Council of the Great City Schools
Annual Academic, Information Technology,
and Research Conference

for

Information Technology Leaders, Curriculum Leaders, Research and Assessment Directors, Principal Supervisors

connecting
thedots

Collaborating to Solve Organizational Issues for Student Success

July 11-14, 2017
Pittsburgh, PA
Omni William Penn Hotel

The Council of the Great City Schools is the only national organization exclusively representing the needs of urban public schools. Composed of 68 large city school districts, its mission is to promote the cause of urban schools and to advocate for inner-city students through legislation, research and media relations. The organization also provides a network for school districts sharing common problems to exchange information, and to collectively address new challenges as they emerge in order to deliver the best possible education for urban youth.

Total number of students served by Council member district schools: 7.3 million

Student enrollment characteristics:

40% - Hispanic
29% - African American
20% - White
8% - Asian/Pacific Islander
1% - Alaskan/Native American

17% - English Language Learners
70% - Eligible for free/reduced price lunch
14% - Students with Individualized Education Programs

Member districts: Albuquerque, Anchorage, Arlington (Texas), Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, Bridgeport, Broward County (Ft. Lauderdale), Buffalo, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Chicago, Cincinnati, Clark County (Las Vegas), Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Dayton, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, Duval County (Jacksonville), El Paso, Fort Worth, Fresno, Guilford County (Greensboro, N.C.), Hawaii, Hillsborough County (Tampa), Houston, Indianapolis, Jackson, Jefferson County (Louisville), Kansas City, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Miami-Dade County, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, New Orleans, New York City, Newark, Norfolk, Oakland, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orange County (Orlando), Palm Beach County, Philadelphia, Pinellas County, Pittsburgh, Portland, Providence, Richmond, Rochester, Sacramento, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Shelby County (Memphis), St. Louis, St. Paul, Toledo, Tulsa, Washington, D.C., and Wichita.

School districts eligible for membership must be located in cities with populations over 250,000 and student enrollments over 35,000. School districts located in the largest city of any state are also eligible for membership, regardless of size.

Connecting the Dots: Collaborating to Solve Organizational Issues for Student Success			
Tuesday	**July 11, 2017**		
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	**Registration**		
7:00 – 8:00 AM	**Breakfast – Three Rivers Room**		
	Joint Session with CIOs, Chief Academic Officer and Research Directors – Williams Penn Ballroom		
8:00 – 8:30 AM	**Welcome and Agenda Overview**		
8:30 – 10:15 AM	**1:1 Device Implementation – Houston ISD Powering Up Teachers: Transforming Professional Development in a 1:1 Environment and St. Paul Public Schools**		
10:15 – 10:30 AM	**Break**		
10:30 – 11:15 AM	**Security Considerations in Today's K–12 Environment from the Perspective of Member Districts of the Council of Great City Schools**		
11:15 – 12:00 PM	**Security Panel Discussion ENA, Gaggle, Kajeet, WorldGate**		
12:00 – 1:00 PM	**Lunch – Excellence in Assessment, Research, and Evaluation Award – Three Rivers Room**		
	CIO	**Research/Assessment**	**Curriculum**
	CIO Full Group Sessions – Room – Conference Room A	**Room – Bob & Dolores Hope**	**Room – Lawrence Welk**
1:00 – 1:50 PM	Roundtable Robin Discussion – What's working in your district?	Assessments – Houston ISD Digital Assessments	Criteria for Creating Curriculum Guidance that Will Propel Standards–Based Instruction and Raise Student Achievement Lessons from the Field

Hot Off The Press! Supporting Excellence: *A Framework for Developing, Implementing, Sustaining a High–Quality District Curriculum* |
2:00 – 2:25 PM	IT Governance & Demand Management – Sharyn Guhman, Denver Public Schools	Developing and Implementing Data Dashboards – St. Paul Public Schools and Tulsa Public Schools	
2:30 – 2:55 PM	Using Blended Learning to Meet Graduation Requirements – Sarah Trimble–Oliver, Cincinnati Public Schools		
3:00 – 3:25 PM	Personalized Learning Initiative – Phil Neufeld, Fresno USD		
3:30 – 3:55 PM	Creating Student Internship Opportunities – Lenny Schad, Houston Independen ISD		
4:00 – 4:25 PM	Strategic Plan for Utilizing Technology to Improve Student Outcomes – Bill Caritj, Atlanta Public Schools	Cross District Research Opportunities – Harvard University	
4:30 – 4:55 PM	Data Governance – Melissa Dodd, San Francisco USD		
5:30 PM	**Bus Pick–up Front of Hotel for Welcome Reception**		
6:00 PM	**Welcome Reception – Andy Warhol Museum**		
8:00 PM	**Bus return to Hotel**		

