



FERRIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE



**2026-27 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CATALOG**

2026-27 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS

The Ferris State University Charter Schools Office is pleased to present the 2026–27 Professional Development Catalog, designed to support school leaders through high-quality, flexible learning opportunities.

Most sessions are delivered remotely and focus on strengthening leadership in key areas such as academic instruction, data-driven decision-making, and special education. Each offering is intentionally developed to provide targeted support and reinforce the effectiveness of school leadership teams.

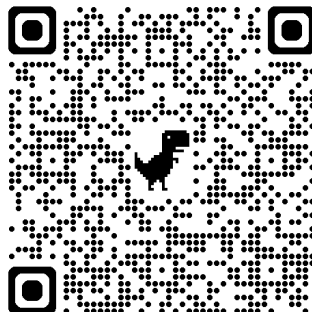
This year’s catalog includes four distinct learning formats: two in-person opportunities, five virtual courses, three networking events, and one email subscription. These options are designed to meet the needs of both current and aspiring school leaders.

Participants may register for any sessions that align with their interests and are not required to enroll in all offerings at once. However, **attendance is expected once registration is completed.** The Ferris CSO will cover all SCECH costs for individuals employed by Ferris-authorized charter schools, and attendance will be recorded for all sessions offering SCECH credit.

A minimum of 10 participants is required for each session to run. Course registration will close two weeks before the session offering, unless otherwise noted.

**After reviewing all professional development opportunities, you may
[REGISTER HERE.](#)**

Use the QR code below to access or share a PDF version of the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office 2026-27 Professional Development Catalog.



VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES

LEADING FOR INSTRUCTIONAL IMPACT

Dr. Jenn Shaver will share practical approaches to instructional leadership that strengthen teaching and learning and can be applied within any instructional or teacher evaluation framework. Sessions will be held in early Fall 2026 to equip leaders with strategies they can implement immediately to start the 2026–27 school year strong. Participants will be expected to try some of the strategies between sessions and come prepared to share their outcomes.

AGENDA

FACILITATOR: Dr. Jenn Shaver

SESSIONS: 3

DATES: October 14, 2026, November 4, 2026 & December 2, 2026

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

SCECHS: 4.5

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 1, 2026

NWEA

Session 1 - From Standards to Success: Goal Setting with the New MAP Growth Standards Report

In this 1-hr session, participants will be empowered to turn standards-based data into clear, actionable goals that drive student growth. Participants will explore how to interpret the new Standards Report to identify strengths, uncover learning gaps, and prioritize instructional next steps.

Session 2 - From Growth to Proficiency: Leveraging MAP Growth Data to Support M-STEP Success

In this 1-hr session, participants will be equipped with the tools and strategies needed to turn assessment data into targeted instructional action. Participants will explore how to use MAP Growth data—especially the Projected Proficiency Report- to identify students who may be at risk of not meeting proficiency on the M-STEP.

FACILITATOR: Susan Klassen

SESSIONS: 2

DATES: September 23, 2026 & February 24, 2027

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

SCECHS: 2

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 16, 2026*

***Registration will remain open for the entire 2026/27 academic year. If you are interested after the initial registration period, email BethTaylor@ferris.edu to be added to the contact list.**

VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES

SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERSHIP LEARNING SESSIONS

Sarah VanderBaan will facilitate sessions focused on key special education legislation and related implementation topics. These sessions provide an opportunity to examine essential issues more closely and discuss questions that arise in school settings. Special education administrators are encouraged to attend.

FACILITATOR: Sarah VanderBaan

SESSIONS: 4

DATES: September 9, 2026, October 28, 2026, January 13, 2027 & March 10, 2027

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

SCECHS: 6

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 1, 2026*

***Registration will remain open for the entire 2026/27 academic year. If you are interested after the initial registration period, email BethTaylor@ferris.edu to be added to the contact list.**

MATH INTERVENTION MODEL

Following the in-person professional learning session on February 26, 2026, this three-part virtual series is designed to deepen understanding of the intervention model and support effective implementation. Participants will build on key concepts from the initial training, explore what Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction look like in practice, and engage in collaborative discussions.

The series will also focus on strategies for building staff buy-in, planning implementation, and identifying key first steps, including important things to look for during classroom observations. Each session will include opportunities for reflection, discussion, and practical application to support leaders as they consider the next steps.

AGENDA

FACILITATORS: Brianne Daye and Brooke Holt

SESSIONS: 3

DATES: September 30, 2026, October 21, 2026, November 18, 2026

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

SCECHS: 4.5

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 16, 2026

IN-PERSON OPPORTUNITIES

2026 SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Ferris State University, in partnership with Lake Superior State University, will host the 2nd Annual Leadership Conference. This two-day event will begin with keynote speaker Tiki Davis, who will share his personal journey and perspective on the value of education. On Wednesday morning, keynote speaker Larry Bell will lead a high-energy, interactive session titled *“The Unstoppable Administrator.”*

The conference will also feature a variety of breakout sessions, including topics such as AI for Educators, Leading Special Education with Clarity and Confidence, Strategic Planning through Data Dashboards, and Using Student Voice to Improve Schools. Additionally, a leadership panel will explore key areas such as school culture, staff culture, alternative education challenges, and community engagement.

