

AGENDA



Leading with
GRIT
&
GRACE

July 14-16
JW Marriott Austin

interactive

 TCASE

2025



Sunday
JULY 13

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

● Exhibitor Registration

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

● Registration Open

Monday
JULY 14

7:30 AM

● Registration Open

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

● Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

● Pre-Conference Sessions

SESSION I

The Legal Panel

This ever-popular panel of attorneys will dissect some of the hot legal issues special education leaders are facing right now.

SESSION II

Strategic Planning: Developing Systems in a Resource Deprived Climate

In an era of shrinking budgets and evolving student needs, special education leaders must make strategic decisions about which programs to grow, streamline, or sunset. This interactive panel discussion will explore how to assess program effectiveness, align staffing with enrollment trends, and ensure the provision of critical related services despite financial and personnel constraints. Attendees will gain practical strategies for conducting program needs assessments, reallocating resources, and fostering innovation to maintain high-quality services for students with disabilities.

SESSION III

Proactive Strategies for Addressing Behavior Challenges Across the Ages

From early childhood to transition programs for students 18+, addressing behavior challenges requires a proactive, developmentally appropriate approach. This session will provide special education administrators with practical strategies to support students with disabilities at every stage, focusing on prevention, intervention, and crisis management. Presenters will share real-world examples, evidence-based practices, and tools that districts can implement immediately to foster positive student outcomes. Join us for a dynamic discussion designed to equip you with actionable solutions for your schools and programs.

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Monday cont.

JULY 14

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch on Your Own

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

Welcome & Opening General Session

The TA DA of Teamwork: Succeeding During Change and Disruption

Joel Zeff

We are all improvising. We face challenges, disruption, change, and obstacles without a script or rehearsal. To find success, we need to work together, build trust, and create opportunity. During this session, Joel will discuss how the tenets of improvisation create successful teams during change and disruption. This interactive, engaging and hilarious session will focus on staying in the game; facing fear; building trust, and asking the important question, "How do I help the people around me be successful?" Joel will also bring his famous TA DA energy as he discusses the importance of opportunity, positive support, and active listening in collaboration. Have fun and laugh during this session and learn how to collaborate more successfully as a team, and navigate change. Are you ready for the TA DA?

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

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Welcome Reception

Join us for a welcome reception at Interactive 2025, where you can connect, network and kick off the event with fellow special education leaders. Enjoy great conversations, refreshments and a relaxed atmosphere as we celebrate the start of an inspiring conference!

Tuesday JULY 15

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

● Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

● General Session

State of the State

Kristin McGuire, Texas Education Agency

Join us for a conversation discussing the latest updates on the state of special education in Texas.

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM

● Break with Exhibitors

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

● Learning Lab Sessions

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

● 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
JULY 16

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Breakfast

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

General Session

The Power of Encouragement

D.J. Batiste

During this session, D.J. challenges participants to see the good and not bad in others. He shares how his teacher, Donna Porter, could have looked at him as defiant, but instead, she viewed his situation as an opportunity for them both to learn and grow. D.J.'s message inspires educational leaders to look beyond the behavior and find ways to connect with others.

9:45 AM - 10:00 AM

Break

10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Closing General Session

A Recap of the 89th Texas Legislative Session: What Special Educators Need to Know

Andrea Chevalier, PhD, TCASE

Join us for an overview of the outcomes of the 89th Texas Legislative Session and the impact they will have on education.

