

Schedule at a Glance..

Friday, April 19

Function	Time	Room
Welcome Reception	6:00-8:00PM	GARDEN COURT

Saturday, April 20

Function	Time	Room	Session	Summary Page
Breakfast	7:30-9:00AM	GARDEN COURT	Breakfast & Exhibits	
Opening Plenary	9:00-10:00AM	GRAND BALLROOM 1+2	The 100 Year School: Sustaining Innovation and Building Legacies in Hybrid Schools	Pg 6
Session 1	10:15-11:15AM	ANDOVER	Measure What Matters	Pg 6
		ASCOT	Empowering Educational Freedom...	Pg 6
		BRAYTON	Unlocking Government Funded Programs	Pg 6
		RONDELET	Create the Learning Program of Your Dreams	Pg 7
		WAVERLY	Engaging Hybrid Leaders on School Choice Issues	Pg 7
		WILTON	Small is Scalable...	Pg 7
Exhibits Open	11:15-11:45AM	GARDEN COURT	Exhibits Open	
Session 2	11:45-12:45PM	ANDOVER	Relevant, Immersive Learning For ALL Students	Pg 8
		ASCOT	For Microschools, Dynamism is the New Sustainability	Pg 8
		BRAYTON	The What, Where, and Why of Educational School Choice Programs	Pg 8
		RONDELET	Developing an Ownership Strategy	Pg 8
		STATELY	Hybrid Co-ops & Resource Learning Centers...	Pg 9
		WAVERLY	Differentiation is Not Just for Students...	Pg 9
		WILTON	Should Your School Participate in Your State's ESA or Voucher Program?	Pg 9
Lunch + Keynote	12:45-2:00PM	GRAND BALLROOM 1+2	"Build It To Last... Beyond You"	
Session 3	2:15-3:15PM	ANDOVER	Academic Research on Hybrid Schools	Pg 10
		ASCOT	Collaboration as a Vehicle for School Choice	Pg 10
		BRAYTON	Preparing Teens for Their Futures	Pg 10
		RONDELET	Virtual = Flexible...	Pg 10
		STATELY	PechaKucha Presentations	Pg 11
		WAVERLY	KaiPod Catalyst: Microschools of the Future	Pg 11
		WILTON	Navigating the Education Frontier...	Pg 11
Closing Plenary	3:30-4:30PM	GRAND BALLROOM 1+2	Sustaining Innovation & Expanding Reach by Hybrid Schools	Pg 11

OPENING PLENARY: 9:00-10:00AM

The 100-Year School: Sustaining Innovation and Building Legacies in Hybrid Schools

Room: Grand Ballroom 1+2

Presented By: Lori Lane, Artios Academies / Robert Randolph, Kennesaw State University - Family Enterprise Center / Shiren Rattigan, InEd-South Florida / Eric Wearne, Kennesaw State University

SESSION 1: 10:15-11:15AM

Measure What Matters: Learner Outcomes in Nontraditional Education

Room: Andover

VELA recently surveyed its national network of founders to better understand how they define, measure, and use learner outcomes. The findings confirm that founders have an expansive view of learner success and apply a variety of methods for engaging learners and assessing their progress. Join the session to hear trends and insights on accountability from across the VELA Founder Network. Founders will share a variety of approaches used to ensure their learning environment is meeting its ultimate goal—best meeting the needs of the learners and families that they serve.

Ashley Causey-Golden, Gather Forest School / Serena Dutch, VELA / Mercedes Grant, Path of Life Learning / Christine Torre, TandemEDU

Empowering Education Freedom: Entrepreneurs Leading Calls for Policy Reform

Room: Ascot

Education entrepreneurs are transforming education from a one size fits all system to an individualized approach that enables each child to learn about themselves and develop their unique interests and aptitudes. This change from a standardized approach to one that recognizes the individuality of every child breaks away from the uniform approach to education that mirrored the industrial revolution. Unfortunately, education policy still manifests requirements that impose a lock-step approach to education. So, what can be done? How can entrepreneurs become catalysts for policy change, unlocking the potential for widespread education freedom fostering individualized learning?