Wednesday	July 12, 2017				
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration				
7:00 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast – Three Rivers Room				
	CIOs			Research/Assessment	Curriculum
	District / Partner Concurrent Session Presentations				
	Conference Room A	Conference Room B	Room – Frick	Room – Bob & Dolores Hope	Room – Lawrence Welk
8:00 – 8:50 AM	Using Telepresence to Expand Opportunities Without Boundaries - Milwaukee Public Schools		How Florida's Orange County Public Schools are Engaging Today's Students - Orange County Public Schools and Discovery	Research and Evaluation –Analyzing and Reporting on ELL Data - Gabriela Uro (CGCS)	Selecting and Augmenting Reading and Mathematics Programs to Align Content and Pedagogy to College–and Career–Readiness Standards - Marni Greenstein, David Liben, & Sue Pimentel of Student Achievement Partners–
9:00 – 9:50 AM	Single Sign–On and Rostering: Why Large Districts Are Going in a New Direction - Pasco County Schools and Classlink	Building Tomorrow's Wi–Fi Network. Uncovering the Myths and Realities of a Robust and Secure Wireless Infrastructure to Enable Tomorrow's Digital Learning - Shelby County Schools and ENA	Simplifying Application Management and Classroom Logins - San Francisco USD and Clever	Research and Evaluation – Buffalo Public Schools	
10:00 – 10:50 AM	One Wild Dream: Austin ISD's Design Thinking Model for Transformation - Austin ISD and Dell	Students Are Using Google and Microsoft For What?! - Cincinnati Public Schools and Gaggle	Buy, Build, or Enhance an SIS - Boston Public Schools and Follett	Research and Evaluation – Discussing CGCS KPI Development and NAEP Report on Charter, Private, Public and Urban School Performance	Wow! A Hybrid Professional Development Course to Enhance Learning and Achievement for ELLs and Struggling Readers - Gabriela Uro (CGCS) and Morgan Murphy, Charlotte–Mecklenburg Schools
11:00 – 11:50 AM	Using Data To Measure the Efficacy of Technology Deployments - Fresno USD and HMH	Deploying Digital Education Technology at Scale - Los Angeles County Office of Education and Continuity Focus	What is CASE and Why Does it Matter? - Houston ISD and the Texas Education Agency and IMS Global		
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch – Making Strides Together Curriculum Award for Excellence in Urban Education – Three Rivers Room				
	CIO District / Partner Concurrent Session Presentations			Research/Assessment	Curriculum
	Conference Room A	Conference Room B	Room – Frick	Room – Lawrence Welk	Room – Lawrence Welk
1:00 – 1:50 PM	Implementing a Successful Deployment with iPad and Apple School Manager - Hilliard Schools and Apple	Supporting Students' Social-Emotional Learning - Broward County Public Schools and Panorama Education	What is CASE and Why Does it matter? - Houston ISD and ITS Learning Dynamic Curriculum and the K12 Ecosystem –	Legislative Update - ESSA Implementation - Proposed Federal Legislation and Budgets	

	CIO District / Partner Concurrent Session Presentations			Research/Assessment	Curriculum
	Conference Room A	**Conference Room B**	**Room – Frick**	**Room – Lawrence Welk**	**Room – Lawrence Welk**
2:00 – 2:50 PM	Utilizing Focus Groups: How Cincinnati Public Schools Rapidly Doubled LMS Engagement - Cincinnati Public Schools and Schoology	Content and Compliance - Austin ISD and Scenario Learning	Implementing Technology to Bolster Students' Achievement - Cleveland–Orchard STEEM School and JAMF	School Improvement Planning Process in Great City Schools: Making the most of your school improvement goals and objectives to accelerate student achievement	
3:00 – 3:50 PM	Personalized Learning for Staff is the Foundation for Building Personalized Learning for Students - Albuquerque Public Schools and Atomic Learning	Leaving Textbooks Behind: Technology–Based Math Instruction – Without Textbooks - Albuquerque Public Schools and Texas Instruments	"Right answers" Aren't Good Enough: Building Student and Teacher Mathematicians - Baltimore County Public Schools and DreamBox Learning		
4:00 – 4:50 PM	Connecting Assessment Data to Learning Standards: Formative Assessment Strategies to Improve Instruction and Personalize Learning - Hillsborough and Houston ISD and School City	Why Less is More: Working with Districts to Reduce Redundant and Unnecessary Assessments - Broward County Schools and CAINC	Standard Based Instruction and Assessments - Pittsburgh Public Schools and Pearson	Choice of CIO Sessions	Robin Hall (CGCS) What All Students Need: Access to Complex Text!
5:00 – 7:00 pm	**Reception – Three Rivers Room**				
Thursday	**July 13, 2017**				
7:00 – 8:15 AM	**Breakfast – Three Rivers Room**				
	Joint Session with CIOs, Chief Academic Officer and Research Directors – William Penn Ballroom				
8:30 – 10:00 AM	Connecting the Dots: Collaborating to Solve Organizational Issues for Student Success (Michael Eugene and Jesus Jara)				
10:00 – 10:45 AM	Panel Discussion				
10:45 – 12:00 PM	Joint Session with CIOs, Chief Academic Officer and Research Directors – Share Out – CGCS/PCG Dan Wiseman facilitating				
12:00 – 1:30 PM	**Lunch – Three Rivers Room**				
1:30 – 5:00 PM	**Joint Session with CIOs, Chief Academic Officer and Research Directors – Panel Discussion & Reflection – William Penn Ballroom**				

