

Monday, February 23, 2026

10:20 – 12:20 and 1:45 – 3:00

The Administrators Institute

Julia Roberts, EdD, The Center for Gifted Studies, WKU

Shelagh Gallagher, PhD, College of William and Mary

This session will highlight best practices and policies for educating children and young people with gifts and talents. The focus of the content will be for those who lead in schools, school districts, and education organizations.

10:20 – 12:20

**Social, Emotional, and Educational Needs of Gifted Students:
Myths and Realities**

Ed Amend, PsyD, The Amend Group

Asynchronous development, sensitivity, and intensity in gifted youth can affect their social, emotional, and educational growth. Uncertainty fuels frustration, perfectionism, and anxiety for some as they struggle to adjust to the world around them. Loss, trauma, and existential concerns complicate their situation. Join me as I explore the myths and realities of gifted students' social, emotional, and educational needs. Ideas for self-care to recharge in the wake of the challenges that come with teaching these amazing kids will also be reviewed.

Infinite Campus (Useful Reporting Tools for GT)

Tammy Toomes, Bullitt County Public Schools

This session will include several ways to utilize Ad Hoc Reporting for the benefit of Organizing GT Data and using those reports for: report cards, IC Messenger, mailing information, test scores etc. We will also look at KY State Reporting for available reports to assist.

Educating 2-E Learners: A Strength-Based Approach

Tracy Inman, EdD, Gifted Education Consultant

Twice-exceptional students face more complex challenges than learners with only one exceptionality, whether that is giftedness or a learning disability. Through the use of case studies, this session explores the intricacies of educating the 2-e learner, suggesting strategies and approaches to encourage continuous progress.

**Leveling Up with Project Based Learning:
Strengthening Core Instruction with Authentic Experiences**

Sheri Rhodes, Christina Mudd (Gifted & Talented Educators, JCPS)

This session highlights the powerful role project-based learning (PBL) can play in engaging and challenging gifted learners. This presentation focuses on how Project-Based learning allows all learners, including gifted learners, to pursue deep, meaningful exploration of complex topics, promoting critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. Participants will learn how to utilize district curricula to design and implement projects that cater to the diverse interests and abilities of all learners, specifically gifted students in a heterogeneous classroom, offering them the autonomy and intellectual stimulation they need.

1:45 – 3:45

Differentiating so Every Student Learns Something New

Lynette Breedlove, PhD, The Gatton Academy of Math and Science

Julian Stanley said, "All students have the right to learn something new each day." With gifted and high ability students, it can be a real challenge to provide the opportunity to learn something new daily. Integrating

differentiation techniques such as pre-assessments and alternate assignments, most-difficult-first, and independent study into your daily instruction can help you provide for these students' academic needs. We will discuss practical strategies you can use tomorrow to enhance your students' learning opportunities.

Exploring the Basics of Gifted

Sarah Coomer and the Bullitt County GT Department

Take a journey into the world of gifted learners as we explore Kentucky's Regulations, areas of giftedness, social-emotional needs, and practical ways teachers can support the bright minds of gifted students. Whether you're new to Gifted Education or looking to refresh your understanding of the basics of Gifted Education, this session will provide the foundational knowledge and tools to help gifted students thrive.

How to Use AI to Foster Big Dreams for Kentucky's Bright Minds

Tyler Clark, EdD, The Center for Gifted Studies, WKU

AI continues to pose huge benefits and challenges for society, particularly in education. How can we leverage AI's power to develop big ideas while not growing to be reliant on the technology and risk losing critical thinking skills? This session will discuss this topic and ideas for using AI in the classroom to build big dreams in your classroom!

1:45 – 2:40

Identifying and Serving Musically Gifted Students in Rural and High-Poverty Areas

Elizabeth Edwards, Middlesboro Independent Schools

Jeanne Lee, Harlan County Schools

How do you serve musically gifted students who live in rural and high-poverty areas? This session will provide gifted educators with equitable tools and examples of evidence for identification, cost effective examples of how to utilize community and school resources, and in-hand differentiated instruction resources they can use to enhance arts education for students living in these locations.

2:50 – 3:45

Neuroarts

Leslie Smart, Louisville Ballet

Neuroarts is the interdisciplinary study of how creative and expressive experiences change the brain, body, and behavior, and how this knowledge can be translated into interventions for health and well-being. It involves using advancements in science and technology to understand the biological basis of artistic engagement and applying these findings to practical uses in areas like mental health, chronic disease, and community development. Learn how Louisville Ballet is using Neuroarts and changing lives through dance in schools and communities across the region.