

2025 METAtechED Conference Registration

3/10/2025

General Itinerary

Sunday, March 9, 2025

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (MST) - Sunday Social sponsored by ILG Technologies

Monday, March 10, 2025

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM (MST) - Hot Breakfast and Conference Registration

8:00 AM - 10:05 AM (MST) - Opening Keynote - Generational AI - Jeff Utecht (click to expand) (Ballroom)

Speaker: Jeff Utecht

Link to Presentation Slides:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1gkL1hVBSVH7zor6qdwuoyD5DMZXpxfxneQgcPB7Ucc4/edit#slide=id.g27746f>

To find out more go to <https://www.jeffutecht.com/metateched>

Jeff began his career in the Elementary Classroom in Washington State. In 2001, he was the recipient of a Bill and Melinda Gates Grant, the Technology Leadership Program. This started his journey into the world of connecting students and using the world as his curriculum. He has authored books, worked as a consultant for technology startups, and continues to speak at schools and educational events around the globe. He was invited by the Prince of Bahrain to participate in conversations to reimagine teaching and learning in that country. In 2018, he was invited to the Global Knowledge Summit in Dubai to be part of global conversations about the future of education in the Knowledge Economy. His passion is working long-term with schools and districts in changing the teaching and learning culture to help prepare students for their future not our past.

With over two decades of experience in educational technology, Jeff has been instrumental in shaping Washington State's Generative AI guidance and has worked with over 100 school districts across multiple states and countries. His expertise in AI and education makes him a leading voice in the field.

"Generational AI"

Tailored for IT Directors, we'll explore how generational leadership intersects with artificial intelligence to shape the future of school technology systems. As technology evolves, IT leaders must navigate varying generational perspectives, blending the experience of seasoned staff with the tech expertise of younger professionals. We'll focus on strategies for uniting these strengths, fostering collaboration across teams, and building innovative, AI-driven solutions that empower educators and students. By bridging generational gaps, IT Directors can drive the future of technology in education forward, fostering an agile and responsive educational environment. This presentation will help leaders to be clear about what matters most to them and to be intentional with their time, communications, and actions.

9:45 AM - 10:05 AM (MST) - Platinum Sponsor - Structured (Ballroom)

Speaker: Structured



Link to presentation:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W3GCpOVSYsdGk6yOk9mGonGIuAPWJgCy/view?usp=sharing>

10:05 AM - 10:30 AM (MST) - Network and Visit with SAM Business Partners and Exhibitors

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (MST) - Focus Zone 1 - BUILD YOUR CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM AROUND NO COST CYBER SERVICES - Joe Frohlich CISA/ MS-ISAC, Andy Hanks and Michelle Nolan MS-ISAC (Judicial)

Speaker: Joe Frohlich

Link to presentation:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bnup5NtYuzz5eneIES9KMAeTdk1hUWbI/view?usp=sharing>

BUILD YOUR CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM AROUND NO COST CYBER SERVICES - Joe Frohlich CISA/ MS-ISAC, Andy Hanks and Michelle Nolan MS-ISAC

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (MST) - Focus Zone 1 - Leading Schools in a Generative AI Era - Jeff Utecht (click to expand) (Legislative)

Speaker: Jeff Utecht

Resources:

- [Custom Bots to Play with](#)
- [Creating a ChatBot Design Thinking Template](#)
- [Feedback Survey](#)

To find out more go to <https://www.jeffutecht.com/metateched>

Leading Schools in a Generative AI Era - Jeff Utecht

11:30 AM - 11:45 AM (MST) - Network and Visit with SAM Business Partners and Exhibitors

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM (MST) - Focus Zone 2: New Frontiers in Learning: Montana's Expanding Digital Education Opportunities-Dr. Jason Neiffer (click to expand) (Legislative)

Speaker: Dr. Jason Neiffer



Dr. Jason Neiffer is the Executive Director of the Montana Digital Academy, the state's virtual school in Montana. For over 28 years, he has explored innovative ways to blend pedagogy, technology, and a touch of performance art to make learning engaging and meaningful for students of all ages. His professional interests encompass distance learning, media literacy, digital productivity, artificial intelligence, social studies, and humanities education. Jason is an alumnus of Great Falls High School, Carroll College, Walden University, and the University of Montana. He has received the META Empowered Superintendent of the Year Award, the NCCE Eric Jenson Leadership Award, and the ISTE Making IT Happen Award. His journey in educational technology started in 1984 when, as a rambunctious fourth grader, he set up the Apple IIe computers at Roosevelt Elementary School in Great Falls. He has been pursuing the thrills of Lemonade Stand and Oregon Trail ever since!

