EXECUTIVE FUNCTION, ATTENTION, AND STRESS: BUILDING RESILIENCY AND FOSTERING EQUITY FOR ALL STUDENTS

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 11–12, 2021 — ONLINE

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
This conference is designed for professionals in education, psychology, child development, speech and language pathology, school psychology, home-school education, and other related fields.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTION, ATTENTION, AND STRESS: BUILDING RESILIENCY AND FOSTERING EQUITY FOR ALL STUDENTS

This 36th Annual Executive Function Conference will address the close connections between executive function, stress, persistence, and school performance. This year’s virtual conference will emphasize the role of executive function as a cornerstone of equity in education. Presentations will focus on the importance of creating strategic classrooms by promoting metacognitive awareness, executive function strategies, persistence, and resilience in all students.

The conference will highlight practical strategies for promoting metacognition and executive function in all students from K-12 to college. We will address the following issues:

• How do executive function strategies build a foundation for equity in our classrooms and our schools?
• How do we promote executive function by teaching strategies for goal-setting, cognitive flexibility, organizing and prioritizing, accessing working memory, and self-monitoring so we can empower students to succeed in the classroom and during online learning?
• How do we promote students’ strengths in social-emotional areas so we reduce their anxiety and stress in the context of the classroom?
• How do executive function weaknesses affect the performance of students with LD, ADHD, ASD, and other learning difficulties?

This conference will include a combination of live plenary sessions, pre-recorded workshop sessions, and smaller break-out sessions in chat rooms to provide opportunities for in-depth discussion. The program will emphasize the application of theory and research to educational practice.
LYNN MELTZER, Ph.D.  
Conference Chair  
Dr. Lynn Meltzer is the President and Director of the Institutes for Learning and Development (ResearchILD and ILD) in Lexington, MA. She is a Fellow and Past-President of the International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities. She is the Founder and Program Chair of this Executive Function Conference, (formerly the Learning Differences Conference) which she has chaired for the past 35 years. For 30 years, she was an Associate in Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Child Development at Tufts University. Her 40 years of clinical work, research, publications, and presentations have focused on understanding the complexity of learning and attention problems. Her extensive publications include articles, chapters, and books, most recently, Executive Function in Education: From Theory to Practice (2018), Promoting Executive Function in the Classroom (2010) and The Power of Peers in the Classroom: Enhancing Learning and Social Skills (2015), co-edited with Karen Harris. Together with her ResearchILD staff, she has developed SMARTS, an evidence-based executive function and peer mentoring/coaching curriculum for elementary, middle, and high school students (www.smarts-ef.org).

LYNN MELTZER, Ph.D.  
Founder and Program Chair for 36 years, President and Director, Institutes for Learning and Development (ResearchILD and ILD)  

ANTHONY S. BASHIR, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Educational Consultant; Adjunct Professor, The Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Boston College  

DONNA CECILIA BOWEN, M.S.  
Learning Specialist, Merrick Academy Charter School, Queens, New York, and a ResearchILD EF & Equity Fellow  

KIM CARTER, M.Ed.  
Founder and Executive Director, Q.E.D. Foundation  

KIM DAVIS, M.Ed.  
Senior Associate for Research and Teacher Training, ResearchILD  

MAURICE ELIAS, Ph.D.  
Professor, Psychology Department, Rutgers University, Director, Social-Emotional and Character Development Lab; Co-Director, Rutgers-based Academy for SEL in Schools  

DAVID FLINK, Ed.M.  
Founder and Chief Empowerment Officer, Eye to Eye  

MICHAEL GRESCHLER, M.Ed.  
Director, SMARTS Program, ResearchILD; Educational Specialist, ILD  

RAINEET GOOMER, M.A.  
Director of Student Services, Robbinsville Public Schools  

JULIE JARVIS, Ed.D.  
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Fremont Public Schools, WY  

SUCHETA KAMATH, M.A., M.A., CCC-SLP, BC-ANCDS  
Founder/CEO of ExQ, LLC  

DONNA KINCAID, M.Ed.  
Assistant Director and Director of Outreach and Training, Institutes for Learning and Development (ResearchILD and ILD)  

SHELLY LEVY, M.Ed., M.S.  
SMARTS Curriculum Coordinator, ResearchILD; Educational Specialist, ILD  

GEORGE MCCLOSKEY, Ph.D.  
Professor and Director of Research, School of Professional and Applied Psychology, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine  

KIRSTINA MANNINO, M.Ed.  
Supervisor of Special Services, Robbinsville Public Schools  

DAVID MELNICK, LICSW  
Co-Director, Outpatient Services, Northeastern Family Institute, Vermont; Fellow, ChildTrauma Academy  

VERONICA MILLER, M.S.  
Instructional Facilitator at Arapahoe Schools, Wind River Reservation, WY  

LINDA NATHAN, Ed.D.  
Director of the Perrone-Sizer Institute for Creative Leadership (PSI); Strategic Partnership Advisor, Hale Education; Adjunct Lecturer, Harvard Graduate School of Education and Cambridge College  

