

AISCA Teachers' Convention

EDMONTON 2026

Better, Together: Teaching in the Age of AI

Fantasyland Hotel

17700 87 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta



Keynote

Giancarlo Brotto



FEBRUARY 13, 2026



AISCA Teachers' Convention 2026 AGENDA - Edmonton

8:00-9:00	Registration and Trade Show Opens
9:00-9:15	Opening & Welcome
9:15-10:30	KEYNOTE: The Educator's Moment: Leading with Purpose in a Transforming World – Giancarlo Bratto
10:30-11:00	Wellness Break
11:00-12:00	Concurrent Sessions A
12:00-1:15	Lunch Break
1:15-2:15	Concurrent Sessions B
2:15-2:30	Transition
2:30-3:30	Concurrent Sessions C

11:00 – 12:00

Concurrent Breakout Sessions A

From Planning to Assessment: Designing Your AI-Ready Classroom All levels Giancarlo Bratto	Counting on Fun: Leveraging UNO Cards for Literacy and Math in Early Education Pre-K to Grade 2 Pamela Finnie	From Chalkboards to Chromebooks: Thriving Through Change & Sustaining Educator Well-Being All levels Shelley Watt	ELA Assessment Simplified: Clarity, Consistency, and AI Support Middle/High school Jesse Nordh	It's Not Defiance, It's Dysregulation: When Regulation Looks Like Refusal All levels Rianna Ross Angela Anderson	Relationship Based Advocacy All levels Keith Penner	Off-Campus, On-Track: Career Pathways That Work! High school; Grade 9 Christy Filgate
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1:15 – 2:15

Concurrent Breakout Sessions B

Exploring the New Curriculum Through MakeCodeArcade Games Elementary/Middle Telus World of Science	Basic Fact Mastery for Junior High Without a Calculator Junior High Pamela Finnie	Anxiety and Behavior in the Classroom All levels Lesley Xu	Reclaiming Curiosity: Re-awakening the Love of Learning in Students with Home Education All levels Golda David	Scaffolding the CART Essay in 30-1 English Language Arts High school Lindsey Birrell	Métis Stories in Alberta – Advancing Competency in TQS #5 All levels Kimberley Fraser-Airhart	Play Fair, Talk Smart: Enhancing Cooperation and Inclusion Through Communication and Conflict Resolution Grades 6-9 Joey Bouchard
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2:30 – 3:30

Concurrent Breakout Sessions C

Robot Bootcamp Elementary/Middle Telus World of Science	Top 10 Numeracy Activities for Preschool/Kindergarten Pamela Finnie	From Psychology Assessment to Action: Developing IPP Goals All levels Lesley Xu	Parents: Partners in Education All levels Brian Hunter	Teaching Social Studies with Purpose: Supporting Every Learner From Ideas to Written Work Middle/High school Katrina Schoepp	Practical Steps to Transform Your Elementary/Jr. High Math Lessons & Reach All Learners Using a Center-Based Model All levels Terynn Jensen	Move & Map – Spatial Awareness K-3 Joey Bouchard
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KEYNOTE: Giancarlo Bratto**The Educator's Moment: Leading with Purpose in a Transforming World**

All levels

AI isn't coming to education - it's already here. But here's the truth: technology doesn't determine our future. We do.

This keynote isn't about tools or tactics - it's about vision, courage, and what matters most when the ground beneath us is shifting. We'll explore what it means to teach in a moment of profound transformation, where the skills that helped students succeed yesterday may not be enough for tomorrow. How do we prepare young people for a world we can barely imagine? How do we stay grounded in our values while embracing innovation? And most importantly, how do we ensure that every student - not just some - thrives in this new landscape?

Drawing on examples from classrooms around the world and insights from the emerging future of work, we'll reimagine what's possible when educators lead with curiosity, collaboration, and care. We'll confront hard questions about assessment, equity, and what "success" really means in an AI-enabled world. And we'll rediscover what draws us to this work in the first place - the chance to shape young minds and open new possibilities.

