skills and quality children's literature, and how to work side by side with authors to make literature and literacy intersect. <b>(K-12) RTI &amp; ELL</b>
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