

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CLOSING THE GAP CONFERENCE

Closing the Gap: Practical Strategies for All Educators *Empowering Educators: Elevating Students*

Thursday, February 26, 2026

John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL

Closing the Gap Breakout Sessions

The Southern Illinois PreK-20 Education Alliance proudly presents an innovative opportunity to explore strategies and technologies that can transform traditional educational environments into engaging, student-centered learning spaces. The theme of the conference is **Empowering Educators: Elevating Students**. Breakout sessions will target topics such as personalized learning, flexible classroom designs, artificial intelligence, restorative practices, classroom management, the integration of digital tools, and collaborative teaching methods. Participants will learn about the importance of relationships in education, as well as gain insight, best practices, and actionable ideas that will benefit all educators and ESPs in efforts to support the students they serve.

This is the 25th year of the annual Closing the Gap conference with up to 250 area educators participating each year. Evaluations indicate that participants gain valuable knowledge and skills by attending this conference. Don't miss out! 5 Professional Development Hours (PDHs) will be offered.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

7:30 am	Registration/ Coffee and Donuts	WAYS TO REGISTER: Online: conferenceservices.siu.edu Phone: 618/536-7751 Fax: 618/453-5680
8:00 am	Welcome and Keynote Presentation	
9:30 am	Breakout Session I	
10:45 am	Breakout Session II	
11:45 pm	Lunch & Networking	
1:00 pm	Breakout Session III	
2:15 pm	Breakout Session IV	

Registration Form - Deadline to register: February 18, 2026

26M0901201

First name: _____ Last name: _____

District name: _____

District address: _____

District phone: _____ Email: _____

Role in district/occupation: _____ IEIN: _____

Check Area of Interest:

- ☐ Pre-service
- ☐ PreK/Early Childhood
- ☐ Elementary Education
- ☐ Middle School/Jr. High
- ☐ Secondary Education
- ☐ Alternative Education
- ☐ Higher Ed Faculty
- ☐ Administration
- ☐ Adult Education
- ☐ Community
- ☐ Education Support Professional

REGISTRATION FEE before January 23rd

- ☐ Professional \$60
- ☐ Ed Support Prof. \$30
- ☐ Student/Retiree \$20

REGISTRATION FEE after January 23rd

- ☐ Professional \$75
- ☐ Ed Support Prof. \$40

Payment (choose one):

- ☐ Credit Card
- ☐ Check
- ☐ Invoice School

Credit Card #:

Exp. Date:

CVC:

Name on Card:

Billing Address:

Email Address:

Mail to: Events and Outreach, SIU Carbondale, Mail Code 6705, 1265 Lincoln Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901

Please choose one (1) workshop from each session:

Session I — Breakout Sessions — 9:30 am

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8

Session II — Breakout Sessions — 10:45am

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8

Session III — Breakout Sessions — 1:00 pm

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8

Session VI — Breakout Sessions — 2:15 pm

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8