Friday	July 14, 2017		
7:00 – 8:15 AM	Breakfast – Three Rivers Room		
	CIOs	Research/Assessment	Curriculum
	Room – Conference Room A	Room – Bob & Dolores Hope	Room – Lawrence Welk
8:30 – 10:00 AM	Concurrent Session – Round Robin	Council of the Great City Schools 2018 Research Agenda – Developing a Course to Onboard Directors of Research and Evaluation	David Lai and Denise Walston (CGCS) Attending to the Interdependence of Language and Mathematics: A Framework for Re-envisioning Mathematics Instruction for English Language Learners
10:00 – 11:00 AM			Michael Lach (University of Chicago) K-12 Computer Science Programs in CGCS Districts
11:00 – 12:00 PM		Planning Meeting for the Southern Cities Pre–Conference	
12:00 PM	Adjournment		

CIO Session Descriptions

Tuesday

Houston ISD
Creating student internship opportunities in the District's IT department
The HISD OneSource Student Internship is a program for high school juniors and seniors that requires a semester commitment and allows students to explore their career interests, gain valuable work experience, and exposure to a professional work environment. Participating in our OneSource Internship allows students to gain valuable real-world experience while in school while helping HISD IT operations. Interns develop business skills, learn about hot technology topics, network with professionals in technology and business, and more. Interns will work closely with the HISD OneSource team. Project work includes requirement gathering gap analysis, ABAP programing, security, and tailoring/implement/testing SAP Modules. This "Hands On" program consists of a series of rotations where the interns are paired with members of the HISD IT Financial and Operations team (mentors) after being taught the basics of SAP to get a broad-based exposure to the HISD SAP system. The rotations take place in the following areas: ABAP Development (programming), Security, Finance, and Operations (Plant Maintenance, Warehouse Management, SRM and Inventory Management).The OneSource interns will be required to demonstrate their acquired knowledge of SAP throughout the program by giving presentations on subject matter learned. At the end of the internship program the student will have a greater understanding of SAP and how it is used at HISD.

Cinncinatti Public Schools
Using Blended Learning to Meet Graduation Requirements.

Fresno USD
Personalized Learning Initiative (PLI)
We knew, with this shift to digital, that it would be important to gather traditional metrics as well as new types of data about instructional practices and learning experiences. So we engaged partners in a Research Collaborative that includes Microsoft's Educational Research group, Fresno Unified, Fresno State, and also Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. This Research Collaborative considered numerous factors to better understand what worked, what needs to improve, and what we need to learn more about.

Atlanta Public Schools
Strategic Plan for Utilizing Technology to Improve Student Outcomes
My focus is integrating technology with curriculum, instruction, and assessment for school improvement. Since my role is broader than just IT, perhaps my interests are not well aligned with those of the larger group… but, I am very interested in putting a presentation together.

Birmingham City Schools
Solving the Identity Access Management Challenge in Birmingham City Schools
Birmingham City Schools was faced with a challenge: access to its network was antiquated and out of date. Students were using multiple generic access accounts, and teacher and administrator accounts were manually managed using outdated processes. The active directory was in need of a complete overhaul. There was little confidence that access to the network and identity of the user could be assured. The school district needed a strategy and direction to address the delivery of identity and access controls. Join us to learn how Birmingham successfully planned and deployed a multi-year project designed to transform the school district by automating access and identity management needs. In this session, Dr. Joanne Stephens will review the challenges and will discuss policy questions that came up. Today the school district provides end users with automated identity and single-sign-on role-based secure access to district network that is manageable, cost efficient and effective.

Milwaukee Public Schools
Using Telepresence to Expand Opportunities Without Boundaries.
This session will share how Milwaukee Public Schools partnered with Cisco to acquire telepresence technology for the purpose of expanding students' access to advanced level courses. Telepresence is an enhanced video conferencing platform that provides live interaction between students at multiple campuses with a highly qualified teacher. Through the use of telepresence, students enroll and participate in courses held at other schools across the district. This program has been hugely beneficial for students who wish to take advanced level courses that are either canceled at their local school due to low-enrollment or not offered at their school.

Wednesday

Wednesday 8:00 - 8:50 pm

Milwaukee Public Schools
Using Telepresence to Expand Opportunities Without Boundaries.
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CIO Session Descriptions

Los Angeles Unified School District
LAUSD Information Technology Division: Keys to Success Description
Shahryar Khazei and staff from LAUSD will present their keys to success for infrastructure support and instructional alignment. LAUSD has built a robust network infrastructure and has aligned systems to support and enhance instructional environment. Providing proactive customer support and building strong partnerships with other departments, in alignment to the instructional vision for the district, has lead to many successes for the district.

Orange County Public Schools and Discovery
How Florida's Orange County Public Schools are Engaging Today's Students
Today's learners are different: a host of technological, demographic, and economic factors have shaped today's students into a unique cohort unlike any other in history. How are educators in Florida's Orange County Public Schools' educators engaging today's digital generation? In this session, participants will learn how educators at the Orange County Schools are leveraging a combination of digital content, educational technologies, and sustained professional development to create the modern learning environments that not only engage students, but prepare them for success in our ever-expanding global society.