Michael Donnelly, yes. every kid. foundation. / Matt Frendeway, yes. every kid. foundation. / Jane McEnaney, State Policy Network / Dalena Wallace, AIM Educational Collaborative LLC

Unlocking Government-Funded Programs

Room: Brayton

In 2023, the American education landscape underwent a revolutionary shift, marked by the rise of the education freedom movement. Major policy changes unfolded, including five education savings account programs, a refundable tax credit program, and the expansion of three existing voucher programs. This unprecedented wave of advancement has opened doors for families and entrepreneurs alike, offering opportunities for families to explore education options that meet the individualized needs of their children. But as the education sector embraces these changes, questions remain: How do these bills get translated from legislation to implemented programs? What can entrepreneurs expect when engaging with state regulators or program administrators? How can entrepreneurs influence decisions made as part of the programs? What are the benefits and drawback of participating in government-funded programs?

Whitney Marsh, yes. every kid. foundation. / Lynn Swanson, yes. every kid. foundation. / John Ward, ESA Director, State of Arizona

SESSION 1: 10:15-11:15AM (Continued)

Create the Learning Program of Your Dreams

Room: Rondelet

Do you have an idea of creating a learning program but just don't know how to get started? This session will inspire you to take your ideas from dreams and turn them into realities! Tarla Gernert, the founder of Homeschool Connections, co-founder of HighPoint Hybrid, and the mentor/coach in the start up of several other programs, will share her journey with you, giving pointers on what to do and what to avoid. Her journey will inspire and encourage you to move from dreaming it to making it a reality!

Tarla Gernert, Homeschool Connections and HighPoint Hybrid / Don VanDaele, HighPoint Hybrid Education / Lindsey VanDaele, HighPoint Hybrid Education

Engaging Hybrid Leaders on School Choice Issues

Room: Waverly

There are two major factors leading to increased scrutiny of less conventional educational options: the growing popularity of them and the expansion of school choice. Increased scrutiny is often accompanied by calls for increased regulations. Often times these regulations will even affect providers and homeschoolers who aren't participating in any school choice programs. As such, it's critical that hybrid school leaders stay engaged on the policy front. We'll discuss examples and lessons learned from other states. We'll also share practical strategies hybrid leaders can utilize to advocate for autonomy and against regulatory expansion. We will leave plenty of time for questions to be sure session attendees can get their specific concerns addressed.

Jamie Buckland, West Virginia Families United for Education / Jon England, Libertas Institute / Colleen Hroncich, Cato Institute

Small is Scalable: How Microschools & Similar Models are Making a Big Impact

Room: Wilton

Alternative education models such as microschoools, pods, hybrid homeschools, and similarly innovative programs are often ignored or dismissed as being insignificant due to their small size. But small is scalable. In this session, Kerry describes the big impact small schools and spaces are having on the wider U.S. education system and explains how this movement is only just getting started.

Kerry McDonald, Foundation for Economic Education

Relevant, Immersive Learning for ALL Students

Room: Andover

Four microschool leaders and founders of independently formed schools will share their favorite moments, their shoulda/woulda/coulda moments, and what their vision is for the future of their microschools. These panelists represent young microschools navigating the freedom and innovation that comes with it. Microschools empower educators to transform everyday learning. Microschools have the opportunity and flexibility to offer a unique and innovative approach to education that not only allows for meaningful learning but also enriches the child's life through powerful experiences. This approach to learning requires the space and time for learners to navigate their world authentically. Hear what their students and parents are saying about the changes they have made and why they love it! Bye-bye heavy textbooks, boring lectures, and standardized tests, hello world! As students grow, learning should continue to be positive and engaging - come learn how to make that happen.

Ashley Brodbeck, Riverside Education / Mercedes Grant, Path of Life Learning / Hannah Holguin, Masterpiece Academy / Becky McNichols, Rooted Life Academy

For Microschools, Dynamism is the New Sustainability

Room: Ascot

What does "Sustainability" mean in today's microschool movement, how to keep your doors open, commitment to close successfully, and why microschool ecosystems are embracing dynamism.