***Click [here](#) for more information, including agenda and registration link**

LOCATION: Bay City, Michigan

SESSIONS: 2 keynote speakers, 1 morning session & 2 afternoon sessions

DATE AND TIME: July 21, 2026, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

July 22, 2026, 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

SCECHS: 7

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 22, 2026

PROFESSIONAL DAY OF LEARNING

The Ferris State University CSO would like to bring building leaders together for a day of learning. The morning will begin with a brief welcome from the CSO, followed by an opportunity to learn from Dr. Debbie McFalone. This highly interactive learning session will focus on time management, skillful coaching and feedback, and navigating difficult conversations. The day will be based on the leadership book, *Meeting the Moment: A Call for Courage*. Participants who register before February 19 will receive the book before the session. SCECHs include 6 hours for the session and 2 hours for the reading and preparation before the event.

AGENDA

LOCATION: Michigan Connections Academy - 3950 Heritage Avenue, Ste 100, Okemos, MI 48864

SESSIONS: 2

DATES: March 2, 2027

TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SCECHS: 8

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 19, 2027

NETWORKING GROUPS

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION NETWORK

The purpose of this group is to connect with school leaders who are passionate about innovative and student-centered approaches to education. This group will provide an opportunity to share best practices, exchange ideas, and collaborate on common challenges facing alternative education programs.

FACILITATOR: Dr. Heidi Cate

SESSIONS: 3

DATES: September 18, 2026, October 16, 2026, January 15, 2027, February 19, 2027, April 16, 2027, May 21, 2027

TIME: 9:00 a.m.- 10 a.m.

SCECHS: 6

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 11, 2026*

***Registration will remain open for the entire 2026/27 academic year. If you are interested after the initial registration period, email BethTaylor@ferris.edu to be added to the contact list.**

ELEMENTARY EDUCATORS NETWORK

This collaborative group is designed for leaders focused on elementary education, serving K–8 students. The purpose is to improve students' elementary learning environments while also strengthening participants' own professional practice. Participants will engage in discussions surrounding learning best practices, exchanging ideas, and receiving relevant updates. This group provides a supportive space to share common challenges, connect, and grow with leaders in similar situations.

FACILITATORS: Beth Taylor & Kelly Buckmaster, Ed.S.

SESSIONS: 3

DATES: November 11, 2026, January 27, 2027 & April 28, 2027

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

SCECHS: 3

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: November 6, 2026*

***Registration will remain open for the entire 2026/27 academic year. If you are interested after the initial registration period, email BethTaylor@ferris.edu to be added to the contact list.**

NETWORKING GROUPS

SECONDARY EDUCATORS NETWORK

This collaborative group is designed for secondary administrators serving grades 6–12. The purpose is to enhance students' learning environments and strengthen participants' professional practice. Participants will engage in discussions focused on best practices, idea sharing, and relevant updates. This group provides a supportive space to navigate common challenges, build connections, and grow alongside leaders in similar roles.

FACILITATORS: Beth Taylor & Kelly Buckmaster, Ed.S.

SESSIONS: 3

DATES: November 11, 2026, January 27, 2027 & April 28, 2027

TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

SCECHS: 3

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: November 6, 2026*

***Registration will remain open for the entire 2026/27 academic year. If you are interested after the initial registration period, email BethTaylor@ferris.edu to be added to the contact list.**

ASYNCHRONOUS OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY MESSAGE SUBSCRIPTION

Register for Dr. Debbie McFalone’s School Leadership email subscription, *Live Well Lead Strong*. This weekly resource features timely, research-based leadership topics along with practical tools and supports. Each message is also available in audio format for added flexibility, and a monthly summary is provided for easy sharing or printing.

A sample of Dr. McFalone’s Monday message can be accessed [here](#). If your academy is interested in subscribing, the Ferris CSO will cover the cost of one subscription per academy.

FACILITATOR: Dr. Debbie McFalone

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 15, 2026

MAPSA HUB

MAPSA HUB offers several asynchronous learning options that provide free SCECHs throughout the year. Be sure to sign up on their website www.charterschools.org. Navigate to “Challenges and Courses” to join free opportunities. For more information, details, or contact Becky Carlton (bcarlton@charterschools.org).

After August 1st, a list of available sessions with links will be included in this professional catalog, so check back for updates!

CONTACT INFORMATION

LEADING FOR INSTRUCTIONAL IMPACT

Jennifer Shaver, Ph.D.

Educational Consultant - Advocate 15:26, LLC

jennifershaver6@gmail.com

NWEA

Susan Klassen

Senior Account Manager- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, NWEA Division

Susan.Klassen@nwea.org

SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERSHIP LEARNING SESSIONS

Sarah VanderBaan

Chief of Specially Designed Instruction & Student Services - Choice Schools Associates

SarahVanderbaan@choiceschools.com

MATH INTERVENTION MODEL

Brianne Daye & Brooke Holt

Education Consultants - Accelerated Intervention Model

acceleratedintervention@gmail.com

2026 SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Beth Taylor, FSU CSO School Support Specialist

bethtaylor@ferris.edu

PERSON PROFESSIONAL DAY OF LEARNING

Debbie McFalone, Ph.D.,

Education Consultant - Live Well Lead Strong

debbiemcfalone@gmail.com

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION NETWORK

Heidi Cate, Ph.D.

Superintendent – Integrity Educational Services

hcate@lighthouseacademyschool.org

ELEMENTARY EDUCATORS NETWORK & SECONDARY EDUCATORS NETWORK

Beth Taylor, FSU CSO School Support Specialist

bethtaylor@ferris.edu

Kelly Buckmaster, Ed.S., FSU CSO Associate Director

kellybuckmaster@ferris.edu

MONDAY MESSAGE SUBSCRIPTION

Sue Stauffacher

suestauffacher@gmail.com

MAPSA HUB

Becky Carlton

bcarlton@charterschools.org

For general questions about professional development offerings/catalog, please contact:

Beth Taylor, FSU CSO School Support Specialist

bethtaylor@ferris.edu

(231) 591-5805