



# AGENDA



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

2 – 7 pm	Registration & Check-in
5 – 10 pm	Super Bowl Party

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

### **Pre-conference**

7:30 – 8:30 am	Breakfast with Exhibitors
8:30 – 11:30 am	<b>Pre-conference Sessions</b>

#### ***Putting the Pieces Together: Disproportionality and Results Driven Accountability (RDA)***

*Kami Finger, Lubbock ISD, Michael Webb, Tomball ISD, Tammy Percy, Texas Education Agency, Thelissa Edwards, Humble ISD*

Join us for a deep dive into results driven accountability (RDA) and discipline disproportionality. Hear from districts on how they are responding in year 2 and from TEA for the latest guidance and clarification.

*Sponsored by VizZle*

#### ***Unraveling the Mystery: Understanding SLD and Dyslexia Identification***

*Gail Cheramie*

Join us for a pre-conference session that will help unravel the mystery with SLD and Dyslexia determinations. This session will focus on:

- Issues for SLD and Dyslexia identification within the context of general and special education evaluations;
- Evaluation for the determination of a SLD that includes evaluating for the condition of Dyslexia with a focus on the DD/C method; and
- Examining case studies and examples.

During the session, hear from special education directors from a small, medium, and large district as they each present their district's model for referrals and evaluations regarding SLD and Dyslexia.

#### ***Beyond Participation: Building Strong Partnerships***

*Diana Cruz, The Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education, Noelle Bernal, CADRE*

Meaningful parental participation in IEP meetings is a requirement set out within IDEA, yet many parents do not feel that their experiences match this mandate. This workshop will emphasize the value of building home/school partnerships; highlight the fundamental attributes of successful partnerships; and provide skill building opportunities that build educators' capacity to communicate clearly, manage conflict, negotiate and build agreements, and develop productive relationships with families.





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## Main Conference

1 – 2:30 pm

### Welcome/Keynote Session

#### **Mental Wealth**

*Ben Nemtin, Ben Nemtin International*

Ben authored a #1 New York Times Bestselling book, starred in an MTV show, met President Obama at the White House, was interviewed by Oprah, had beers with Prince Harry and has been living his dreams for the past decade.

He also struggles with depression. This may come as a surprise, and that's exactly why Ben wants to talk about it. In university, Ben was hit with a crippling depression that forced him to drop out of school and retreat into his parents' house. In an effort to climb out of his darkness, Ben decided to surround himself with friends who inspired him and committed to finally following his buried dreams. These commitments led him to Jonnie, Dave and Duncan and *The Buried Life* was born.

Ben is a mental health advocate who believes that all humans have ups and they have downs. He believes the stigma around mental illness can be broken through open, honest conversations. However, the onus is not on the 1 in 5 who struggle with mental health to break the stigma, the responsibility falls on all of us. By showing how his vulnerabilities have become his strengths, Ben gives others the courage to talk about their internal battles. Ben shares the tools that help him cope with the stresses of life and emphasizes that it is ok to reach out for help. His astounding story and authentic levity gives audiences hope and normalizes behavioral health in a vibrant way.

2:30 – 3 pm

Break with Exhibitors

3 – 4 pm

### **Thought Leader Sessions**

4 – 4:30 pm

Break with Exhibitors

4:30 – 5:30 pm

### **Thought Leader Sessions**

8 pm – Midnight

Retro Reunion: 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

*Sponsored by Pearson Clinical Assessment & empoWEr*





# AGENDA



## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

### Main Conference

7:30 – 8:45 am                      Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:45 – 10 am                      **General Session**

#### ***TEA State of the State***

*Dr. Justin Porter, Texas Education Agency*

Join Dr. Justin Porter, state director for special education at TEA, as he shares the latest updates on the state of special education in Texas. Dr. Porter will be with us once again with plenty to discuss. He will update attendees on the state's technical assistance networks, TEA resources, and the state's standing with the U.S. Department of Education. Make sure to attend this session, as this is the most up-to-date information attendees will receive about TEA priorities and activities, straight from the state special education director's mouth.

*Sponsored by TASB Student Solutions*

10 – 10:45 am                      Break with Exhibitors

10:45 – Noon                      **Learning Labs**

Noon – 1:30 pm                      Lunch on Your Own

1:30 – 2:45 pm                      **Learning Labs**

2:45 – 3:15 pm                      Break

3:15 – 4:30 pm                      **Learning Labs**





# AGENDA



## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

### Main Conference

8:30 – 9 am Breakfast

9 – 10:15 am **General Session**

#### ***From the Front Lines: Experiences from the TEA Review, Monitoring, and Support Process***

*Dr. Cyndi Short, Dr. Tyrell White, Clay-Jack SSA, Annie Seiter, Boerne ISD*

Hear from leaders of various sized districts who have gone through the review and monitoring process with Texas Education Agency. What are some things they wish they had known? What would they have done differently? Panelists will share their experiences and answer your questions.

10:15 – 10:30 am Break

10:30- Noon **General Session**

#### ***Healthy Grading Practices for Students with Learning Differences***

*Lee Ann Jung, Ph.D., Lead Inclusion*

Assigning fair and meaningful grades to students with learning differences is a difficult task faced by every teacher. Very little guidance can be found in policy or the field of special education to help teachers with this challenge. In this session, participants will learn about the move to standards-based grading for all learners. Participants will learn to use a 4-step Differentiated Assessment and Grading Model for grading and reporting achievement of students with learning differences in a way that is fair, meaningful, and legally defensible. The model is appropriate for students with disabilities, English learners, and those receiving intensive intervention.

*Sponsored by Stetson & Associates*