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PRE-CONFERENCE LEARNING SESSIONS

MASCA
Massachusetts School Counselors Association

Monday, April 5 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. with lunch break*

The Pre-Conference Learning Sessions are only available to in-person attendees. They are not available for the virtual option.

The Pre-Conference Learning Sessions are an additional opportunity for more professional development and CEU contact hours. The sessions generally cover more in-depth information and allow more opportunity for discussion.

These sessions are not included in the conference registration fee.

1. Ethics Unscripted: Real Dilemmas, Real Solutions for School Counselors

Mindy Cripps

Forget the typical ethics lecture. This isn't a chat about abstract principles—this is a dynamic, immersive dive into the real dilemmas you face every single day in school counseling, where ethics aren't something separate from your work; they're woven into every conversation, every decision, every interaction with students and families. This interactive 3-hour workshop throws you into the messy complexity of authentic scenarios through compelling case studies and collaborative problem-solving with counselors from across districts.

You'll develop a practical ethical framework for navigating the toughest situations: protecting confidentiality while honoring parental rights, managing challenging and contentious parent dynamics that test your boundaries and advocacy, supporting LGBTQ+ students in diverse and sometimes resistant school environments, protecting student information in a digital age, and presenting urgent student needs to administrators in language they can't ignore. Through engaged dialogue and hands-on exploration, you'll discover how to advocate fiercely for your students while managing dual relationships, professional boundaries, and the competing pressures that come from every direction. Leave with concrete strategies, decision-making tools, and the confidence that comes from knowing your colleagues are wrestling with the same ethical complexities—and that there are solutions.

Presented by Mindy Cripps and other members of the Ethics Committee.

2. Family Engagement as a Relational Practice

Gloria Wojtaszek

Despite the widespread use of district communication platforms, many families continue to experience one-way, transactional communication. This interactive workshop explores why technology alone cannot replace relationship-centered outreach. Participants will examine the systems and routines that shape family engagement, identify where communication defaults to information sharing rather than authentic partnership, and use a practical audit tool to evaluate one of their own engagement practices.

Grounded in research showing that engagement outcomes are driven by the design of organizational routines, not simply individual effort, participants will leave with practical strategies to strengthen proactive family engagement.

* Lunch is included

3. From Ideas to Impact: Building Sustainable MTSS Practices

Terri Tchorzynski

Are you tired of generating innovative ideas for the development and implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) that ultimately fade away? This interactive session will provide school counselors and educational leaders with the essential tools to create and sustain MTSS practices that not only enhance student behavioral health, but also promote academic success, attendance, and social-emotional well being.

In this dynamic and engaging workshop, participants will delve into the principles of implementation science, empowering themselves to refine leadership, enhance coaching practices, and optimize data systems for accountability to strengthen the fidelity of implementation. Leave with a personalized action plan, ready-to-use tools, and strategies to move from ideas to impact.

4. Implementing Tier I Elementary SEL Curriculum: Foundational Strategies for Design and Delivery

Aaron VanDeKoppel

Whether you're building an SEL curriculum from scratch, delivering a district-purchased program, or somewhere in between, the curriculum itself matters less than the foundations beneath it. This session offers practical strategies for tier I planning and delivery – delivery models, scheduling, teacher collaboration, equity/inclusion considerations, data, core content overlap, and creativity – anchored to what makes solid SEL instruction: strong relationships, student-centered engagement, and essential skill-building. Participants leave with strategies to strengthen their tier I SEL program.

5. Job Market 101: What They Don't Teach You in Grad School

Ryan Beck

Landed an interview but unsure how to showcase your practicum experience? Confused by MA hiring timelines and salary scales? This session bridges the gap between graduate training and landing your first school counseling position. We'll decode job postings, craft compelling application materials that highlight your internship work, tackle common interview questions, and identify role clarity red flags.

You'll leave with practical strategies for building a portfolio, negotiating offers, and understanding MA contracts. Whether you're job searching now or preparing for next year's cycle, gain the insider knowledge grad school didn't cover to confidently navigate the hiring process.

