46th Annual Middle Level Conference & Exhibits
March 18 & 19, 2027
Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel,
Springfield, MA

Conference Strands

A - Tools for Your Toolbox: Classroom Practices that Engage and Encourage Learning

Middle level educators are always searching for new ways to engage and encourage learning by their students. Sessions in this strand provide an opportunity to share proven effective classroom practices designed to meet the broad range of interests, abilities, learning styles and skills of their students. They understand the importance of designing lessons that accommodate these differences by incorporating effective instructional approaches in their classrooms.

B - SEL & Wellness: Meeting the Needs of the School Community

Successful teaching and learning can only occur when the SEL and Wellness needs of the school community are met. Sessions in this strand share examples of ways to meet those needs for everyone - students and staff - resulting in a positive school climate and a supportive, developmentally appropriate learning environment for young adolescents and the adults that work with them.

C - Equity and Diversity: Creating Access for All

If we are to create classrooms and schools where all children feel known, valued, and safe, we need to pay attention to the fullness of our students' identities and the realities of the world in which they live. Sessions in this strand may focus on how teachers and administrators recognize and honor students' diverse identities–gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, spirituality, socioeconomic class, and more–through identity work; curricula that include a full range of mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors; ways to understand and disrupt unjust systems; and creating joy.

D – Young Adolescents: What You Need to Know

Middle level educators understand the unique developmental needs of the young adolescents they teach. Sessions in this strand focus on "everything you need to know about young adolescents," including implementing research-based best practices and researched developmental aspects of young adolescents.

E – Leadership from the Middle

Effective middle level leaders are, first and foremost, knowledgeable, and skilled at meeting the unique needs of young adolescents and implementing the appropriate and effective programs and practices. However, middle level leadership is not evident in administration only. Sessions in this strand highlight all examples of leadership including administrators, teachers, and students.

F – Optimizing Technology: Tools and Approaches

Purposeful integration of technology in middle schools boosts engagement, personalizes learning, and supports growth for educators and students. Sessions in this strand may include AI in education, virtual/hybrid strategies, assessment tools, digital literacy, and ensuring accessibility and equitable access — all aligned with curriculum goals and fostering collaboration, critical thinking, and real-world problem-solving.