PEDRO NOGUEIRA, Ph.D.  
Dean, Rossier School of Education; Distinguished Professor of Education, University of Southern California  

EMILY PETTY, B.S.  
6th grade teacher, Arapahoe Middle School, Wind River Reservation, WY  

REGINE PHILIPPEAUX, Ed.D.  
Deputy Chief of Equity and Strategy, Boston Public Schools  

MINDY SCRIRI, Ph.D.  
Learning (Dis)ability Specialist and Consultant, Learnabilities  

IRVIN SCOTT, Ed.D.  
Senior Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education  

JOAN SEDITA, M.Ed.  
Founder of Keys to Literacy  

BONNIE SINGER, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Founder and CEO of Vivido and Architects for Learning  

CAITLIN VANDERBERG, M.Ed.  
ResearchILD; Educational Specialist, ILD  

CHRIS WILLARD, PSY.D.  
Lecturer in Psychiatry, Part-Time Harvard Medical School Faculty  

The Institutes for Learning and Development websites:  
www.smarts-ef.org  
www.researchild.org  
www.ildlex.org
Thursday, November 11, 2021

8:30-8:50  Welcome  
Lynn Meltzer, Ph.D.

8:50-9:45  Creating Strategic Classrooms: Re-Engaging Students to Promote Self-Understanding and Resilience  
Lynn Meltzer, Ph.D.

9:45-10:00  Q & A

10:00-10:15  Break

10:15-11:05  Equity Detectives: The Heart of the Matter for Teachers and Schools*  
Irvin Scott, Ed.D.

11:05-11:20  Break

11:20-12:00  Panel: Executive Function and Equity in Schools: Success Stories from Administrators and Teachers  
Regine Philippeaux, Ed.D., Donna Bowen, M.S., Julie Jarvis, Ed.D., Veronica Miller, M.S., Emily Petty, B.S.

12:30-12:45  Q & A

12:45-1:15  Lunch Break

1:15-2:05  Educating Equitably After the Pandemic: Promoting Student Agency and Self-Understanding  
Pedro Noguera, Ph.D.

2:05-2:20  Q & A

2:20-2:35  Break

2:35-3:45  Panel: Addressing EF, Social-Emotional Learning Skills, and Classroom Learning: Practical Strategies that Work in Classrooms  

3:45  Closing Remarks  
Lynn Meltzer, Ph.D.

Friday, November 12, 2021

8:30-8:45  Overview  
Lynn Meltzer, Ph.D.

8:45-9:35  Strengthening Students’ Resilience through the Motivation-EF Connection  
George McCloskey, Ph.D.

9:35-9:45  Q & A

9:45-10:00  Break

10:00-10:50  Social Emotional Learning and Character Development: The Foundations of Safe and Successful Schools  
Maurice Elias, Ph.D.

10:50-11:00  Q & A

11:00-11:15  Break

11:15-12:05  Using Arts to Create Schools that Address Students’ Strengths and Embed Equity  
Linda Nathan, Ed.D.

12:05-12:15  Q & A

12:15-1:20  Lunch Break or SMARTS Optional Sessions

12:30-1:05  MetaCOG Online: A New Survey for Helping Teachers Understand Each Student’s EF Strengths and Challenges  
Lynn Meltzer, Ph.D., Kim Davis, M.Ed., Caitlin Vanderberg, M.Ed.

or

SMARTS and MTSS School-Wide: Administrator and School Leader Panel  

1:20-2:10  Identity, Advocacy, and Accommodations: Transitioning to a World After COVID  
David Flink, Ed.M.

2:10-2:20  Q & A

2:20-2:35  Break

2:35-3:30  Panel: Reducing Stress to Foster Success During Classwork and Homework  

3:30  Closing Remarks  
Lynn Meltzer, Ph.D.

* Due to an unforeseen circumstance, Dr. Irvin Scott will not be able to deliver his presentation live. His presentation will be broadcast via Zoom.

“Thank you for such an insightful and well-planned conference. Your work is so, so important!”  
2020 Conference Attendee
Thursday, November 11, 2021

8:50 AM, EST
Creating Strategic Classrooms: Re-Engaging Students to Promote Self-Understanding and Resilience
Lynn Meltzer, Ph.D.
Founder and Program Chair, President and Director, Institutes for Learning and Development

10:15 AM, EST
Equity Detectives: The Heart of the Matter for Teachers and Schools*
Irvin Scott, Ed.D.
Senior Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

1:15 PM, EST
Educating Equitably After the Pandemic: Promoting Student Agency and Self-Understanding
Pedro Noguera, Ph.D.
Dean, Rossier School of Education; Distinguished Professor of Education, University of Southern California

Friday, November 12, 2021

8:45 AM, EST
Strengthening Students’ Resilience through the Motivation-EF Connection
George McCloskey, Ph.D.
Professor and Director of Research, School of Professional and Applied Psychology, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

