CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**BRIDGING EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT**
The Vicksburg Warren School District maximizes the use of innovation, technology, and partnerships to execute the vision of the VWSD School Board. The result is a systematically aligned plan that bridges opportunities for the district’s students to graduate from college prepared for clear pathways toward success. Vicksburg Superintendent Chad Shealy provides insight on the district’s tested approach.

**At the Intersection of Challenge and Choice: MAINTAINING MATH RIGOR**
While we know that choice matters, finding ways to incorporate meaningful mathematics can be challenging. This session by Treve Brinkman, Director of Professional Learning at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH), focuses on helping build capacity among leaders, teachers, and students to inspire classrooms where growth, communication, and mathematical understanding are central.

During this interactive session, participants will have the opportunity to analyze features of high-level tasks and consider how to incorporate rigorous, meaningful math learning opportunities into the school day.

**ROCKETS REDEFINING READY!**
*Rockets Redefining Ready!* focuses on the aspects of what the Neshoba County School District has implemented and the step-by-step process of accomplishing the vision of “graduate all students college and career-ready with courses, certifications, and external experiences beyond a high school diploma.” The presentation by Superintendent Lundy Brantley will focus on important elements that should be in place for the initiative to generate the best results, as well as techniques for promoting it among school district employees, students, and parents.
**OPENING GENERAL SESSION**  
_Tuesday, Feb. 18_

**Transforming Student Achievement through a District-Wide Approach to Common Instructional Knowledge, Language & Tools**

A finite set of high-yield, actionable, measurable, and replicable practices have exponentially transformed student achievement in urban, suburban, and rural schools/districts from coast to coast! So says Dr. Donyall Dickey, a nationally recognized authority on curriculum, instruction, organizational development, and school administration. At the Opening General Session, he will describe his methods that lead to unparalleled levels of student achievement and school improvement. He reveals the practices that include aligning daily instruction with the nuanced expectations of state standards and high-stakes summative assessments to drive and sustain academic achievement in the core content areas. His breakout sessions will dive deeper into this approach.

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**SECOND GENERAL SESSION**  
_Wednesday, Feb. 19_

**You Reap What You Sow:**

How Early Childhood Experiences Shape Each Child’s Range of Possibilities for K-12

Students don’t simply arrive at the kindergarten door ready to learn. They bring with them all of the experiences that have shaped them (and their families) from the time of each child’s birth. Dr. Walter Gilliam, professor of child psychiatry and psychology at the Yale University Child Study Center, describes how these experiences – planned or unplanned, supportive or undermining, facilitative or traumatic – shape children and their families, impacting how they will experience and benefit from their K-12 experiences. His presentation focuses on the emerging science of how early experiences with relationships, language, and learning set the stage for how students and families view and interact with public school teachers, staff, and peers. The experiences also can help determine how to better assist children and families in benefiting from the public school experience. They also can help school leaders better support the critical transition from early childhood to early adulthood.

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**General Session Keynote Speakers**

Get Insight on BEST Practices for Student SUCCESS!

Thank goodness no one has to start from scratch in discovering what works best in reaching student achievement goals. Tried and true methods exist, and these outstanding school leaders are among the resources available for gaining insight about boosting your student achievement results. In the Best Practices sessions, they will share their secrets to remarkable student success, including what works and why. Come find out their results and the methods used to accomplish them!