

INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING SUMMIT

SPRING
2026



**CONFRONTING THE NEED FOR DEEP
TEACHER ENGAGEMENT HEAD ON**

Thursday, May 7, 2026

VIRTUAL SUMMIT PRESENTED BY FIRST EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Schedule

9:00 AM | OPENING WITH DANICA LEWIS

9:45 - 11:00 AM | BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Shelly Daun | Navigating Co-Teaching Challenges Through Coaching Support -

Becky Pepler | Coaching for Impact: Using High-Quality Assessment Protocols to Drive Teacher Reflection

Julie Wright | Flexible, Side-by-Side Coaching: Maximizing Teacher and Student Growth

Tony Frontier | Applying Research on Effective Teaching to Use AI as a Tool to Build Teacher Expertise

Danica Lewis | Leveraging Conversations and Feedback for Teacher Empowerment and Academic Growth

11:00 - 11:15 AM | TRANSITION

ALL TIMES LISTED ARE CENTRAL TIME ZONE.

Deep Teacher Engagement
SPRING 2026 | MAY 7, 2026

Coaching
Summit

Schedule

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Kelly Barkovich | Beyond the Basics: Coaching SDI in Co-Teaching Classrooms

Julie Wright | Asset-Based Learning Walks: Making an Impact One Step At a Time

Jenni Donohoo | Building Teacher Well-being Through Collective Efficacy: A Coaching Approach

Gabe Hackett | Coaching for Impact within PLCs

Maria Dyslin | Coaching That Sticks: Tackling Real Classroom Challenges with Teachers

12:30 - 1:15 PM | LUNCH BREAK

1:15 - 2:30 PM | KEYNOTE WITH JIM KNIGHT | "TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE WITH AN INSTRUCTIONAL PLAYBOOK"

2:30 - 3:00 PM | CLOSING CONVERSATIONS WITH SELECT BREAKOUT PRESENTERS

ALL TIMES LISTED ARE CENTRAL TIME ZONE.

Deep Teacher Engagement

SPRING 2026 | MAY 7, 2026

Coaching
Summit

SPRING 2026 INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING SUMMIT



OPENING

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Confronting the Need for Deep Teacher Engagement Head On

Research shows that professional development is key to teacher growth and student learning—but not all methods are created equal. A 1995 study by Bruce Joyce and Beverly Showers revealed that while workshops and modeling help teachers understand new strategies, these methods alone don't ensure consistent use in the classroom. The real game-changer for deep teacher engagement leading to lasting changes in practices? Coaching! This opening session will establish the importance of coaching as the most powerful professional development tool available to schools and will provide a framework for ensuring deep teacher engagement in the work of professional learning and growth.



DANICA LEWIS

Director, FIRST Education Instructional Coaching Center

Over her 25 years in education, Danica has served as a teacher, coach, district administrator, and state-wide leader. Danica has been fortunate to train hundreds, if not thousands of instructional coaches over the years and loves finding solutions to the stickiest of coaching dilemmas.

BREAKOUTS

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM



Navigating Co-Teaching Challenges Through Coaching Support

Shelly Daun | Curriculum Leader, Math Specialist, Professional Developer

Co-teaching has the power to transform classrooms, but the reality is that teachers often encounter barriers that make implementation difficult—uneven roles, limited planning time, conflicting instructional styles, and uncertainty about integrating specially designed instruction. In this interactive session, we'll explore the most common challenges co-teachers face and examine how instructional coaches can provide targeted support to move teams from co-existing to truly co-teaching. Participants will engage in real-world scenarios, identify strategies for fostering collaboration and shared ownership, and learn practical coaching moves that build trust, strengthen instructional partnerships, and keep the focus on student success.

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BREAKOUTS

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM



Coaching for Impact: Using High-Quality Assessment Protocols to Drive Teacher Reflection

Becky Pepler | Teacher, Grading Specialist, Professional Developer

Instructional Coaches play a pivotal role in helping teachers strengthen assessment practices that truly support student learning. In this session, coaches will explore how the High-Quality Assessment Protocol can serve as a coaching tool to guide teachers through meaningful reflection on their assessments. Coaches will also gain strategies for supporting alignment between standards, learning targets, and classroom assessments. By the end of the session, participants will leave with practical tools and approaches they can immediately incorporate into their coaching conversations to foster teacher growth and enhance student learning.



Flexible, Side-by-Side Coaching: Maximizing Teacher and Student Growth

Julie Wright | Coach, Literacy Specialist, Professional Developer

Growth and success doesn't come with a one-size fits all. That is true when working with students and equally as true in our coaching work with teachers. Join me in this talk-about-it-today, put-it-into-action-tomorrow session where we'll explore how to design coaching experiences using a needs assessment, coaching menu, office hours, and more!



Applying Research on Effective Teaching to Use AI as a Tool to Build Teacher Expertise

Tony Frontier | Author, Professor, Professional Developer

AI tools can support or undermine effective teaching; what matters is how we use them. In this session, you'll learn strategies to use generative AI tools such as Gemini, Claude, or ChatGPT to help teachers "see their classroom through the eyes of their students." Drawing on the research and guiding principles described in the book "AI with Intention," protocols on how instructional coaches can use AI tools to support teacher reflection and action on topics including curricular alignment, collaborative analysis of student work, anticipating student misconceptions, and reducing cognitive load will be shared.