New Frontiers in Learning: Montana's Expanding Digital Education Opportunities - Dr. Jason Neiffer

Montana's digital education landscape is rapidly evolving, opening up new frontiers for students, educators, and administrators alike. From Montana Digital Academy's traditional distance learning programs to our EdReady and digital learning clearinghouse initiatives—along with emerging opportunities in artificial intelligence and virtual reality—we are expanding access, increasing flexibility, and redefining what education looks like across the Treasure State.

In this session, we'll explore the latest advancements in Montana's digital education ecosystem, highlight new and emerging opportunities for schools and students, and discuss both the successes and challenges of implementing digital learning in a rural state. Whether you're an educator, administrator, or policymaker, you'll leave with a clearer understanding of where digital education is headed in Montana—and how you can help shape its future.

Join us as we chart the course for the next phase of digital learning in Montana. We're eager to partner with you!

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM (MST) - Focus Zone 2 - Cyber Security Presentation - Steve Allison, CDW (click to expand) (Judicial)

Speaker: Steve Allison

Link to presentation: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rz0i-mwF8JeA-2OXVkMeeWxUsGQZ0Mc2/view?usp=sharing>

Link to grant sheets: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h5O3-g7jtEu5AvhVMhsQxNs_3sCAVp74/view?usp=sharing

Cyber Security Presentation - Steve Allison, CDW

Agenda topics:

1. Cybersecurity Trends for 2025
2. Ransomware activity across the nation
3. How AI assists incident response teams mitigate cyber attacks

4. Cybersecurity Best Practices

Summary:

This presentation will explore key cybersecurity trends for 2025, including regulatory developments, cyber resilience, automation and generative AI, cost optimization, and risk quantification. We will then examine emerging ransomware trends, focusing on attack targets, attack profiles, ransomware groups, and the increasing threats faced by state and local governments.

Next, we will discuss the role of AI in Extended Detection and Response (XDR) technologies, highlighting its impact on attack mitigation and training incident response teams. Finally, we will outline best practices in cybersecurity to help organizations strengthen their defenses and prevent cyber threats effectively.

12:45 PM - 2:10 PM (MST) - Lunch, META Business Meeting, ByteSpeed Platinum Sponsor Presentation (click to expand)

Speaker: Jeff Edwards

META Business Meeting Agenda: https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTPs_2SsPeJWFXHlf4DTw0pHRdMJ0J3zfa7WGwlvcVtFEf0cIQ2L55j-uIQT78hx_b_uMFup6P733se/pub



Jeff Edwards is a seasoned cybersecurity leader with over two decades of experience working alongside enterprises, state and local governments, large school districts, and managed service providers across the nation. Specializing in security, Jeff is dedicated to helping clients transform their digital landscapes, ensuring safe, secure, and productive online environments tailored to the unique needs of their institutions.\

Lunch and META Business Meeting

A Cost-Effective Platform to Meet Montana K-12's Cybersecurity and Teaching needs - ByteSpeed Platinum Sponsor Presentation

In today's fast-paced digital age, Montana schools need more than just content filtering – they need a comprehensive, budget-friendly solution that addresses cybersecurity, classroom management, student safety, and student learning. iboss and partner Bytespeed deliver a unified platform tailored to the unique needs of K12 districts, combining essential tools like content filtering, classroom management, AI-driven security, and parent portals. This E-rate eligible solution under Category 2 (FWaaS) simplifies IT management while protecting against a wide range of cyber threats.

2:10 PM - 2:40 PM (MST) - Network and Visit with SAM Business Partners and Exhibitors

2:40 PM - 3:40 PM (MST) - Focus Zone 3- AI'm Here to Help: Practical AI Tips for School Administrators-Dr. Jason Neiffer (click to expand) (Legislative)

Speaker: Dr. Jason Neiffer



Dr. Jason Neiffer is the Executive Director of the Montana Digital Academy, the state's virtual school in Montana. For over 28 years, he has explored innovative ways to blend pedagogy, technology, and a touch of performance art to make learning engaging and meaningful for students of all ages. His professional interests encompass distance learning, media literacy, digital productivity, artificial intelligence, social studies, and humanities education. Jason is an alumnus of Great Falls High School, Carroll College, Walden University, and the University of Montana. He

has received the META Empowered Superintendent of the Year Award, the NCCE Eric Jenson Leadership Award, and the ISTE Making IT Happen Award. His journey in educational technology started in 1984 when, as a rambunctious fourth grader, he set up the Apple IIe computers at Roosevelt Elementary School in Great Falls. He has been pursuing the thrills of Lemonade Stand and Oregon Trail ever since!

AI'm Here to Help: Practical AI Tips for School Administrators - Dr. Jason Neiffer

AI isn't just about working faster—it's about working better. In this session, Jason will explore how artificial intelligence can enhance decision-making, improve communication, and streamline workflows without sacrificing quality. Through live demonstrations, you'll see practical ways AI can help with writing, analysis, and organization—empowering you to focus on leadership rather than logistics. Whether you're new to AI or already experimenting, you'll leave with concrete, real-world strategies to use AI as a powerful administrative ally.