10:00 AM, EST
Social Emotional Learning and Character Development: The Foundations of Safe and Successful Schools
Maurice Elias, Ph.D.
Professor, Psychology Department, Rutgers University; Director, Social-Emotional and Character Development Lab; Co-Director, Rutgers-based Academy for SEL in Schools

11:15 AM, EST
Using Arts to Create Schools that Address Students’ Strengths and Embed Equity
Linda Nathan, Ed.D.
Director of the Perrone-Sizer Institute for Creative Leadership (PSI); Strategic Partnership Advisor, Hale Education; Adjunct Lecturer, Harvard Graduate School of Education and Cambridge College

1:20 PM, EST
Identity, Advocacy, and Accommodations: Transitioning to a World After COVID
David Flink, Ed.M.
Founder and Chief Empowerment Office, Eye to Eye

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Thursday, November 11, 2021

11:20 AM-12:45 PM EST
Panel: Executive Function and Equity in Schools: Success Stories from Administrators and Teachers
Regine Philippeaux, Ed.D., Deputy Chief of Equity and Strategy, Boston Public Schools
Donna Bowen, M.S., Learning Specialist, Merrick Academy Charter School, Queens, New York, and a ResearchILD EF & Equity Fellow
Julie Jarvis, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Fremont Public Schools, WY
Veronica Miller, M.S., Instructional Facilitator at Arapahoe Schools, Wind River Reservation, WY
Emily Petty, B.S., 6th grade teacher, Arapahoe Middle School, Wind River Reservation, WY

2:35-3:45 PM, EST
Panel: Addressing EF, Social-Emotional Learning Skills, and Classroom Learning: Practical Strategies that Work in Classrooms
Michael Greschler, M.Ed., Director, SMARTS Program, ResearchILD; Educational Specialist, ILD
Joan Sedita, M.Ed., Founder of Keys to Literacy
Kim Carter, M.Ed., Founder and Executive Director, Q.E.D. Foundation
Anthony S. Bashir, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Educational Consultant; Adjunct Professor, The Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Boston College
Bonnie Singer, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Founder and CEO of Vivido and Architects for Learning

“As always, it is a privilege to participate in this conference. There are so many fantastic takeaways to be immediately implemented. The content is cutting-edge and multidisciplinary.” 2020 Conference Attendee
2:35-3:30 PM, EST
Panel: Reducing Stress to Foster Success During Classwork and Homework

Donna Kincaid, M.Ed., Assistant Director and Director of Outreach and Training, Institutes for Learning and Development (ResearchILD and ILD)

Shelly Levy, M.Ed., M.S., Educational Specialist, ILD; SMARTS Curriculum Coordinator, ResearchILD

Sucheta Kamath, M.A., M.A., CCC-SLP, BC-ANCDS
Founder/CEO of ExQ, LLC

Mindy Scirri, Ph.D., Learning (Disability Specialist and Consultant, Learnabilities

Chris Willard, Psy.D., Lecturer in Psychiatry, Part-Time Harvard Medical School Faculty

David Melnick, LICSW, Co-Director, Outpatient Services, Northeastern Family Institute, Vermont; Fellow, ChildTrauma Academy

Optional SMARTS Lunchtime Sessions

12:30-1:05 PM, EST
MetaCOG Online: A New Survey for Helping Teachers Understand Each Student’s EF Strengths and Challenges
Lynn Meltzer, Ph.D., Kim Davis, M.Ed., Caitlin Vanderberg, M.Ed.

OR

SMARTS and MTSS School-Wide: Administrator and School Leader Panel
The following pre-recorded Concurrent Presentations can be viewed at anytime and all session recordings will be available through January 31, 2022.

**SMARTS Strand**

Executive Function and Organization: Unlocking Students’ Ability to Stay Organized  
*Michael Greschler, Ed.M. and Shelly Levy, M.Ed., M.S.*

Flexible Thinking: Practical Strategies to Improve Academic Performance and Reduce Stress  
*Donna Kincaid, M.Ed.*

Self-Monitoring and Self-Regulation: From School to Home and Back  
*Mindy Scirri, Ph.D.*

“You always seem to put together the perfect team of presentations. Just when you can’t imagine that it can get better, it does! Thanks for all the hard work.”

*2020 Conference Attendee*
General Strand

**Hate or Hurt: Rethinking Social Exclusion, Isolation, and the Need-To-Belong in ASD Youth**
*Sucheta Kamath, M.A., M.A., CCC-SLP, BC-ANCDS*

**Student Identity and Student Agency: Strategies for Engagement, Inclusion, and Equity**
*Kim Carter, M.Ed.*

**Mindfulness, Metacognition, and Stress Reduction**
*Chris Willard, Psy. D.*

**When Discourse Gets All Muddled: Executive Function Processes and Their Role in Speaking and Writing**
*Anthony S. Bashir, Ph.D., CCC-SLP and Bonnie Singer, Ph.D., CCC-SLP*

**Comprehension Strategy Instruction for Students with Executive Function Difficultie**
*Joan Sedita, M.Ed.*

**Transforming Trauma: Helping Schools Become Healing Places**
*David Melnick, LICSW.*