

2026 MAACCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026

Session 3: 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Best Practices and Next Steps after Transitioning to TABE 13&14 and TABE CLAS-E

This session will share how states, larger community college programs and local programs have transitioned to the new versions of TABE and TABE CLAS-E.

Presenter: Mike Johnson – National Adult Education Director, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

Arm Them with the Basics

Arm Them with the Basics will demonstrate a quick and easy way to equip your students with the background knowledge they need to pass the Social Studies and Science HSEs with confidence. Born out of necessity, Veteran public-school teacher and ATIII, Pamela Winn developed a self-paced program for each subject. Happily, the programs have produced repeated successes in her finishing room at Moberly Correctional Center.

Presenter: Pamela Winn – Academic Teacher, III, Moberly Correctional Center

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers

Building Workforce Minds: From Attention Span to Application

Adult learners juggle busy lives and career goals, yet traditional surface instruction often leaves them unprepared for real-world demands. This interactive session explores how attention span influences persistence, why deeper learning matters, and how active learning strategies can bridge classroom instruction with workforce readiness. Through case studies and contextualized activities, participants will gain practical tools to move learners from memorization to application—building critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills that strengthen both educational and career outcomes.

Presenter: Chris Miller – National Consultant, Aztec

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

Dignity in Differentiation: Empowering Adult Readers with ReadWorks

Tired of planning five different lessons for one class? Learn how to use ReadWorks to teach HiSET Science and Social Studies to every student at different reading levels, at the same time. This session offers a high-impact, 10-minute routine that builds confidence, eliminates embarrassment, and prepares foundational learners for the rigors of the HiSET.

Presenter: Dinise Mustain – Literacy Coordinator & AEL Instructor, Moberly Area Community College

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers

Enhancing Workforce Education through Technical Skills and Certifications

Hop into this session to chat about the integration of digital skills and industry-recognized certifications in adult education, workforce, and community education programs. Funding? Admin support? Partner collaboration? Implementation strategies? IET? We will cover it all! These credentials really matter to employers—they show what job applicants can do and help students jumpstart their career. Discover the innovative "Learn, Practice, Certify" model designed to enhance student success in the digital world. All attendees will receive curriculum, practice test, and a certification exam voucher.

Presenter: Connie Beene – Specialist, Sales, Certiport – a PearsonVue Business

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL; Community Education

Creating Healing-Centered Spaces for Adult Learners

Extended Session – Sessions #3 & #4

Part 1: Understanding the Impact of Trauma and Chronic Stress

Trauma and chronic stress can take many forms and affect how people learn, process information, and engage with others. These experiences often show up in adult education settings in ways that can be challenging for both learners and instructors. This training will cover the impact of stress and trauma on the adult brain, explore how they may manifest in the classroom, and how they can interfere with learning and retention.

Part 2: Strategies for Trauma-Informed Teaching

Once we understand the effects of trauma and chronic stress, we can respond with effective, supportive strategies. In this section, participants will learn trauma-informed teaching practices designed to create safe, welcoming environments from the moment adult learners walk in the door. These practices can help reduce barriers to learning, support positive classroom behaviors, and improve learner engagement and comfort.

Presenter: Andrea Echelberger – Adult EL Teacher & Trainer, Common Ground Literacy

Categories: Adult Education – ESL

Go the Extra Degree: HSE Gains in a Multi-Level Class

This session explores practical strategies for improving HSE outcomes in multi-level classrooms by “going the extra degree.” Participants will engage in hands-on, differentiated activities and leave with ready-to-use resources to enhance instruction and drive measurable student success.

Presenter: Denise Esslinger – Professional Development Consultant, New Readers Press/DKE Professional Development

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

Grammar Part 1: Form

Grammar is full of exceptions! How do I explain them all to my students? Come learn what is stable in this seemingly fickle relationship, I mean language, and become better equipped to answer students' questions with more than "English is crazy!"

