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PA Curriculum Leadership Summit

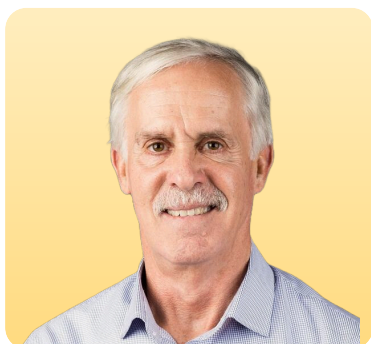
**From vision to system: Leading what's next
for Pennsylvania districts**

Monday, February 23rd, 2026 | 8 AM - 5 PM ET | Hershey Lodge, PA



Meet the speakers

Learn and connect with our keynote speakers, panelists, and workshop facilitators!



Jay McTighe

Author, Consultant, and Co-creator of the UbD framework



Richard Culatta

CEO, ISTE+ASCD



Missy Halcott

Director of Instructional Technology, West Shore School District



Charles Lentz

Superintendent, New Hope - Solebury School District



Brian Griffith

Superintendent, Penns Valley Area School District



John W. Zesiger

Assistant Superintendent, Penns Valley Area School District



Dustin Dalton

Director of Instruction and Data, Penns Valley Area School District



Ali Dondero

Senior Manager, Learning and Engagement, Toddle



Deepanshu Arora

CEO and Co-founder, Toddle



Event agenda

Time	Session	Description
8 AM <i>45 min</i>	Registrations and breakfast	Collect your name tag and Toddle goodies at our registration desk, and mingle with district leaders over breakfast.
8:45 AM <i>15 min</i>	Welcome to the event	
9 AM <i>60 min</i>	Designing an understanding-based curriculum and assessment system for your district <i>with Jay McTighe</i> Keynote	<p>How can we create a coherent and aligned pre-K-12 curriculum and assessment system that integrates Portrait of a Graduate competencies with academic content?</p> <p>In this session, Jay McTighe takes on this essential challenge facing public school leaders today</p> <p>Jay will outline a practical framework for building a cohesive curriculum and assessment system, aligned across the grades. He'll explore how to intentionally integrate Portrait of a Graduate competencies (as defined by your district's Mission) with academic content (as outlined in disciplinary standards), to create rich learning experiences that are both future-focused and grounded in deep disciplinary understanding. He'll also present Curriculum Mapping 3.0, an updated approach to focusing on desired student performances rather than simply mapping out the content that will be taught.</p> <p>In this session, you will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The elements of a "guaranteed and viable" pre-K-12 curriculum that integrates mission-based goals with academic content.• Ways of achieving a vertically aligned curriculum that "spirals" around big ideas and essential questions.• Ideas for mapping an authentic assessment system for gathering evidence on all valued learning outcomes.• Ways to enable greater student personalization while still obtaining worthy evidence for the transcript.

Time	Session	Description
<p>10 AM <i>40 min</i></p>	<p>Leading Change at Scale: Building AI-Ready School Systems</p> <p><i>Missy Halcott</i> <i>Charles Lentz</i></p> <p>Leadership Panel</p>	<p>AI is transforming how we design curriculum, teach, and connect—often faster than our systems, mindsets, and policies can adapt. Across the country, district leaders are wrestling with the same challenge: how to lead meaningful, people-centered change in an age defined by rapid technological growth.</p> <p>In this panel, district leaders will share how they’re building capacity across teams, fostering shared language, and supporting educators as AI becomes part of everyday teaching and learning. Together, they’ll unpack what it takes to lead with clarity, trust, and purpose when the future is moving this fast.</p> <p>You’ll take away:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies for leading systemwide change with alignment and intention. • Insights into how districts are building AI readiness through policy, culture, and professional learning. • Lessons from early AI initiatives: what’s working, what’s evolving, and what still needs rethinking.
<p>10:40 AM</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>	
<p>11:10 AM <i>30 min</i></p>	<p>Redefining Curriculum Design: An AI-Powered Planning & Mapping Platform</p> <p><i>Deepanshu Arora</i></p> <p>Host Spotlight</p>	<p>Curriculum is the backbone of a school system’s vision, yet most teams still rely on traditional, fragmented tools to design and manage it. In this session, we will explore Toddle, a next-generation platform purpose-built for curriculum planning, mapping, and publishing. With AI thoughtfully integrated throughout, the platform supports stronger alignment, smarter planning, and better collaboration.</p> <p>You’ll learn how curriculum teams can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and map curriculum across subjects and grade levels with clarity and control • Embed academic standards, competencies, and local priorities into dynamic, living frameworks • Use AI to streamline planning, scaffold unit design, and improve decision-making • Publish curriculum in accessible formats to increase transparency and community engagement

Time	Session	Description
<p>11:40 PM <i>45 min</i></p>	<p>Beyond Alignment: Using AI and Leadership Systems to Ensure Rigor and Results</p> <p><i>Dr. Brian Griffith Dr. John Zesiger Mr. Dustin Dalton</i></p> <p>Case Study</p>	<p>This session explores how the Penns Valley Area School District strengthened student achievement through a coherent curriculum and aligned assessment system, built in partnership with teachers.</p> <p>Through this session, participants will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Penns Valley built collaborative assessment design processes, reviewed student performance data, and leveraged AI tools to evaluate assessment rigor, cognitive demand, and alignment to standards • Strategies for establishing shared expectations around curriculum alignment, assessment quality, and accountability across schools and classrooms • Steps to refine curriculum and assessment systems that promote equity, rigor, and sustained student success
<p>12:25 AM</p>	<p>Lunch</p>	
<p>1:30 PM <i>60 min</i></p>	<p>Defining the Profile of an AI-Ready Graduate</p> <p><i>Richard Culatta</i></p> <p>Closing Keynote</p>	<p>Students need more than AI literacy. They need practice using AI to think, create, and problem-solve more efficiently.</p> <p>In this session, Richard Culatta introduces the Profile of an AI-Ready Graduate, a practical framework with six roles students should be able to take on with AI as a partner.</p> <p>Through examples, Richard will show how students can use AI to think more deeply, investigate complex ideas, generate creative solutions, connect across differences, and communicate with clarity.</p> <p>Through this session, you will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the six roles in the Profile of an AI-Ready Graduate and how they build on students' human strengths. • Explore practical ways students can use AI to deepen thinking, expand creativity, and solve problems. • Identify opportunities to integrate AI-supported human skills into curriculum, instruction, and schoolwide learning experiences.
<p>2:30 PM onwards</p>	<p>Toddle Mixer</p>	<p>Relax with complimentary drinks as you reconnect with fellow school leaders and build new relationships.</p>