Ashley Soifer, National Microschooling Center / Don Soifer, National Microschooling Center

The What, Where, and Why of Private Educational Choice Programs

Room: Brayton

Join EdChoice senior research analyst John Kristof as he catches you up on the movement of programs allowing public funds to flow to private K-12 educators. Using interactive polling technology, attendees will collectively explore how they see innovative schooling models fitting in school choice states.

John Kristoff, EdChoice

Developing an Ownership Strategy

Room: Rondelet

This session considers overlaps between hybrid schools and family enterprise to consider how Ownership Strategies, a seminal topic in family business, may be equally relevant to hybrid school owners and entrepreneurs. During this breakout, faculty from the Family Enterprise Center will introduce and discuss the topic of Ownership Strategies and provide some guidance for how to get started developing your own. Primary topics include goal setting, long-term planning, and strategic management.

Sara Davis, KSU - Family Enterprise Center / Robert Randolph, KSU - Family Enterprise Center

SESSION 2: 11:45AM-12:45PM (*Continued*)

Hybrid Co-ops & Resource Learning Centers - The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Room: Stately

When homeschoolers work together in co-ops or decide to join a resource learning center for some classes or tutoring, it is often the best thing they've ever found. Meanwhile, those administrating these centers deal with much more than just fun classes. This session will go into some of the wonderful benefits of these hybrid solutions for those who choose to homeschool, but also explore some of the "not-so-fun" things and try to come up with good strategies dealing with a lot of them. Audience participation will be welcomed to participate in brainstorming ideas for common challenges.

Elmarie Hyman, Learn Beyond the Book / Eric Manangon, Learn Beyond the Book

Differentiation is Not Just for Students: Specialization in Hybrid and Microschool Professional Development and Teacher Training

Room: Waverly

Sharon Masinelli, founder, science teacher, and administrator, will present the progression of professional development and a teacher mentorship program at St. John the Baptist Hybrid School. Three experienced hybrid school teachers from various backgrounds will discuss their experience prior to teaching in a hybrid school and what protocols provided the best training for teaching in a hybrid environment. They will also share their expert tips for hybrid and microschool teaching. This session will involve a high level of audience participation with activities and discussions to address challenges and questions from the participants.

Lori Dimond, St. John the Baptist Hybrid School / Susan Gonzalez, St. John the Baptist Hybrid School / Priya Johnson, St. John the Baptist Hybrid School / Sharon Masinelli, St. John the Baptist Hybrid School / Sharon Masinelli, St. John the Baptist Hybrid School

Should Your School Participate in Your State's ESA or Voucher Program?

Room: Wilton

Over 13 states now have an Education Savings Account program codified in law, there are 17 states with over 20 various voucher programs. The inner workings of these programs is convoluted. How is a school leader to determine if participating in the program is a right fit for them? In WV, program troubles led to many providers choosing to not participate shortly after the initial launch. A lot of work has gone into rebuilding trust in the program to help them get signed up. School leaders need to be able to rely on accurate, up-to-date information on their state's program to ensure their compliance. Where does that come from? Who should they be talking to and what questions should they be asking? Utah Fits is set to launch very soon and Jon England from Libertas Institute has been focused on outreach to connect with school leaders from across the state who are looking to participate. What does that look like and who should these other school leaders be connected to if they want to learn more?

Jamie Buckland, West Virginia Families United for Education / Jon England, Libertas Institute / Kim Goates, Canyon Grove Academy / Missy Mohr, City On a Hill Christian Academy

SESSION 3: 2:15-3:15PM

Academic Research on Hybrid Schools

Room: Andover

In this session, we will examine recent and ongoing academic research focused on Hybrid Schools, with topics focusing on the evolving characteristics of hybrid schools and their students, and the characteristics of successful hybrid schools.

Matt Lee, Kennesaw State University / John Thompson, Kennesaw State University / Angela Watson, Johns Hopkins University

Collaboration as a Vehicle for School Choice

Room: Ascot

What is collaboration and how do you use it in your community? This panel will explore how collaborative efforts among educators, parents, students, and community members can create a more dynamic and inclusive educational environment.

