

Waco researchED 2027

Speaker Bios, Master Schedule, Breakout Sessions

Real Teaching • Real Evidence • Real Results



Master Schedule

Time	Session
8:15 - 9:00 AM	Registration / Check-In / Coffee
9:00 - 9:10 AM	Freedom in Education: Welcome & Opening Remarks
9:10 - 9:40 AM	Keynote: Tom Bennett: Setting the Stage: What researchED Is and Why It Matters
9:40- 10:40 AM	Keynote: Doug Lemov The Why and How of the Science of Learning
10:40 - 10:50 AM	Transition Break
10:50 - 11:45 AM	Breakout Block 1 – Coming Soon!
11:45 - 12:35 PM	Lunch & Networking
12:45 - 1:40 PM	Breakout Block 2 – Coming Soon!
1:40 - 1:50 PM	Transition Break
1:50 - 2:45 PM	Breakout Block 3– Coming Soon!
2:50 - 3:30 PM	Closing Panel and Q&A

Featured Speakers

Tom Bennett

Founder of researchED and internationally recognized author and consultant focused on school culture, classroom management, and evidence-informed teaching.

Doug Lemov

Founder of Teach Like a Champion and bestselling author known for his influential work on instructional practice and classroom excellence.

Breakout Sessions - Coming Soon!

Nathan Gwinn

Teacher, Senior Advisor for Curriculum and Instruction at Freedom in Education

Professional Bio

Nathan Gwinn is a teacher and former Principal, and he serves as the Senior Advisor for Curriculum and Instruction at Freedom in Education, where he advises states on evaluating instructional materials and developing robust academic frameworks. His expertise is rooted in extensive experience, having taught 5th through 12th grades in public schools and served as an administrator across all K-12 levels. He leverages this comprehensive, on-the-ground perspective as a lead educator developing comprehensive model standards in mathematics and science. By bridging the gap between high-level educational policy and classroom reality, Nathan equips education systems nationwide with the practical, high-quality tools needed to drive student achievement.

Session Topics

Science of Learning 101 - 100B

Samantha Lippert

Ben Zulauf, EdD

Director of Teaching and Learning, Cicero School District 99

Professional Bio

Ben Zulauf is the Director of Teaching and Learning in Cicero School District 99, where he leads the district's shift toward evidence-based literacy practices. He has served in multiple instructional leadership roles and has presented at local, state, and international conferences while consulting with school districts across the Midwest.

Session Topics

Productive Struggle: The Origin Story and Appropriate Uses - 100B

Description: Productive struggle is one of the most well-known terms when it comes to math instruction, but its implementation in many classrooms has lethally mutated into a practice that was never intended. This session will cover the original intent of productive struggle and what successful implementation could look like in your classroom.

- **Description:** Designed for educators with little to zero prior experience with the topic, this straightforward, fluff-free introduction strips away the complex neuroscience and academic jargon. Instead, we focus on the foundational basics of how the human brain processes, connects, and stores new information for the long haul. You will walk away with a clear understanding of the learning process and a toolkit of simple, high-impact strategies you can implement on Monday morning to boost student outcomes without adding to your daily prep load.