2:40 PM - 3:40 PM (MST) - Focus Zone 3 - Student Data Privacy Update - Debra Silk, MTSBA (click to expand) (Executive)

Speaker: Debra Silk

Link to presentation:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xm2HO39EvUEjn_dtc_S4ukOfNnM9RXhL/view?usp=sharing



Debra Silk, Associate Executive Director and General Counsel for the Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA), has been with the organization since 2000, advocating for Montana's public schools as an attorney and lobbyist representing community-owned local school boards. Working alongside Executive Director Lance Melton, she oversees MTSBA's operations and leads its strategic planning services for members. A respected speaker at state and national education events, Debra played a key role in establishing the National School Attorneys

Association (NSAA), where she serves as Immediate Past Chair. A Butte, Montana native, she earned her juris doctor from the University of Idaho in 1994 and spent six years in private practice in Boise before returning home. Outside of work, she enjoys time at her family cabin in Seeley Lake and with her son, Skylar, and daughter-in-law, Mikaela.

Student Data Privacy Update - Debra Silk, MTSBA

Session Description: During this presentation we will discuss the state and federal laws impacting student data privacy requirements.

3:55 PM - 5:25 PM (MST) - General Session - Roundtable Discussions on Current Topics (click to expand) (Ballroom)

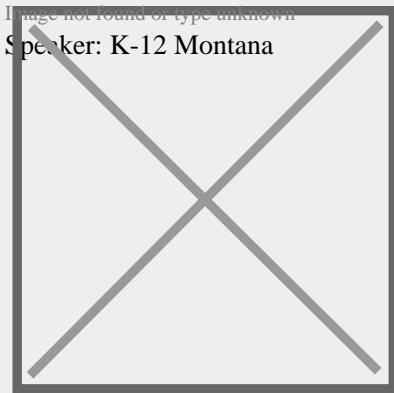
Roundtable Discussions on Current Topics

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (MST) - Awards Reception and Social sponsored by ByteSpeed

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM (MST) - Hot Breakfast Buffet

7:40 AM - 8:00 AM (MST) - Platinum Sponsor - K-12 Montana (Ballroom)



8:15 AM - 9:45 AM (MST) - Keynote - Cyber Security Panel (click to expand) (Ballroom)

Cyber Security Panel

9:45 AM - 10:00 AM (MST) - Network and Visit with SAM Business Partners and Exhibitors

10:00 AM - 10:20 AM (MST) - Platinum Sponsor - Bluum (Ballroom)

Speaker: Bluum

10:20 AM - 11:20 AM (MST) - General Session - PowerSchool with Liz Walbrun and OPI Representatives (click to expand) (Legislative)

Speaker: Liz Walbrun and OPI Representatives

Link to presentation:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19dAD6JUouqPr6VR4BXfeIRBQb2D3oSXJ/view?usp=sharing>

PowerSchool with Liz Walbrun and OPI Representatives

11:20 AM - 11:35 AM (MST) - Network and Visit with SAM Business Partners and Exhibitors

11:35 AM - 12:35 PM (MST) - General Session - Campus User Security and Montana State Reporting - Mary Anne Skinner (click to expand) (Legislative)

Speaker: Mary Anne Skinner

Link to presentation:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DtLRyrzoy5Jndgg0PtIFHXc3vzBnRvTR/view?usp=sharing>



Mary Anne Skinner is the Director of Infinite Campus Support Services for School of Services of MT. She is an Infinite Campus Certified Trainer and Implementation Manager. Over the past seven years, Mary Anne has implemented the Infinite Campus SIS in over 30 Districts plus an additional 70+ Districts with their Campus premium products. As a leader within the Infinite Campus ESA world, Mary Anne has assisted with consulting on many major Campus projects and partnered with new and existing ESAs nationwide. As a partner with the AIM unit at OPI and the 170+ districts utilizing School Services of Montana as their primary support, Mary Anne is at the forefront of district advocacy and adaptive solutions focused on sustainable and safe practices.

She fell in love with the Gallatin Valley after graduating from MSU and chose to pursue a career path locally. Mary Anne enjoys spending time outside with her little family camping, hiking, attempting to garden, exploring, and skiing. She is also an avid reader and lover of intergalactic exploration.

Campus User Security and Montana State Reporting - Mary Anne Skinner

The ultimate presentation on navigating the new look of Infinite Campus and ensuring safe, secure data alongside with accurate state reporting.

12:35 PM - 1:15 PM (MST) - Closing & Door Prizes (Ballroom)

1:15 PM - 3:30 PM (MST) - Optional Extended Round Table Session (Ballroom)