

MARYLAND CONNECTIONS SUMMIT

JUNE 6–7, 2018 | TOWSON, MD

The 2018 Maryland Connections Summit brings together education professionals from across Maryland to highlight the vital role data plays in education decision making. The [Maryland State Department of Education](#), in collaboration with the [Mid-Atlantic Regional Education Laboratory](#), is accepting proposals from those who would like to present a session at the 2018 MSDE Connections Summit. The deadline to submit a proposal is **Monday, March 19, 2018**.

All sessions are 45 minutes. There are 7 concurrent sessions between Wednesday, June 6th and Thursday, June 7th from 9:30am to 4:00pm each day. Each conference space is equipped with a laptop, LCD projector, screen, necessary cables, and power outlets.

Submission Process

To [submit a proposal](#), please visit <https://goo.gl/forms/x3KloeqodfOarAZ32>. ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH THE ONLINE FORM. The fields and instructions provided in the form are included at the end of this document.

Proposals must include the following information:

- Presentation title.
- Name and affiliation of presenter(s).
- A 300-500 word session description, including the educational implications of the work and a brief note of who would benefit from seeing the presentation. References and figures are not included in the word count.
- References and graphics as needed.
- Which of the four themes applies to the proposal (see below)?
- Format: presentation of a single project or activity, panel discussion involving multiple presenters/activities, or other. (Panel discussions are encouraged to apply.)

Key Dates

Proposals will be accepted between February 5 and March 5, 2018.

Participants whose proposals are accepted will be notified on or around April 3, 2018.

Information about the conference schedule will be made available on or about May 1, 2018.

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Themes

Staff from local school systems and schools, research partners, and representatives from education organizations will share their work around four themes:

Evidence-Based Activities, Strategies, and Interventions

The Every Student Succeeds Act ([ESSA](#)) requires that activities, strategies, interventions, and programs be selected based on existing data and research. ESSA also allows for the evaluation of programs should no evidence currently exist. Evidence-based decision-making is also a critical part of ensuring public dollars are well-spent. This strand explores how schools and school systems select, implement, and evaluate activities, strategies, and interventions in Maryland's public schools. How do you choose new programs? How do you use data when implementing them? How do you know that they're working?

No PARCC, No Problem

Data-driven decision making is only possible when data are available. How do you make decisions based on data when standardized data do not exist (for example, in subjects or grade levels for which there is no state test)? Presentations will showcase strategies, data collection instruments, or other practices that provide feedback for decision-making when there is no standardized data.

Using Data to Implement and Communicate Change

As education policy changes, organizations must become adept at understanding, implementing, and communicating those changes within and outside the organization. Presenters will share their experiences engaging educators and stakeholders. How do you communicate data about the performance of students and schools? How do you provide data to teachers, school leaders, and others (and how do they use that data themselves)? How do you provide meaningful professional development to educators so that they are using data and supporting new or existing policies?

Creating Infrastructures to Support Data Use

Organizations must be able to collect, access, analyze, and use data to inform decision-making, while ensuring privacy. This theme will explore the ways IT infrastructures and technology have been implemented to support data use. This theme will also include privacy related topics such as disclosure avoidance, suppression, and privacy. Presentations will include best practices, guidance, and implementation.

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Review Criteria

Each proposal will be reviewed with the following criteria in mind:

- *Relevance to the theme of the conference:* Does the presentation include a connection between data, research, policy, and/or practice? Does the presentation align to the identified theme?
- *Interest and usefulness:* Will the presentation provide useful information to attendees that may lead to positive student outcomes? Will attendees have meaningful information that they can use in their own work?
- *Evidence-based or innovative:* Does the presentation use existing research, generate new evidence, or showcase an innovative activity, initiative, or process?

Proposal to Present at the 2018 Maryland Connections Summit

- **Email address**
 - Please ensure this is correct. You will be notified by email if your proposal is accepted

Presenter Information:

- Prefix
- First Name
- Last Name
- Job Title
- Organization
- Office Street Address
- City
- State Abbreviation
- Zip Code
- Office Phone

Additional Presenter Information:

- Prefix
- First Name
- Last Name
- Job Title
- Organization

Proposal Information:

- Type of Presentation
 - Presentation of a single program or activity
 - Panel discussion
 - Other: Please describe
- This session falls under the following theme:
 - Definitions of themes can be found on the [MSDE Connections Summit website](#). Please check all that apply.
 - Evidence-Based Activities, Strategies, and Interventions
 - No PARCC, No Problem
 - Using Data to Implement and Communicate Change
 - Creating Infrastructures to Support Data Use

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Proposal Information (continued):

- Title of Presentation
 - Please note: any entry will be cut off after 150 characters, including spaces.
- Session Description
 - Please describe your session. This description will be used for the conference program and should address the objectives, content, and ways participants may use the information. Please limit your description to 300-500 words.
- Additional Session Information
 - Please include references and/or graphics, as needed.
- What materials/resources do participants need in order to fully participate in your proposed workshop?
 - Laptop computer
 - Mobile device
 - School data (interim assessment, budget, etc)
 - Access to specific software (eg. MS Word, Google Drive)
 - Other
- Additional Considerations
 - All sessions are 45 minutes. Your session may be chosen for Wednesday, June 6th from 9:30am to 4:00pm or Thursday, June 7th from 9:30am to 4:00pm. If you have special requirements, please enter them below.

If you have questions, please contact:

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