Wednesday 9:00 - 9:50 pm

Pasco County Schools and Classlink
Single Sign-On and Rostering: Why Large Districts Are Going in a New Direction
Join leaders from Pasco County Schools (FL) as they examine how single sign-on and class rostering has been transformed from a thankless job into a catalyst for meaningful use of digital learning resources. Serving more than 70,000 students and 10,000 faculty members, Chris and Natalie have first-hand experience scaling up technologies that drive access. As a result, they will give a first-hand account of what it's like to evaluate, implement, and manage a robust single sign-on, class-rostering, and analytics platform.
- Why Pasco switched from an in-house system to a customizable single sign-on option for students and teachers
- How this change created a fast, easy, and sustainable win for the CIO while meeting the needs of instruction along the way
- How business practices employed by providers affect your investments in technology
- Why factors such as security, flexibility, and expanding resource libraries are driving districts towards next-gen platforms
- How individualized access is leading to organizational improvements in utilization
- How analytics as a function of single sign-on and rostering is informing strategic level decisions

Shelby County Schools and ENA
"Building Tomorrow's Wi-Fi Network. Uncovering the myths and realities of a robust and secure wireless infrastructure to enable tomorrow's digital learning
Wi-Fi is an incredibly powerful resource that connects our students and educators to today's diverse and global digital learning landscape. Designing, deploying, and maintaining a successful WLAN is no easy task and unfortunately, simply adding more access points isn't the answer to delivering seamless and robust connectivity. Join John Williams, Chief Information Officer at Tennessee's Shelby County Schools, as he shares the district's Wi-Fi deployment strategy and how they are leveraging ENA's engineering expertise to build a reliable, secure, and robust wireless network. During this session, representatives from ENA will share has some of the common myths and realities surrounding current Wi-Fi networking products and services and identify the steps school districts should consider when evaluating WLAN technologies to support their digital learning environments.

San Francisco USD and Clever
Simplifying application management and classroom logins
Learn more about Clever's vision to bring the best software to the classroom to improve teaching and learning. See how Clever automates rostering and student logins at no cost to districts, saving hundreds of hours in IT and teaching time.

Wednesday 10:00 - 10:50 pm

Austin ISD and Dell
One Wild Dream: Austin ISD's Design Thinking Model for Transformation
In this session Kevin Schwartz will reflect with the participants about Austin ISD's start to reinventing urban education. He will lead a discussion around how the district used the design thinking process to build a coaching model with a team of 20 coaches to support 130 schools. Kevin will also share how the team built the infrastructure to change the mindset of educators to shift their learning environments with the Technology Integration Matrix. Please come and share your great ideas as you learn about Austin ISD's journey.

Cincinnati Public Schools and Gaggle
Students Are Using Google and Microsoft For What?!
We will be sharing some unpublished data from the National Speak Up Student Technology Survey. Each year the Speak Up Survey gathers results from over 500,000 K-12 students, teachers and administrators. We will share this data with the audience and gather insight from a panel of CIOs including Sara Trimble Oliver from Cincinnati Public Schools.

Boston PS and Follett
Buy, Build, or Enhance an SIS
Boston Public Schools implemented a student information system that meets district needs right out of the box, but also allows BPS to extend, build, and create new functionality as district needs change. In fact, the district has re-built several legacy applications inside the SIS, saving time and money while making life easier for end users.

CIO Session Descriptions

Fresno USD and HMH
Using Data To Measure the Efficacy of Technology Deployments
Presentation will look at how Fresno Unified has partnered with Microsoft and HMH to use advanced data analytics to evaluate the efficacy of technology in the classroom, specifically looking at academic outcomes as well as student engagement and how a reduction in teacher cognitive load can improve the "speed to learning."

Los Angeles County Office of Education and Continuity Focus
Deploying Digital Education Technology at Scale.
100G is the new 10G…. K12 networks are growing at accelerating rates while the threat landscape gets increasingly more complicated. Los Angeles County office of Education encompasses approximately 1.2 Million students. IT recently replaced ITS 10G network with a 100G infrastructure to meet the aggressively expanding bandwidth and service requirements of ITS internal sites and supported districts. In this presentation, we'll discuss the technical and organizational issues we've faced in this process and how a few innovations have enabled us to deliver more bandwidth, more security, and more resiliency at a lower overall cost.

Houston ISD and the Texas Education Agency and IMS Global
What is CASE and Why does it matter?
Until very recently, all states published state learning standards in static form, such as PDFs or docs. These types are not "machine-readable" and fell short of the need to meta-tag digital resources in order to provide effective learner-centered instruction ecosystems. Districts around the USA were working hard to implement standards-based cohesive digital environments, but in order to truly enable data-informed learning, a standard way of naming and linking Learning Outcomes was needed. Districts partnered with IMS Global and vendor-partners to build a solution.

Hilliard Schools and Apple
Implementing a successful deployment with iPad and Apple School Manager
In partnership with Apple, this presentation will focus on Hilliard Schools use of iOS technology to transform instructional practices and assessment. Rich Boettner, Chief Technology Officer at Hilliard, will review his collaboration with instructional technologists to deploy iPad in the classroom to drive teaching and learning outcomes. Hilliard's CTO will present on how his district deployed thousands of iOS devices to students utilizing Apple School Manager, trained teachers on the devices and saved over a million dollars by creating their own digital learning resources.