Breakout Session: Giancarlo Bratto**From Planning to Assessment: Designing Your AI-Ready Classroom**

All levels

Ready to transform your planning process and rethink assessment for the AI age? This interactive workshop gives you hands-on strategies grounded in real examples from Pre-K through Grade 12 across subject areas.

You will explore how AI saves time, creates multiple pathways for diverse learners, and strengthens planning.. You will learn to set clear expectations and boundaries for AI use in your classroom. You will also discover how to design authentic assessments that prepare students for an AI-integrated world.

Throughout the session, you will practice with prompts and tools you can adapt to your context. You will collaborate with colleagues and gather ready-to-use strategies for tomorrow's lessons.

You will leave with concrete classroom guidelines for student AI use, fresh assessment approaches, expanded ideas for AI-powered planning and instruction, and next steps you can implement right away - at any comfort level with AI.

Pamela Finnie**Counting on Fun: Leveraging UNO Cards for Literacy and Math in Early Education**

Pre-K - Grade 2

Join us for an engaging session presented by the MathImagin Foundation, where we will explore creative ways to use UNO cards as math tools to build foundational skills in early learners. Participants will discover hands-on strategies that integrate play into learning, fostering mathematical understanding and problem-solving. This session is designed for educators in Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2, aiming to make math learning interactive and effective.

Shelley Watt**From Chalkboards to Chromebooks: Thriving Through Change and Sustaining Educator Well-Being**

All levels

This session offers an engaging look at the evolution of education—from chalkboards and overhead projectors to Chromebooks and AI—through the lens of decades of firsthand experience. Participants will join an open, interactive conversation about inclusion, professional resilience, and mental wellness in today's schools. Together, you'll explore practical strategies for sustaining well-being, building strong relationships with students, colleagues, and parents, and embracing change with humor and heart.

Jesse Nordh**ELA Assessment Simplified: Clarity, Consistency, and AI Support**

Middle/High School

Effective assessment in junior-high/high school ELA begins with clarity—both in what we are measuring and how we record it. This session explores how focusing on school-wide literacy goals, simplifying gradebooks, and designing targeted reading and writing assessments can reduce workload while increasing accuracy. We'll examine practical strategies for building student-friendly rubrics, using exemplars, and marking specific skills without drowning in papers.

We'll also discuss how to responsibly integrate AI for content creation, feedback, and efficiency while maintaining professional oversight and academic integrity. Participants will leave with tools to improve marking consistency, strengthen parent communication, and better understand where students truly are in their reading and writing development, followed by time for collaborative discussion.

Rianna Ross & Angela Anderson**It's Not Defiance, Its Dysregulation: When Regulation Looks Like Refusal**

All levels

Have you ever worked with a student who resists every request, shuts down when asked to try, or seems to challenge every limit? At E2 Academy, we've learned that what looks like opposition is often a nervous system in distress. This session reframes "defiant" behaviour through a neuroaffirming and trauma-informed lens, exploring how stress, anxiety, and a Pervasive Drive for Autonomy can make everyday expectations feel unsafe.

Through practical examples from real classrooms, we'll share how small shifts—in language, environment, and relationships—can transform power struggles into opportunities for connection. Participants will leave with strategies that support autonomy, co-regulation, and emotional safety for all students, not just those with complex profiles.

Keith Penner**Relationship Based Advocacy**

All levels

This session explores the role that educators play in shaping dialogue with government and community. Participants will identify how to leverage their expertise, and steward their influence with clarity, integrity, and purpose. Through practical strategies – storytelling, community mobilization, and proactive relationship-building – you will discover how to frame issues effectively, communicate with credibility, and engage in meaningful advocacy.

Christy Filgate**Off-Campus, On-Track: Career Pathways That Work!**

High School; Grade 9

Make career exploration easy and engaging! Learn how to use off-campus programs like RAP, Work Experience, Dual Credit, and Green Certificate to connect students with real-world learning. Discover the academic counselling supports available through AISCA's Google Classroom, including detailed planning tools, credential checklists, and CAREERS internship resources. This session will show you how to streamline your school's off-campus processes while helping students find their path from classroom to career.