Toni Frallicciardi, InEd-South Florida / Shiren Rattigan, InEd-South Florida / Dalena Wallace, AIM Educational Collaborative LLC

Preparing Teens for Their Future

Room: Brayton

Years ago, by the time a child reached 12 years old, they were doing real life work. By 18, they were building houses, soon starting families and running their own farms and businesses. In these modern times, teens are often discouraged from doing any "real life" work and their exposure to it is very limited. Instead, they are required to sit in a seat all day, are told how and what to think, and what to know. We then wonder why they are directionless in life and fail to launch into their own lives. This workshop will explore what is important for teens to know so they can be prepared to confidently step into the next phase of their lives. We will discuss tools, resources, and opportunities available to them. Please feel free to bring resources that you have found helpful to share, as well.

Keith Gernert, Homeschool Connections and HighPoint Hybrid / Tarla Gernert, Homeschool Connections and HighPoint Hybrid

Virtual = Flexible: Accessing Public Education Funding in States That Don't Offer ESAs or Vouchers

Room: Rondelet

In a state that doesn't offer ESA's or flexibility for hybrid education, virtual status can provide flexibility and state funding to hybrid programs. Hybrid, publicly-funded schools are possible even in states with restrictive education laws. There are many ways to develop and operate a hybrid program with state funding. Students can be full or part time. Come learn how virtual status can help innovate schools to obtain state funding.

Jaminda Springer, Hillsdale Classical Family Learning Community

SESSION 3: 2:15-3:15PM (*Continued*)

PechaKucha Presentations

Room: Stately

Pecha Kucha presentations use a concise format where presenters deliver a series of 20 slides with images, each displayed for 20 seconds, resulting in a total presentation time of 6 minutes and 40 seconds. By only using images and spoken words, the goal of a Pecha Kucha is to tell a story rather than describe a slide. Check out this session to experience this dynamic presentation style and to hear the stories of other hybrid/micro schools and organizations.

Rachel Frevert, Integrative Learning Academy / Jill Haskins, Streams of Hope Christian School / Elmarie Hyman, Learn Beyond the Book / Sharon Masinelli, St. John the Baptist Hybrid School / Kanteasa Rowell, Legacy Microschool

KaiPod Catalyst: Microschools of the Future

Room: Waverly

KaiPod Catalyst is an accelerator for entrepreneurial educators to launch their own microschools in their communities. Twice a year, KaiPod recruits the highest-caliber educators and provides them the support, expertise, and resources they need to create and sustain innovative microschools. Over the course of 28 weeks, Founders in the KaiPod Catalyst program will take their microschool vision from "Idea" to "Launch." The KaiPod team supports them in all aspects of launching their microschool, including marketing, raising capital, selecting a site, operations, hiring, and academic programming. This session includes a panel discussion with members of the KaiPod Catalyst Cohort.

Jeana Buckner, Twiddle U / Tom Dowell, Moreana Boys Academy / Benita Gordon, GGEC Academy / Ryan Holmes, KaiPod Learning / Amanda Nesbot-Lucas, Lucas Literacy Labs

Navigating the Education Frontier: Challenges and Triumphs of Education

Entrepreneurs

Room: Wilton

Entrepreneurs are at the forefront of a movement to transform education. These individuals recognize that every child deserves to be treated with dignity and given the opportunity to develop their unique talents. As a result, entrepreneurs are creating unconventional learning environments that move away from the one size fits all system to an individualized approach. As innovators forging a new path, entrepreneurs must navigate a complicated web of state and local regulations ranging from compulsory education laws, homeschool laws, private school regulations, child care regulations, building and fire codes to zoning laws. Join the panel members as they unravel the biggest hurdles faced by entrepreneurs and discover strategies to overcome them.

Michael Donnelly, yes. every kid. foundation. / Lynn Swanson, yes. every kid. foundation. / Tiffany Blassingame, The Ferguson School / Tiffany Coleman, yes. every kid. foundation.

CLOSING PLENARY: 3:30-4:30PM

Sustaining Innovation and Expanding Reach by Hybrid Schools

Room: Grand Ballroom 1+2

Presented By: Robert Enlow, EdChoice / Dalena Wallace, AIM Educational Collaborative LLC / Eric Wearne, Kennesaw State University