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BREAKOUTS

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM



Leveraging Conversations and Feedback for Teacher Empowerment and Academic Growth

Danica Lewis | Coach, District Leader, Professional Developer

More and more, schools are learning that real, sustainable academic improvement requires support for teachers that goes beyond what the typical teacher in-service day can offer. When teachers have access to intentional, job-embedded coaching, they are more likely to take on new practices and to stick with those that work for the long haul. This coaching can be provided by a skilled Instructional Coach or a collaborative School Leader. In this session, we will work through several strategies for questioning, feedback, and conversation that can be leveraged by coaches and leaders to empower teachers as they develop classroom instruction that drives student learning and growth. Participants will walk away with ready to use tools that will make a difference in the success of teachers and students.

BREAKOUTS

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM



Building Teacher Well-being Through Collective Efficacy: A Coaching Approach

Jenni Donohoo | Author, Educator, Professional Developer

Teacher burnout and isolation are among the most pressing challenges facing schools today. When teachers feel overwhelmed, stressed, or lack confidence in their practice, it impacts not only their well-being but also student outcomes. This session explores how instructional coaches can leverage the research-based concept of collective efficacy to address teacher well-being and professional satisfaction. We'll examine the four sources of efficacy and how coaches can intentionally tap into these sources during coaching conversations and collaborative work. By strengthening collective efficacy, coaches can reduce teacher isolation, build confidence, and create sustainable improvements in both teacher and student well-being. Coaches will leave with specific feedback strategies, reflection questions, and action steps they can implement immediately to support struggling teachers and build a culture of shared success.

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BREAKOUTS

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM



Beyond the Basics: Coaching SDI in Co-Teaching Classrooms

Kelly Barkovich | Special Education Teacher, Professional Developer

Special education instructional coaches have a unique opportunity to elevate co-teaching by focusing on Specially Designed Instruction (SDI). In this session, we'll examine what SDI looks like in practice, discuss how coaches can facilitate teacher growth around it, and share strategies to make SDI a seamless part of instruction. Together, we'll explore ways coaches can empower co-teachers to create classrooms where all students thrive.



Asset-Based Learning Walks: Making an Impact One Step At a Time

Julie Wright | Coach, Literacy Specialist, Professional Developer

Truth: Sometimes coaching work can go sideways because, despite our best intentions and the urgency around student growth, professional learning can feel more like “fix it mode” versus collaboration and support. One way to shift gears, while building capacity, is to take advantage of Asset-Based Learning Walks. Join me to learn how to use teacher, student and classroom assets to move coaching to the next level.



Coaching for Impact within PLCs

Gabe Hackett | Principal, PLC Specialist, Professional Developer

Instructional coaches play a key role in helping collaborative teams move from planning discussions to rich dialogue about the instructional strategies that lead to impact in the classroom. In this session, coaches will explore tools and strategies used to support PLCs in order to set clear goals, use real-time student evidence, and adjust instruction for improved outcomes. Learn how to support all team members within a PLC, design effective instructional strategies, and build collective efficacy so every meeting drives meaningful change for students.

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BREAKOUTS

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM



Coaching That Sticks: Tackling Real Classroom Challenges with Teachers

Maria Dyslin | Principal, Coach, Professional Developer

Instructional coaches are most impactful when their support is directly connected to what teachers are actually grappling with in classrooms. In this interactive session, participants will surface authentic challenges teachers face – from engagement to pacing to differentiation – and practice coaching strategies that are responsive, relevant, and ready to use. Walk away with a toolkit of actionable approaches, tools, and planning templates that can immediately support your coaching practice

LUNCH BREAK

12:30 PM – 1:15 PM

KEYNOTE

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

Translating Research into Practice with an Instructional Playbook

To be effective, coaches need to have a deep understanding of high-impact teaching strategies. They also need to be able to clearly explain those strategies. Creating an instructional playbook addresses both of these aspects of coaching. This session will examine the process of developing an Instructional Playbook in order to explain high leverage practices with clarity.



JIM KNIGHT

Founder, Instructional Coaching Group

Jim wrote the first major article about instructional coaching for the *Journal of Staff Development*, and his book *Instructional Coaching* (2007) offered the first extended description of instructional coaching. Jim continues to research and author books for coaching and provides consulting for coaching programs around the world.

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DISCUSSION

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Participants select a focus for further discussion with colleagues and specialists.

These facilitated discussions will allow for the sharing of strategies and planning ahead for implementation of what was learned.

Coaching Co-Teaching | Kelly Barkovich

Coaching for Collective Efficacy | Jenni Donohoo

Coaching Grading and Assessment | Becky Pepler

Coaching PLCs | Gabe Hackett

Planning for Coaching/Coaching Strategies | Danica Lewis

Coaching Through Classroom Challenges | Maria Dyslin

Asset-Based Coaching | Julie Wright

Thank you for joining us!

Check out our website for future opportunities or to connect for onsite support.

www.firsteducation-us.com/services/instructional-coaching

