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CONFERENCE AGENDA

February 8-10 | JW Marriott Austin

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Sunday February 7

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM — Exhibitor Registration

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM — Registration Open

Monday February 8

7:30 AM — Registration Open

7:30 - 8:30 PM — Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM — Pre-Conference Sessions

SESSION I

The Legal Panel

This pre-conference session will feature a panel of special education attorneys and will cover the latest legal updates, case law, and compliance guidance impacting how districts serve students with disabilities.

From due process trends and MDR decisions to evolving state and federal requirements, the panel will break down what you need to know now and what to watch for next. Participants will have the opportunity to hear multiple legal perspectives, gain practical takeaways for their districts, and ask questions on the issues that matter most.

SESSION II

The SSA Leadership Playbook

Robin Knepp, Lauren Puente, *Grimes County Co-op*

Shared Services Arrangements come with a leadership playbook all their own. This pre-conference session gives SSA leaders the opportunity to dig into the issues that make this model uniquely complex. Explore real-world challenges related to governance, roles and responsibilities, compliance, communication, resource allocation and relationships among member districts. Through guided discussion, scenarios and shared problem-solving, participants will learn from one another, compare approaches and leave with practical strategies to strengthen collaboration and leadership across their SSA.

SESSION III

Making the Case for Shared Ownership

Krista Garcia, *TCASE Services by Design*

Special education leaders often see concerns first, but the decisions that can change outcomes may sit elsewhere. This interactive session will help participants lead up and across by using RDA, the SPD, accountability, CCMR and TIA to make a clear case for districtwide action. Panelists will share what moves leaders to engage, while participants develop practical strategies to frame concerns, make specific requests, build partnerships and move from one conversation to sustained systems change.

Monday February 8 (cont.)

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM — Lunch on Your Own

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM — Welcome & Opening General Session

Help Them Thrive®: The Science and Soul of Human-Centered Leadership

Melissa Majors, *Melissa Majors Consulting*

Leadership in special education demands more than expertise, it requires the ability to build trust, navigate conflict and help people thrive under pressure. In this energizing session, Melissa Majors blends behavioral science, relatable stories and practical strategies to help you lead with greater clarity, courage and connection.

Discover how to turn tension into productive dialogue, deliver feedback that inspires growth and create the psychological safety teams need to do their best work. You'll leave with brain-friendly tools you can use immediately to strengthen relationships, protect your well-being and lead with greater impact, without losing who you are along the way.

2:15 PM - 3:00 PM — Break with Exhibitors

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM — Learning Lab Sessions

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM — Break with Exhibitors

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM — Learning Lab Sessions

8:00 PM - 10:30 PM — TCASE Together Event

After a day of learning and leading, unwind with colleagues at the TCASE Together, our evening social event. Enjoy a sweet spread of desserts, lively music and plenty of time to connect with friends. This is your chance to relax, recharge and celebrate with fellow conference attendees in a fun, festive atmosphere. Whether you're catching up with old friends or making new ones, this night of music, laughter and community is not to be missed!

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Tuesday February 9

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM — Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM — General Session

What's Ahead in the 90th Texas Legislature

Now that the 90th legislative session has begun, get an inside look at the people, priorities and conversations likely to shape the session. Legislative leaders will share their perspectives on what's on the horizon for public education and special education, offering participants a timely preview of what to watch as another busy legislative session gets underway.

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM — Break with Exhibitors

10:30 AM -11:30 AM — Learning Lab Sessions

11:30 AM - 1:00 AM — Lunch on Your Own

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM — Learning Lab Sessions

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM — Break with Exhibitors

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM — Learning Lab Sessions

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM — Break with Exhibitors

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM — Learning Lab Sessions

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Wednesday February 10

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM — Breakfast

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM — General Session

TEA State of the State

***Kristin McGuire**, Texas Education Agency*

This session will provide special education leaders with the latest information on policy priorities, compliance expectations, and statewide initiatives that are shaping programs and services across districts.

9:45 AM - 10:00 AM — Break

10:00 AM -11:15 AM — Learning Lab Sessions

Hot Topic Impacting Special Education Leaders

The only constant in special education leadership is change, and special educators know that better than anyone. This general session will tackle the most pressing issues facing districts. Because the landscape evolves so quickly, the specific topics will be finalized closer to the event to ensure you hear the latest developments that matter most.