Broward County Public Schools and Panorama Education
Supporting Students' Social-Emotional Learning
Social-emotional learning (SEL) or "non-cognitive" skills significantly impact students' academic performance, social development, and broader life outcomes. Increasingly, school districts across the country are turning to student self-report measures and perception surveys to collect data, understand students' strengths and growth areas, and develop action plans to foster a supportive culture for every student. In this panel, district leaders from Broward County Public Schools will join Panorama Education to share their experiences in measuring social-emotional learning and using SEL data to empower school leaders to take action at their campuses.

Houston ISD and ITS Learning
Dynamic Curriculum and the K12 Ecosystem - What is CASE and Why does it matter?
Until very recently, all states published state learning standards in static form, such as PDFs or docs. These types are not "machine-readable" and fell short of the need to meta-tag digital resources that work effectively in learner-centered instruction ecosystems. Districts around the USA have been working hard to implement standards-based cohesive digital environments, but before we can truly enable data-informed learning, a standard way of naming and linking Learning Outcomes is needed. Districts have partnered with IMS Global and vendor-partners to build a solution.

Cincinnati Public Schools and Schoology
Utilizing Focus Groups: How Cincinnati Public Schools Rapidly Doubled LMS Engagement
It's happened to all of us—you've adopted a new software/product but no one seems to be using it. Don't worry...yet. Instead, learn from our experiences! By implementing a few new practices, Cincinnati Public Schools was able to double the number of active users within its Learning Management System (LMS) in less than a year. Please join leaders from Schoology and CPS as they share lessons learned about the adoption and implementation of a new LMS and which strategies worked best to increase engagement and usage. The intentional and targeted use of focus group sessions with teachers, students, administrators, and parents was just one of the many strategies employed by district leaders. Session attendees will leave with new ideas and materials to assist with implementation of these strategies in their own district.

Austin ISD and Scenario Learning
Content and Compliance
The session will talk about school focused training content that can be tailored to help meet district requirements and regulations; and how districts can easily cover compliance topics and the benefits of uniform training and reporting.

CIO Session Descriptions

Cleveland-Orchard STEEM School and JAMF
Implementing Technology to Bolster Students' Achievement.
Join a discussion with Cleveland-Orchard to learn how they implemented a K-8 iPad initiative that has helped bolstered student achievement and proved a return on investment. During this session, you'll learn how Cleveland-Orchard created district buy-in, applied personalized device management and professional development necessary to successfully adopt the new technology.

Wednesday 3:00 - 3:50 pm

Albuquerque Public Schools and Atomic Learning
Personalized learning for staff is the foundation for building personalized learning for students.
Easy to use, actionable reports must be available to staff in schools and the administrative offices of the district. Communications, financial, academic and operations Officers in districts access EdVantage dashboards to provide them with the information they need for quick and thoughtful decision making. This session demonstrates how these dashboard are created and how key staff can use and easily modify them.

Albuquerque Public Schools and Texas Instruments
Leaving Textbooks Behind: Technology-Based Math Instruction – Without Textbooks
How can leaders effectively implement technology-based, interactive mathematics instruction in the face of budget constraints for new materials? Albuquerque Public Schools has designed a paperless math curriculum for grades 9 - 12 that provides a teaching and learning environment so that every student has access to handheld technology in the classroom. Every teacher benefits from an on-going professional learning program, along with a cadre of teacher leaders trained to systemically maintain this model. We have deepened understanding of formative and summative assessments and pushed ourselves to make sense of what an active, engaging classroom looks like using technology. Critical to the success of the implementation plan, Albuquerque developed a long-term supportive alliance with our business partner.

Baltimore County Public Schools and DreamBox Learning
"Right answers" aren't good enough": Building student and teacher mathematicians
Creating a culture of deliberate excellence. The presentation focuses on providing digital curriculum K-8 for all students and building teacher capacity in their own ability to understand and teach math. Using student data to drive professional learning and impact daily instruction.

Wednesday 4:00 - 4:50 pm

Hillsborough and Houston ISD and School City
Connecting Assessment Data to Learning Standards: Formative Assessment Strategies to Improve Instruction and Personalize Learning
This session describes two districts' strategies to optimize the use of formative assessment data and practices to improve instruction and support personalized learning. In partnership with SchoolCity, the Hillsborough County Public Schools in Florida and Houston Independent School District in Texas share their ongoing implementation of assessment practices, authentic assessments and item creation, data analysis, and personalized learning.

Broward County Schools and CAINC
Why Less is More: Working with Districts to Reduce Redundant and Unnecessary Assessments
Parents and teachers believe students are over assessed and districts are too focused on testing. In response, parents are vocally protesting on social media. Districts are deciding not only what assessments should be used but how much time they should take. What happens when districts act before protests and policymakers get involved? In this session, you'll learn from Broward County as they embark on their process to evaluate assessment systems, reduce testing, and create a coherent system that benefits all stakeholders

Pittsburgh Public Schools and Pearson
Standard Based Instruction and Assessments.
Join Pittsburgh Public Schools and Pearson to hear a brief overview of the district's problem of practice lack of PA Core standards aligned curriculum and assessments as well as teacher familiarity with implementing standards aligned instruction. We will discuss what Pittsburgh Public Schools attempted to do to remedy the issues. Hear where Pittsburgh Public Schools is at with their ReadyGen implementation and teacher collaborative opportunities as a part of the district's culture for supporting teachers and their learning to implement instruction and assessments aligned to the standards. Learn key elements of ReadyGen and iLit from Pearson specialists.

