Monday

FEB 8 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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LONE STAR **A-B**	**Help them Thrive®: From Insight to Everyday Impact** *Melissa Majors* *Melissa Majors Consulting*	Building on the Help Them Thrive® keynote, participants will uncover practical leadership approaches already working in their schools and districts and explore new possibilities together.
LONE STAR **C**	**School Nurses and IDEA: Legal Issues to Know** *José Martín, Richards Lindsay Martín*	Examine IDEA issues involving school nurses, including Child Find, related services, one-to-one and private-duty nursing, emergencies, medical information, HIPAA misconceptions and parent restrictions.
LONE STAR **D**	**From Classroom to Career: SPED & CTE Partnership Model** *Nancy Newton, Christina Litchfield, Kathryn Bonds* *Tomball ISD*	Explore a district model linking transition planning, work-based learning and CTE pathways for students with disabilities. Use a seven-step framework and examples to plan districtwide implementation.
LONE STAR **E**	**Navigating ChatGPT Requests in Your Districts** *Arieana Martinez* *Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & De Los Santos P.C.*	Facing lengthy AI-generated emails and requests? Explore common district scenarios and learn to identify the real issues, respond appropriately and protect important timelines.
LONE STAR **F**	**What Your Evaluation Data Is Telling You** *Tiffany Battle* *ESC Region 4*	Spot evaluation problems before they escalate. Analyze referral trends, timelines, workloads, quality and outcomes to identify system gaps, improve decisions and prevent compliance or capacity crises.
LONE STAR **G-H**	**Special Ed Director Law School** *Elvin Houston* *Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & De Los Santos P.C.*	Know where to find the law and how to use it. Navigate federal statutes and regulations, case law, Texas rules, agency guidance and local procedures to inform sound district decisions.
ROOM **301-302**	**Smarter Compliance With AI and Automation** *Lacey Coleman, Cecilia Aguilar* *Katy ISD*	Put everyday technology to work. Explore AI, automation and spreadsheets to streamline repetitive tasks, organize information and create useful compliance tools, no advanced tech skills required.
ROOM **303-304**	**Stop Chasing SPED Data: Lead With Clarity** *Nina Houston, Heather Jarboe* *New Braunfels ISD;* *James Cureton* *Actionable Insights*	See how New Braunfels ISD connects data on LRE, scheduling, service delivery and student performance. Learn how timely, unified information supports stronger planning, oversight and decisions.
ROOM **310-311**	**IEPs That Build Competence, Not Just Compliance** *Kathy Clapsaddle* *lead4ward*	Move beyond compliant IEPs to meaningful instructional growth. Use long-strand concepts to develop focused goals, align with rigorous instruction and strengthen special educator practice.

LEARNING LABS

Monday

FEB 8 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

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LONE STAR **A-B**	**Getting Proportionate Share Right** *Cindy Moses* *TCASE Services by Design*	Review IDEA-B proportionate share requirements for eligible private school and homeschool students, including consultation, set-aside calculations, service decisions and unused funds in the TEFA era.
LONE STAR **C**	**Compliance: Your Best Defense Against Claims** *Tisha Brown* *Powell Law Group*	Prevent disputes before they begin. Strengthen documentation and communication, respond effectively to parent concerns and recognize early warning signs of complaints, investigations and due process.
LONE STAR **D**	**Deliberate Indifference After A.J.T.** *Emily Shackleford, Dianna Bowen* *Thompson & Horton, LLP*	Explore emerging case law following A.J.T. and the changing landscape for ADA and Section 504 claims. Consider parent perspectives and what districts should understand about deliberate indifference litigation.
LONE STAR **E**	**Integrating MTSS and Special Education** *Stella Reyes* *KIPP Texas*	Learn from a district case study on connecting MTSS and special education data, leadership and workflows. Benchmark your own systems to reduce duplication, improve coordination and manage compliance risk.
LONE STAR **F**	**HB 2 Day Placement Cooperative Funding Explained** *Erin Tyler, Specialized Education Services, Inc.; Andrea Chevalier, PhD, Moak Casey & Associates; Jamie Wilkins, Sealy ISD*	Understand HB 2's Day Placement Cooperative Funding Allotment (TEC §48.304), including up to $250,000 for county-level programs serving students with intensive needs and how districts apply to administer programs.
LONE STAR **G-H**	**Special Ed Director Law School** *Elvin Houston* *Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & De Los Santos P.C.*	Know where to find the law and how to use it. Navigate federal statutes and regulations, case law, Texas rules, agency guidance and local procedures to inform sound district decisions.
ROOM **301-302**	**Bridging ECSE and Kindergarten** *Erin Chambers, Mallory Batio* *Allen ISD*	Make the move from ECSE to kindergarten more seamless. Use evaluation data and consistent visuals, routines, materials and supports to build student independence and readiness across settings.
ROOM **303-304**	**Building a Districtwide SPED Data System** *Danni Smith, Katie Stone, EdD* *Katy ISD*	See how Katy ISD developed a districtwide special education data collection system for compliance, monitoring and decision-making. Take home templates, lessons learned and an implementation roadmap.
ROOM **310-311**	**Beyond Behavior: Understanding Student Regulation** *Catie Egan* *ESC Region 9*	Discover how stress, brain development, relationships and classroom environments influence student behavior. Learn to recognize what drives challenging behaviors and use regulation-informed strategies to better support students.

