

Open Doors

Fall Webinar Series - 2023

Collaborative Conversations for Special Educators*

(30 participants per session max)

Oct 17	6 - 7:30pm	1.5 SCECH
Oct 24	4 - 5:30pm	1.5 SCECH
Oct 31	4 - 5:30pm	1.5 SCECH
Nov 14	6 - 7:30pm	1.5 SCECH

Collaborative Conversations is a supportive, problem-solving group for Special Education Professionals. Each week members will be able to confidentially submit questions, concerns, and case study situations to discuss in a problem/strategy format. The goal is to build a community of Special Education professionals to support each other, find viable solutions for difficult situations, and improve our service to students, families, and guardians.

Kathleen Rao, MA Special Education / Christi Waldman, Social Worker - Mecosta Osceola ISD

Using Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to Spark Excitement, Tackle Challenges, and Motivate Learners

Oct 18	4 - 5:30pm	1.5 SCECH
--------	------------	-----------

Are you searching for new ways to spark curiosity and encourage sustained motivation in your classroom? Universal Design for Learning, or UDL, might be just what you're looking for. In this session you'll learn about UDL tools you can use to increase options for engagement, and ensuring every one of your students is invested in what they're learning.

Emily Sicilia, Assistant Director of Professional Learning - Michigan Virtual

Every Kid Is Cool

Oct 18	6 - 7:30pm	1.5 SCECH
--------	------------	-----------

We all entered our careers for the same reasons; to positively impact the future by working with kids! Somewhere along the line reality sets in and we realize not every kid is easy to motivate. While we're on the topic of motivation, a lot of us need some fresh wind in our sails too! This practical webinar will leave everyone feeling refreshed with a few new tricks up their sleeve to help rekindle relational capacity, enthusiasm for learning, and passion for education.

Jason Herbert, Teacher/Author - Plainwell Community Schools

Unlocking the Door to Inclusion: Epilepsy Awareness and Advocacy

Oct 19	4 - 5:30pm	1.5 SCECH
--------	------------	-----------

In this webinar, leaders from the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan will address the importance of epilepsy awareness in schools and the transformative role that school personnel can play. We'll discuss seizure recognition and first aid and explore strategies to promote safety and inclusion in educational settings. Join us as we empower students with epilepsy on their educational journey and enhance their mental health and well-being.

Renee Roederer / Shannon Waid - Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan

Early Literacy & Social Justice

Oct 24	6 - 7:30pm	1.5 SCECH
--------	------------	-----------

Teaching the fundamentals of literacy to students is challenging enough, but because classrooms are increasingly diverse, educators are being called to develop the knowledge and skills to engage ALL children equitably and effectively. Join us as we explore the pedagogy of early literacy that also helps students feel interconnected with one another and understand the importance of caring for different communities.

Deanna Roland / Renay Williams-Whitson, Teachers - Kalamazoo Public Schools

Healthy Lifestyles in the Classroom and Beyond

Oct 25	4 - 5:30pm	1.5 SCECH
--------	------------	-----------

What do you learn over a 30-year career in education? Besides instructional technique and professional practice, you learn the lifestyle strategies to have an energetic 30-year career and be vital and engaged in retirement. Beyond stress management, learn what lifestyle choices you can make to be healthy in the classroom and beyond.

Ann Marie Borders, President of the Washtenaw County MEA Retirees

Work Smarter, Not Harder... Talking Updates in Google

Oct 25	6 - 7:30pm	1.5 SCECH
--------	------------	-----------

If you are part of a Google school, or just an educator that regularly uses Google products in your classroom, this is a session you don't want to miss. Learn all the newest tips, tricks, and extensions from Google Certified Educators that can make your life easier and your K-12 instruction more effective.

Mary Hankins, Teacher - Owosso Public Schools / Karen Chichester, Teacher - Jefferson Schools

Letting Go of Outdated Teaching Practices

Oct 26	4 - 5:30pm	1.5 SCECH
--------	------------	-----------

We know we need to take our practice beyond assessing for fact recall, doing standardized test prep, and generating grade data for state reports, but there are learned and institutional habits that inhibit that growth. Join us to learn how to let go of outdated teaching practices and practical ways you can teach, encourage, and assess thinking.

Aric Foster, Teacher/Author - Armada Area Schools

Decolonizing Your Curriculum: Challenging Eurocentrism in the Social Studies Classroom

Nov 1	4 - 5:30pm	1.5 SCECH
-------	------------	-----------

The anti-"Critical Race Theory" and anti "woke" movements aim to continue to find ways to prevent K-12 educators from teaching responsible history in diverse public schools. This training offers educators a practical way to teach and empower students to critically analyze history and build a deeper understanding of our complex world. Together, we will explore beyond our textbooks and create a more inclusive history curriculum.

Greytor Walston, MEA UniServ Director (T) - Kalamazoo Office

Political, social, economic, and environmental issues and events confront us daily. The question is how do we meet these moments? We can either face these moments as impenetrable obstacles (walls) or as challenges we can solve and move through (doors). I choose to find doors.

The sessions in this series present us topics and techniques that provide a chance to reframe how we perceive opportunities - finding a door where we saw only walls; how we relate to each other - opening doors for others; and how we grow and discover - opening doors to new ideas and ways of thinking.

As the leaves turn, join us for this Fall series to learn, laugh, and lean on each other - the door of 2024 is before us.



<https://bit.ly/fall-series-2023-register>

If you are interested in building and bringing meaningful professional learning to your colleagues, contact Chad Williams, MEA UniServ Consultant at cwilliams@mea.org to find out how!