Research/Assessment Session Descriptions

Tuesday 7/11 – 8:30 -10:15 AM - **Perspectives from Two Districts Implementing 1:1 Environments**

Powering Up Teachers: Transforming Professional Development in a 1:1 Environment, Annie Wolfe, Secondary Curriculum and Development Officer, Houston ISD

In order to prepare Houston's students for a world beyond the four walls of a classroom, HISD has launched PowerUp, a districtwide initiative aimed at transforming teaching and learning. Houston ISD's PowerUp initiative showed marked changes in the results of passing rates as the PowerUp implementation took place, especially for Economically Disadvantaged students. Professional development and the district's support structures were key factors in achieving student success and teacher growth. This session will showcase the design and implementation of PowerUp's teacher professional development plan and supporting structures.

Personalized Learning Through a 1:1 Environment: Evaluation Findings
Co-presentation: Hans Ott, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Teaching and Learning, and Stacey Gray Akyea, Director of Research Evaluation and Assessment

Through implementing Saint Paul Public Schools' (SPPS) Strategic Plan – Strong Schools, Strong Communities 2.0 – SPPS chose to integrate technology using the Apple iPad. After piloting the iPad at several schools, SPPS found it to be an "all-in-one" multimedia tool for implementing a 1:1 environment. The evaluation of Personalized Learning has grown and adapted with the program and is used to inform programmatic decisions. The evaluation seeks to answer the following questions:

- In what ways and to what extent is SPPS closing the technology & access gap through the implementation of a 1:1 iPad environment?
- How are we preparing teachers to integrate technology into teaching and learning in a 1:1 iPad environment?
- How are we meeting the varied learning needs of students in technology-enhanced personalized learning environments in a 1:1 iPad environment?

This session will focus on the findings of four years of evaluation work. After a brief description of the initiative and the evaluation strategies employed, the discussants will provide key findings that impacted and deepened Personalized Learning implementation across the district.

Research/Assessment Session Descriptions

Tuesday 7/11 – 8:30 -10:15 AM – Digital Assessment Readiness

Digital Assessment Readiness, Staci Taylor, Assistant Superintendent, Student Assessment, Houston ISD

Online Assessment is changing the way educators collect information on student performance and personalizing instructional practice. The future of assessment will be dramatically different in the near future and will require districts to move their assessment departments from an audit function to an intimate relationship with instructional design. As part of the HISD's digital transition, we help our students drive and monitor their learning via eAssessments, digital content, and activities that prepare them to be independent thinkers, collaborators and thrive in the perpetual learning era. To ensure a successful transition to online assessments in Houston ISD we build supports in IT, in the schools, in the service desk, and within our vendors' teams. We have open conversations with all involved about everything that could happen, and provide direct support, a plan, a timeline, and thorough guidelines for our campuses to support the change, facilitate peer mentorship, and help expand the program. Join us to learn how logistics and proactive planning help us scale the eAssessment implementation in Houston ISD.

Tuesday, 7/11, 2:00 – 4:00 PM - Developing and Implementing Data Dashboards

In the last few years both Tulsa and St. Paul have created data dashboards to help support the work of their school districts. St. Paul will discuss the process of developing, designing and implementing their system including the following: Methodology; Organizing for effort across the organization; Drivers of implementation; Parallel implementation of data literacy; and Successes and challenges. Tulsa Public Schools will discuss research questions that include: What makes an effective dashboard for teachers and school leaders? How can dashboards be designed to decrease the workload of a teacher/principal while providing data driven insights? Tulsa Public Schools will share the user-centered process they used in developing a set of intuitive and attractive data dashboards along with the resulting dashboards.

Wednesday, 7/12 – 8:00 – 9:00 AM

Research and Evaluation – Analyzing and reporting on ELL Data, Gabriel Uro, CGCS

This session will provide an overview of data systems and possibilities for data analysis related to monitoring ELL achievement and progress. Examples of ELL data collection and analysis strategies will be shared based on exemplars from Council member districts. Participants will discuss changes in English language acquisition assessments and other ELL related issues.

Research/Assessment Session Descriptions

Wednesday, 7/12/2017 9:00 – 10:00 AM – Research and Evaluation Session

In January of 2016, Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) adopted a New Education Bargain with Students and Parents. Six planks support the New Education Bargain being: (i) Rigorous Early Elementary Education, (ii) Strong Community Schools, (iii) New Innovative High Schools, (iv), Extended Learning Excellence for All Our Students, (v) Services for Our Neediest Children and Families, and (vi) New Relationship with Out Teachers. This session will focus on examples of specific evaluation designs and initial results for several of the programs and initiatives currently being assessed. In addition, the presenters will discuss the steps taken to educate BPS larger professional community in program evaluation and research.

Wednesday, 7/12 – 10:00 – 11:50 AM

Research and Evaluation

Participants will have the opportunity to preview current reports and projects in development by the Council's research team. Participants will discuss data collect by the Council, the purpose and use of the data, issues or concerns from participants regarding data collection procedures, and how results may be used by participants in their districts to inform policies and practices.