Presenter: Melinda Brown-Mason – ELL Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Literacy KC

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

Strengthening Distance Learning in Adult Education: Practical Strategies, Shared Solutions

Adult education programs continue to adapt and innovate to meet the needs of learners participating through asynchronous and synchronous distance learning formats. In this interactive round-table session, participants will share challenges, strategies, and promising practices in distance learning for Adult Education and Literacy programs. Through guided discussion and collaborative problem solving, attendees will leave with concrete ideas to improve learner engagement, persistence, digital skill development, and instructional quality across varied program models.

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Differentiate effective strategies for asynchronous vs. synchronous distance learning environments
2. Identify common barriers adult learners face in distance education (technology, time, motivation, persistence, literacy levels)
3. Share and reflect on current practices with peers to expand instructional toolkits
4. Develop a network of colleagues at other AEL programs
5. Develop one actionable change to implement in their own program

Presenters: Christy Schneiders – Professional Development Specialist, DESE Adult Education & Literacy
Jessica Schulte – Professional Development Specialist, DESE Adult Education & Literacy

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

Session 4: 10:45 am – 11:45 am

Beyond the Barrier: From Language Gaps to Academic Greatness

Unlock the brilliance of multilingual learners by shifting your focus from language deficiency to academic proficiency. This hands-on workshop provides a practical toolkit of scaffolding strategies and translanguaging techniques designed to move beyond labels and into actionable lessons. You will leave with the confidence and tools necessary to transform your classroom into a supportive sanctuary where every diverse thinker can thrive.

Presenter: Bertha Richardson – Consultant, ADEAR International

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

Building a TEAS Prep IET: From Planning to Implementation

The TEAS test is the required entrance exam for many nursing schools. Passing the test can create a barrier for many individuals. This session provides step-by-step guidance on designing and implementing a TEAS test preparation course using the Integrated Education and Training (IET) model. Participants will gain practical insights into recruitment, instructional alignment, and learner support to help students prepare for the TEAS exam and succeed in the next stage of their nursing journey.

Presenter: Caitlyn Kroboth – CTE Coordinator, Moberly Area Community College

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL; Community Education

Dazzling Futures with Free Tools and Resources from GED Testing Service

Just like a disco ball is made of many pieces, so is HSE prep. Discover Free tools and resources (the pieces) to build a shiny future for you and your learners. You will hear an overview of the free resources available to assist you in recruiting and retaining learners and how to put the pieces together for better outcomes and dazzling futures. Also, discover our newest tool – a free app for learners! Learn about the app and some ways to incorporate it into your classroom. I look forward to seeing you!

Presenter: Liz Lanphear – State Relationship Manager, GED TS

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers

Grammar Part 2: Functions in Context

Context is best, but how do we contextualize grammar? This session will provide a discussion review of verb tenses in contrast to each other and provide examples of teaching grammar in context. Learn how to go beyond the rules and fill-in-the-blank worksheets and provide real-world applications for grammar tenses.

Presenter: Melinda Brown-Mason – ELL Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Literacy KC

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

Human-Centered Innovation in Adult Education: The Overthinking Student Who Needed Permission

This interactive session explores how adult educators can build student confidence, participation, and persistence by creating classrooms rooted in psychological safety, trust, and human-centered practice. Blending lived experience with practical strategies, the presenters challenge common assumptions about disengagement and show how better questions, supportive environments, and intentional educator choices help adult learners feel safe enough to try, speak, and grow. Participants will leave with actionable ideas they can use right away to strengthen student voice, engagement, and success.

Presenter: Megan Linzy-Johnson – Mid-American Membership Director, ConnectAble

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers

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Presenter: Andrea Echelberger – Adult EL Teacher & Trainer, Common Ground Literacy

Categories: Adult Education – ESL

Keep 'Em Coming Back: Strategies for Program Growth and Success

Collaborate with other adult education professionals to explore the shared challenge of student retention. This session seeks to tackle everyday obstacles to sustained student attendance. Educators will obtain tools to understand their students better, create targeted instruction, and keep learners on track to meet their personal goals. Self-directed activities and small group discussions will provide teachers and administrators with actionable ideas for evaluation and application.