LEARNING LABS

Tuesday FEB 9 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

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LONE STAR **A-B**	**Collaboration Without Consensus: Legally Defensible Disagreement** *Elvin Houston* *Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & De Los Santos, P.C.*	Meaningful collaboration does not always produce consensus. Learn to navigate ARD disagreements, ensure participation, address parent concerns and reach legally defensible decisions.
LONE STAR **C**	**Where Title IX, IDEA and Section 504 Intersect** *Rebecca Bailey, Holly McIntush* *Thompson & Horton, LLP*	Navigate overlapping Title IX, IDEA and Section 504 obligations. Use real-world cases and practical strategies to coordinate responses while meeting students' rights and legal requirements.
LONE STAR **D**	**What Every New Director Needs to Know About Evaluations** *Tiffany Battle* *ESC Region 4*	Explore the evaluation decisions new directors need to understand early, including Child Find, workload, data quality, eligibility patterns and team processes. Participants will leave with practical leadership moves to strengthen systems, support staff and improve student outcomes.
LONE STAR **E**	**Is That Really an ARD Committee Decision?** *Jamie Turner, Kaylyn Kirkpatrick* *Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & De Los Santos P.C.*	Clarify which issues belong before the ARD committee. Explore how to address and document overlapping concerns such as transfers, grade placement, bullying, discipline and attendance.
LONE STAR **F**	**Inclusion Tools for Students With Extensive Needs** *Jennifer Rieter-Cook, EdD* *Comp Therapy*	Explore research-based ways to support students with extensive needs in the least restrictive environment. Reduce barriers, boost engagement and independence, and expand meaningful participation.
LONE STAR **G-H**	**When Special Services and Student Services Unite** *Theresa Taylor, EdD, Jenna Capps, Jessica Warlick* *Allen ISD*	Build stronger partnerships across Special Services and Student Services. Explore practical frameworks for handling discipline, behavior, compliance and student supports while improving outcomes for staff and students.
ROOM **301-302**	**The SSA Directors' Idea Exchange** *Katie Abbott* *Anderson County SSA*	Connect with fellow SSA leaders to compare organizational models, troubleshoot shared challenges and swap proven practices and resources. Bring an idea and leave with solutions to try.
ROOM **303-304**	**Leveraging the Calculation Tool to Manage MOE** *Cindy Moses* *TCASE Services by Design*	Learn to use the IDEA-B Maintenance of Effort calculation tool to visualize spending, assess compliance and identify next steps amid rising costs and changing special education funding.

LEARNING LABS

Tuesday FEB 9 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

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LONE STAR **A-B**	**Collaboration Without Consensus: Legally Defensible Disagreement** *Elvin Houston* *Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & De Los Santos P.C.*	Meaningful collaboration does not always produce consensus. Learn to navigate ARD disagreements, ensure participation, address parent concerns and reach legally defensible decisions.
LONE STAR **C**	**HQIM and IEP-Aligned Instruction in Specialized Classes** *Jamie Heilingoetter* *School Empowerment Network*	Connect high-quality instructional materials to grade-level, IEP-aligned teaching. Practice with learner profiles, curriculum excerpts and planning tools to build coherent, individualized instruction.
LONE STAR **D**	**Child Find or Parent Find? Reading Referral Trends** *Edward Schultz, PhD* *Midwestern State University*	When parent referrals for SLD become the norm, what does that reveal about Child Find? Examine referral patterns and strengthen early identification and school-based referral practices.
LONE STAR **E**	**Eight Facilitation Moves for Tough Meetings** *Anissa Moore* *Anissa Moore Consulting*	Navigate difficult ARD meetings and staff conversations with eight practical facilitation techniques. Build collaboration and parent-school trust, work toward consensus and prevent conflicts.
LONE STAR **F**	**Developing Special Education Leaders Who Lead** *Stacy Venson* *Duncanville ISD*	Move leadership teams beyond reactive task management. Explore a practical development framework to build leadership capacity, strengthen systems and focus on long-term organizational improvement.
LONE STAR **G-H**	**The Behavior Blueprint: Strategies for Special Education Students** *Meghan Beytebiere, Christina Garcia-Henshaw* *Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & De Los Santos P.C.*	Join special education attorneys to examine FBAs, BIPs, discipline and requests for behavioral supports. Learn practical approaches to serving students and making defensible decisions.
ROOM **301-302**	**Disability or Choice? Analyzing Student Behavior** *Jennifer Dunson, Geneva Jones* *Geneva Jones & Associates*	How should teams distinguish disability-related behavior from student choice? Work through real scenarios using behavioral data, causation, function and IDEA requirements to make better-informed decisions.
ROOM **303-304**	**Scaling Inclusive Practices from Early Childhood Through Secondary Education** *Kristine Kelly* *Northwest ISD*	Discover how Northwest ISD sustains inclusion as it grows. Examine PK–12 feeder patterns, instructional coaching capacity and parent advisory partnerships that help maintain program quality.