Wednesday, 7/12 – 1:00 – 1:50 PM

Legislative Update, Manish Naik, CGCS

Council staff will provide a federal update on issues related to implementation of the latest reauthorization of the ESEA – Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the House and Senate legislation on Healthcare, immigration and other White House and Department of Education regulations, and upcoming legislative challenges that impact the work of districts, academic and research departments, and state policies.

Friday, 7/14 – 8:30 – 11:00 AM

Council of the Great City Schools 2018 Research Agenda – Developing a Course to Onboard Directors of Research and Evaluation

In the fall of 2016, the Council launched an online professional development application with the intent of supporting professional learning opportunities for district teachers, staff and administrators. Participants will discuss the potential for using the application to develop an on-boarding course for new directors of research, evaluation and/or assessment to be shared across member districts. Participants will discuss key elements of a proposed course(s) and how programs might be implemented in their districts.

Curriculum Session Descriptions

Tuesday, July 11, 1:00-4:50 PM

Ready, Set, Go! Criteria for Creating Curriculum Guidance that Will Propel Standards-based Instruction and Raise Student Achievement

A district curriculum is the central guide for teachers and all instructional personnel about what is essential to teach and how deeply to teach it throughout the district so that every child has access to rigorous academic experiences and instructional support in meeting those expectations. Building on the ideas and experiences of instructional leaders from across our membership, the Council has developed a new tool, *Supporting Excellence: A Framework for Developing, Implementing, and Sustaining a High-Quality District Curriculum*. Participants will examine the principles for design, key features, and recommendations for implementation of a high-quality district curriculum. **Participants are encouraged to have access to samples from their own district curriculum to examine strengths, district issues, and areas they can improve in their own support to teachers**.

Wednesday, July 12, 8:00-10:00 AM

Selecting and Augmenting Reading and Mathematics Programs to Align Content and Pedagogy to College- and Career-Readiness Standards
Panel: Sue Pimentel, David Liben and Marni Greenstein, Student Achievement Partners

Effective instructional materials in ELA need to teach foundational skills systematically and explicitly with frequent interim assessment and clear concrete protocols addressing students needing work based on these assessments. Materials need also to provide opportunities to grow knowledge and vocabulary through reading and working with a volume of texts on conceptually coherent topics and themes at varying complexity levels as well as providing the opportunity for all students to work regularly with texts within the band.

Effective mathematics materials allow students to engage deeply in mathematical thinking, devoting equal time and intensity to conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency and rich application problems. They also need to connect and develop mathematical ideas within and across grades. Attention to mathematical skills and ideas on topics that matter the most for College and Career allow students and teachers to focus on the content that is most impactful.

Learn about new promising materials in ELA and Mathematics, as well as how to adapt what you have to be more in-line with College and Career Expectations.

Curriculum Session Descriptions

Wednesday, July 12, 10:00-11:50 AM

Wow! A Hybrid Professional Development Course to Enhance Learning and Achievement for ELLs and Struggling Readers
Presenters: Morgan Murphy, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Gabriela Uro, CGCS

In the fall of 2016, the Council premiered its professional development on using complex and compelling texts to enhance learning and achievement for ELLs and struggling readers. Participants will engage with professional development modules developed by the Council and facilitators of the trial launch course will share their experiences on implementing this hybrid professional development.

Wednesday 4:00 PM- 4:50 PM

What All Students Need: Access to Complex Text!
Leader: Robin Hall

In order for students to have access to complex text, they must have a balance of high volume independent reading that builds background knowledge with heavily scaffolded instructional reading of more challenging texts. Research shows that even struggling readers can access more complex text with the right literacy foundation, strong academic language, and facility in using comprehension strategies that are often not accomplished through using the balanced literacy approach. This session will focus on how to ensure that these components are given ample instructional focus in district classrooms.

Friday, July 14, 8:30-11:00 AM

Attending to the Interdependence of Language and Mathematics: A Framework for Re-envisioning Mathematics Instruction for English Language Learners
Presenters: David Lai, Special Projects Manager and Denise Walston, Director of Mathematics, CGCS

Rigor, focus, and coherence underlie the design of the college-and career standards for mathematics. Growth mindset, cognitively demanding tasks, appropriate scaffolding, multiple modes and multiple representations, and academic language are strategic considerations for the interdependence of language and mathematics. Presenters will explain how attending to the interdependence of language and mathematics during the selection of materials helps support all students to reach higher standards and expectations.

Curriculum Session Descriptions

An Overview of K-12 Computer Science Programs in CGCS Districts
Presenter: Michael Lach of the University of Chicago

Michael will lead a discussion of survey results about course offerings/programming of computer science in Council member districts. He will offer descriptions of current programs, i.e., coding, robotics, app development that help prepare all students for the technological demands in college and careers as well as tools that districts can use during the development of a K-12 computer science program.