Telus World of Science**Exploring the New Curriculum Through
MakeCode Arcade Games****Elementary**

Strengthen your students' problem-solving skills and engage creatively with the curriculum by creating games in Microsoft MakeCode Arcade! This in-depth session will provide you with the foundational knowledge (and all the instructions!) to help your students design their own video games, then bring those games to life through block-based coding. Learn how computational thinking skills such as pattern recognition, algorithm design, and debugging are necessary when coding and how to connect games to curricular concepts in any subject. This session explores connections to the Computer Science curriculum for grades 4 and up. At the end of this session, we will share all the materials to use this program with your students.

A laptop, Chromebook, or tablet is required for this session.

Pamela Finnie**Basic Fact Mastery for Junior High
Without a Calculator**

Are your junior high students still struggling with basic facts? This session will show you a simple yet effective approach to help your students develop fluency including "chunking" facts into groups for ease of learning, developing efficient thinking strategies for each chunk, and the importance of practice. You will leave this session with a tried-and-true approach for achieving basic fact mastery.

Lesley Xu**Anxiety and Behavior in the Classroom****All levels**

This presentation is designed to help school staff better understand anxiety and how it presents through behavior in the classroom. This presentation provides a developmental overview of anxiety, discusses how the brain understands and reacts to anxiety, and provides practical strategies to support students. The goal is to foster effective classroom practices that are student-centered and compassionate to help recognize behavior as communication. This can help empower staff to respond in supportive ways.

Golda David**Reclaiming Curiosity: Re-awakening the Love of
Learning in Students with Home Education****All levels**

This session explores how the principles of home education can help rekindle that spark within independent schools. Drawing on stories and practices from flexible, learner-driven programs across Alberta, we'll look at how curiosity can become the driving force behind rigorous, meaningful education. Together, we'll examine how environments that honour choice, inquiry, and relationship don't just "work" for home-educated students — they work for all learners.

Lindsey Birrell**Scaffolding the CART Essay in 30-1 English
Language Arts****High School**

Even after years of developing their writing skills, many students still find essay writing to be an overwhelming task. In this session, I will share how I use hands-on activities and clearly structured systems to guide students through each stage of the writing process. This session will focus on practical strategies I use to scaffold the Critical/Analytical Response to Literary Texts, including:

- Hexagonal thinking for brainstorming, discussion, and creating visual supports in the classroom
- Diploma exemplars and colour coding to teach structure and organization
- Revision stations to actively engage students in editing and revising their work.

While the main emphasis will be on English 30-1, these strategies can be adapted for other high school English Language Arts courses.

Kimberley Fraser-Airhart**Métis Stories in Alberta – Advancing Competency
in TQS #5****All levels**

Tatawâw, all are welcome! Come and join an engaging session designed to support Alberta educators in their commitments to TQS #5, taking a moment to focus on Métis stories. Métis identity has been misunderstood in the past, reduced to either being "mixed" or a simple single story around Louis Riel. In this session, participants will be invited to engage with Métis pedagogical approaches while deepening their understanding of local Métis histories that they are connected to, how to bring these perspectives into their teaching, and why learning about the Métis strengthens us all as community members across Alberta.

Joey Bouchard**Play Fair, Talk Smart: Enhancing Cooperation and
Inclusion Through Communication and
Conflict Resolution****Grades 6–9**

This practical and engaging session is designed to equip teachers with effective strategies to foster enhanced cooperation, confident interaction, and genuine inclusion in games and physical activities. We will explore how developing strong communication and conflict resolution skills directly enhances students' ability to work together positively. Participants will be guided through a variety of hands-on activities that encourage self-reflection and provide opportunities to practice respectful communication, effective collaboration, and respectful relationship building skills.