Presenter: Charlie Weeks – Sr. Implementation Specialist, Essential Education

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

Reading the Room

For most of our students, attendance is not compulsory. This presentation will focus on strategies and invite collaborative discussion on how to create classrooms that promote community, engagement, and learning. Emphasis will be placed on core concepts of self-directed learning and educational motivation. The intent is to encourage teachers to continuously reflect on their instructional practice and look for areas that they can improve.

Presenter: Karen Wright – AEL Program Coordinator, Kansas City Public Schools

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL

Unlocking HiSET Success: Using Data and Collaboration to Strengthen Learner Pathways

A strong HiSET program begins with understanding learner data. This session reviews the HiSET Statistical Report to identify participation trends, pass rates, subject strengths, and retesting patterns. Participants will explore what the data reveals about learner needs and barriers, then identify practical strategies to improve instruction, supports, referrals, and testing operations. The session also introduces the HiSET Workforce Hub, a partner-driven platform connecting credential attainment to workforce pathways and strengthening collaboration among education, workforce, and community partners.

Presenter: Marquette Vital – HiSET Community Manager, PSI Services LLC

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

AWARDS LUNCH 12:00 – 1:15 pm

Awards – Membership Meeting – PRIZES!

MID-WEEK PRESENTATION 1:15 – 2:45 pm – ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Session 5: 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

AEL Program Supporting Roles Round Table

Are you a teacher, director, or LACEs person within your program? If the answer to that question was no, this is the round table for you. Join others in the field to discuss all the odds and ends of our student and program supporting roles.

Presenter: Karlie Noll – Coordinator, Moberly Area Community College AEL

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL

AfterSchool Roundtable

Join fellow afterschool professionals for an interactive roundtable discussion focused on sharing ideas, challenges, and successful strategies from afterschool programs. Topics may include student engagement, program quality, staffing, partnerships, academic support, and creating meaningful experiences for youth. Participants will have the opportunity to collaborate, network, and leave with practical ideas they can implement in their own programs.

Presenter: Paige Ebbs – Program Director, Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Missouri

Categories: AfterSchool

ELL Roundtable

Join us in a discussion about ideas that have been helpful for you in your adult ELL classroom and in administering the CASAS STEPS tests. Be prepared to share your ideas and ask questions. (There will be prizes!)

Presenter: Lorraine Gardner – ELL Instructor, Ozarks Technical Community College
Vicki DeToy – ELL Instructor, Ozarks Technical Community College

Categories: Adult Education – ESL

Directors/MAELAA Roundtable

This session is for Directors & MAELAA Board members.

Presenter: Laurie Gibbs – AEL Director, Cape Girardeau Public Schools

Categories: Adult Education – Directors

HSE Teacher Round Table

Calling all HSE teachers! Join us for a time of connection and collaboration. This is a space for us to talk through our current classroom hurdles, offer advice, and celebrate our recent wins together.

Presenter: Jenny Phipps – Lead Instructor/Teacher Category Chair, Ozarks Technical Community College

Categories: AEL Directors & MAACCE Board members

Leveraging Street Cred

We need to continue to empower incarcerated individuals by treating them as partners in reform rather than just objects of punishment.

Presenter: Penny Carmon – Education Program Manager, Ozark Correctional Center

Categories: Adult Education – Directors, Teachers, ESL; Afterschool; Community Education

LACES/Data Entry Roundtable

This interactive roundtable will bring Missouri AEL staff together to discuss effective and consistent data entry practices in LACES. Participants will explore common challenges, share practical solutions, and clarify state reporting expectations through guided discussion. The session is ideal for anyone involved in LACES data entry who wants actionable tips and peer insights to strengthen data quality.

Presenter: Kathy Bommel – AEL Assistant Director of Performance, DESE Adult Education & Literacy

Categories: Adult Education – Teachers, ESL