July 14, 11:00 AM -12:00 PM

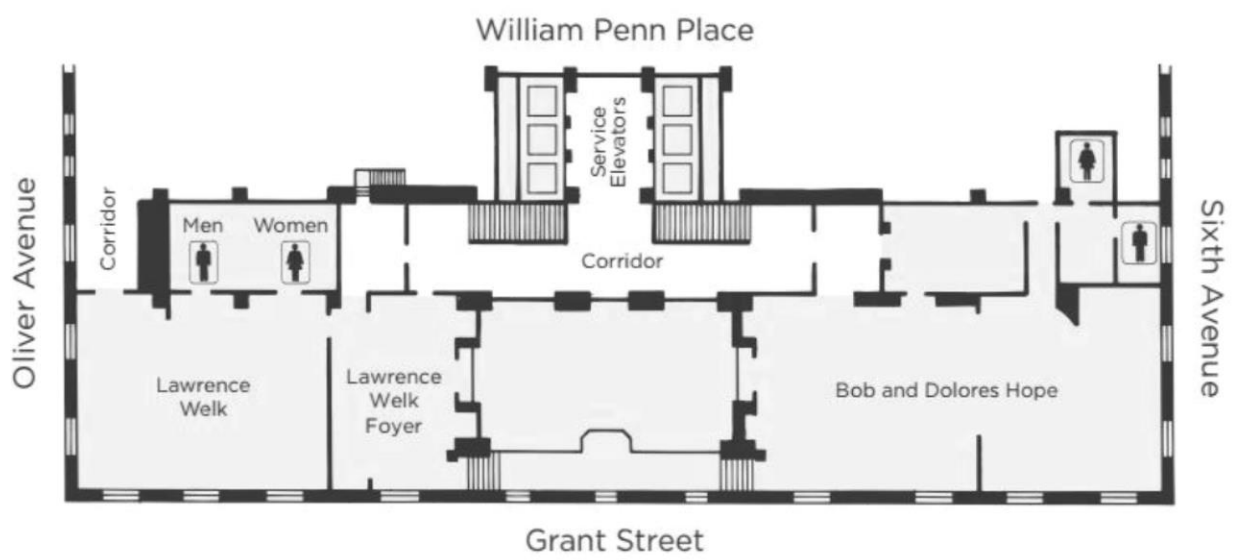**Planning Meeting for the Southern Cities Fall Pre-Conference**

The Council of the Great City Schools received a grant for selected Southern Cities to participate in this conference and to plan for a preconference session at the Council's Annual Meeting in Cleveland in October of 2017. This planning session will gather input about the issues and topics of interest to these cities to guide the planning for that day.

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B
Oliver

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Women
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Corridor

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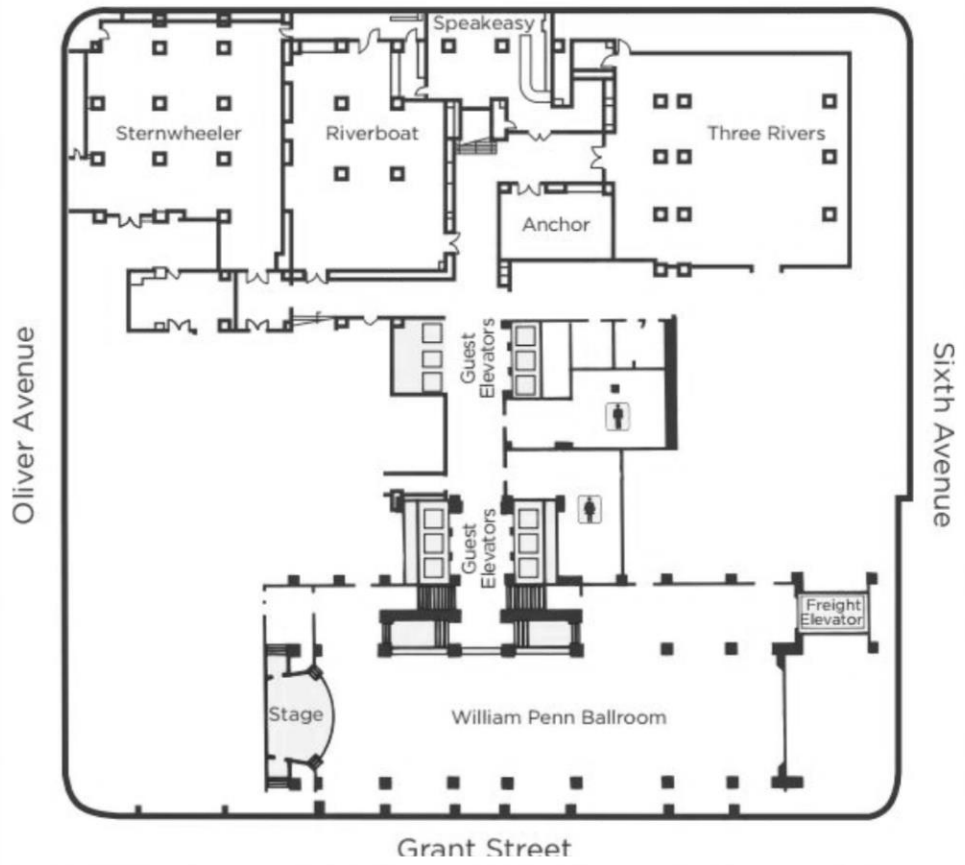
Council of the Great City Schools

Academic, Information Technology, and Research Conference
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