Key session takeaways will focus on:

- Practical suggestions for integrating cooperative communication into any physical activity.
- Strategies for teaching students how to resolve conflict during play, emphasizing the essential roles of negotiation, compromise, and mediation.

Join us to learn how to create a more positive, confident, and collaborative environment in your gymnasium and classroom!

Telus World of Science**Robot Bootcamp****Elementary/Middle School**

Does your school have robots but you're not sure how to use them in your classroom? Strengthen your students' problem-solving skills and engage creatively with the curriculum through robotic exploration! This session will provide you with the foundational knowledge to help your students code a robot through block-based coding across multiple coding platforms. Learn how computational thinking skills such as pattern recognition, algorithm design, and debugging are necessary when coding and how to connect robotics to curricular concepts in any subject. Get hands-on experience with a robot and walk away with a few cross-curricular project ideas to use in your classroom! The skills learned in this workshop will be shown on multiple robots to help you transfer to what your school has access to.

Devices will be supplied for this session.

Pamela Finnie**Top 10 Numeracy Activities for Preschool/Kindergarten**

Join our interactive session of our top 10 numeracy activities for the preschool and kindergarten classroom. These activities are easy to implement, cross-curricular, low-cost, and fun! And you will be able to use them in the classroom the next day.

Lesley Xu**From Psychology Assessment to Action:****Developing IPP Goals****All levels**

Understanding psychoeducational assessments is key to creating meaningful and effective Individualized Program Plans (IPPs). This presentation will guide teachers and parents through the process of interpreting test results and turning them into clear, achievable goals and practical classroom strategies. Learn how to connect assessment data to student needs, build targeted supports, and promote student success.

Brian Hunter**Parents: Partners in Education****All levels**

When families and schools work together, students thrive. This session explores how meaningful parent-school partnerships enhance student learning, well-being, and school culture. Participants will consider how communication, trust, and shared responsibility strengthen the educational experience for every child.

Through practical examples and discussion, we will examine:

- The research and rationale behind strong parent engagement
- Effective ways parents can support learning and growth at home
- Strategies to foster open, positive relationships with families
- How schools and parents can collaborate to create consistent expectations and values
- Collaborating with parents of difficult students (and the occasional difficult parent)

Katrina Schoepp**Teaching Social Studies with Purpose: Supporting Every Learner From Ideas to Written Work****Middle/High School**

As a Language Arts and Social Studies teacher working with students with significant barriers in the classroom based on their Specific Learning Disorders, written assignments in social studies have been an ongoing area of concern for my students. These challenges have called me to rise to the occasion to think critically about how I design lessons to support student success.

The plan for my session is to support junior and senior high social studies teachers with designing their own assignments. Making them more aware of the challenges that struggling students have and supporting them in finding solutions. With tips and tricks and being mindful professionals, assignments can be a truer reflection of student understanding

Terynn Jensen**Practical Steps to Transform Your Elementary/Jr. High Math Lessons and Reach All Learners Using a Center-Based Model****Elementary/Middle School**

In this session, you'll discover how using a center-based approach can transform your elementary or junior high math classroom into an engaging, student-centred environment that meets the diverse needs of all learners. This approach has been highly effective in increasing student engagement, promoting independence, and allowing for more targeted support and differentiation in my math lessons. This structure allows students to engage in meaningful practice of previously taught outcomes while also providing opportunities for small-group or one-on-one instruction.

Joey Bouchard**Move & Map – Spatial Awareness****K-3**

Help students develop the fundamental skills of spatial awareness—a core component of the new Alberta curriculum. In this hands-on session, you will learn practical tips and tricks to support students in three critical areas:

- Navigating a structured space with confidence.
- Following complex, multi-step directional instructions.
- Using precise positional language (e.g., above, between, adjacent).

We will conclude with an activity that demonstrates how students can transition from spatial understanding to representation by creating a simple map or grid of their environment. Walk away with immediate strategies you can use in your classroom to build this essential life and academic skill.