LEARNING LABS

Tuesday FEB 9 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

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LONE STAR **A-B**	**Navigating TEA Complaints and Due Process in the Age of AI** *Marchelle Peters, PhD* *Cypress-Fairbanks ISD*	AI-assisted complaints and due process requests are changing the landscape. Learn a response protocol and proactive documentation checklist to identify compliance gaps and manage deadlines.
LONE STAR **C**	**Reduce Contract Costs and Build District Capacity** *Karen O'Neil, Analisa Madrid* *San Antonio Special Programs Co-op*	Explore ways to reduce unnecessary contracted-service costs while building internal capacity and improving special education services. Discover practical strategies for doing more with limited resources.
LONE STAR **D**	**Top Five SPED Mistakes That Put Districts at Risk** *Rebecca Bailey, Kendra Yoch* *Thompson & Horton, LLP*	Play along in a Family Feud-style session exploring five common special education missteps identified through surveys and hearing decisions. Learn how to recognize and avoid costly errors.
LONE STAR **E**		
LONE STAR **F**	**When More Training Won't Fix Noncompliance** *Karlyn Keller* *TASB Student Solutions*	Training is not always the solution. Use realistic scenarios and root-cause analysis to determine whether compliance gaps involve knowledge, roles, processes, capacity, tools or accountability, and choose the right response.
LONE STAR **G-H**	**LRE, the Continuum of Services and Out-of-District Placements** *Christina Garcia-Henshaw, Meghan Beytebeire* *Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & De Los Santos P.C.*	Navigate challenging LRE discussions, parent ABA requests and out-of-district placements. Review legal pitfalls and documentation strategies that support defensible placement decisions.
ROOM **301-302**	**Voices and Views for Veteran Directors** *Lorin Furlow, Brazosport ISD;* *Kendra Wiggins, EdD, Conroe ISD*	Veteran special education directors know the best learning often happens in conversation. Join colleagues from across Texas to share questions, discuss challenges, exchange ideas from earlier sessions and learn practical strategies from experienced peers.
ROOM **303-304**	**Casual Conversations for New Directors** *Krista Garcia, Cindy Moses* *TCASE Services by Design*	New special education directors quickly learn there is a lot no one prepares you for. Join colleagues from across Texas to ask questions, share challenges, gain practical advice and build confidence with others navigating the same learning curve.

LEARNING LABS

Tuesday FEB 9 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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LONE STAR **A-B**	**Autism and Behavioral Threat Assessment** *Curt Johnson* *Corpus Christi ISD*	Learn a disability-informed framework for behavioral threat assessment. Examine how autism-related characteristics may affect risk assessment and what special education representatives should consider.
LONE STAR **C**	**I Have a Medical Emergency! Or Do I?** *Arieana Martinez* *Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & De Los Santos P.C.*	Work through challenging medical scenarios, including physician requests, homebound services and private-duty nursing. Learn how to evaluate urgency and respond appropriately.
LONE STAR **D**	**Why "Speech Only" is a Myth** *Beth Darbe* *ESC Region 4*	Explore how speech impairments affect academics, especially literacy. Review evaluation criteria and identify supports beyond speech therapy to better address student needs.
LONE STAR **E**		
LONE STAR **F**	**Program Reviews That Lead to Action** *Karlyn Keller* *TASB Student Solutions*	Turn program reviews into meaningful improvement. Use a practical framework to examine policies and practices, identify systemic concerns, prioritize findings and link them to corrective action, training and monitoring.
LONE STAR **G-H**	**From Burnout to Balance: Leading Staff Well-Being** *Matt Morris, EdD, Mesquite ISD;* *Tina Clark, Lewisville ISD;* *Kindel Mason, BlazerWorks*	Learn practical self-care and wellness strategies administrators can model to support educators, improve school culture, strengthen retention and create healthier learning environments.
ROOM **301-302**	**Rules, Rulings & Reality: The Latest in Texas Special Education** *Emily Shackelford, Dianna Bowen* *Thompson & Horton*	Catch up on TEA rules, guidance and regulatory changes alongside recent due process trends. Review significant decisions, recurring issues and practical implications for district compliance.
ROOM **303-304**	**When the Student Receives IDEA FAPE at Home** *David Richards* *Richards Lindsay Martín*	Explore when homebound services are necessary for FAPE despite their restrictive nature. Review confinement criteria, physicians' roles, medical information, individualized services and return-to-school planning.

LEARNING LABS