6. Making MyCAP Meaningful with the Redesigned MEFA Pathway

Jennifer Bento-Pinyoun

Bring MyCAP to life using the redesigned MEFA Pathway to support MyCAP goals and objectives. In this interactive workshop, explore practical strategies for creating meaningful MyCAP experiences across grades 6–12 while leveraging tools for career exploration, goal setting, Work-Based Learning, and reporting. Learn how district and school leaders can use data and reports to monitor student progress, measure engagement, and support MyCAP implementation. Leave with practical resources and actionable ideas to strengthen MyCAP in your school or district.

7. Navigating Tier 1: Curriculum Planning, Data, and Innovative Advocacy for Your Program

Ali Robidoux

Transform your counseling practice from reactive to proactive! In this interactive 3-hour lab, participants will navigate waves of innovation by building a complete Tier 1 system. Attendees will map a strategic annual calendar, align ASCA standards with engaging lessons, build pre/post data tools, and create an advocacy pitch to share impact data with your school community. Learn to use data to demonstrate how Tier 1 programming moves key school metrics and closes achievement gaps. Come ready to collaborate and leave with a complete Tier 1 curriculum map and advocacy toolkit.

8. Strong Systems, Inclusive Communities: Supporting Substantially Separate Programs

Kate Regal

Students in substantially separate programs thrive when strong educational supports are paired with meaningful opportunities for inclusion, connection, and belonging. School counselors play a vital role in creating these conditions by fostering relationships, advocating for equitable access, supporting social-emotional development, and collaborating with educators, families, and support staff.

In this interactive workshop, participants will examine the counselor's role in promoting inclusive school communities, identify barriers to participation and belonging, and explore practical strategies to strengthen collaboration, increase access to school experiences, and support meaningful engagement and success for all students.

IN-PERSON EXPERIENCE OR VIRTUAL OPTION

MASCA
Massachusetts School Counselors Association

Virtual Option Offered

We are excited that the 2027 MASCA Conference will offer both an in-person experience and a virtual option! Whether you would like to getaway from your routine or stay in the comfort of your own home, we have options for you.

All who register will have access to the virtual conference portal. The portal will have prerecorded breakout sessions covering multiple topics available to view when the conference begins on April 5, 2026.

All sessions in the online portal will be available to view until May 31, 2027.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MASCA
Massachusetts School Counselors Association

Tuesday, April 6 | 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.



Courageous Redesign: Designing Proactive Systems for Stronger Student Outcomes

Terri Tchorzynski

ABOUT THIS SESSION: Over the last few years it has become evident that the plates of school counselors across the nation have become increasingly full of challenges, such as staff shortages, increased mental health needs for adults and students, increased rates of truancy, decreased rates of academic achievement, and a noticeable lack of social skills and conflict resolution across all developmental stages. This list could go on!

Redesigning our systems to be more proactive is an essential part of breaking the cycle of reactivity that oftentimes leads to burnout and frustrations. Discover frameworks, strategies, and best practices that will leave you feeling empowered to embrace new concepts that may be unfamiliar and uncomfortable at first, but might be exactly the new approach that is needed to transform our student supports to be more comprehensive across all service providers, preventative in practice, and inclusive of ALL students.

SPEAKER BIO: Terri is a nationally recognized school counselor, educator, and passionate advocate for comprehensive, data-informed programs that emphasize intentional, proactive systems. With nearly 25 years of diverse experience that encompasses classroom instruction, school counseling, professional coaching/consultation, and leadership at both state and national levels, she has earned a reputation as a go-to speaker for impactful, practitioner-focused strategies that drive immediate implementation and results.

As a former National School Counselor of the Year and a pioneer in leading the transformation of her department from a reactive program into one of Michigian's first schools recognized as an ASCA Model Program (RAMP), Terri possesses a wealth of expertise and experience. Her approach is rooted in repositioning current realities and challenges to develop solution-focused strategies that deliver immediate results.

Guided by her passion for fostering educational excellence, Terri thrives on facilitating professional learning by equipping school counselors and educators with practical strategies, best practices, and resources to positively impact student outcomes. She is dedicated to redesigning systems to be more equitable and inclusive, ensuring they reflect the diversity of the entire school community. She is committed to developing accountability frameworks that place students at the heart of desired outcomes.

Terri will also be presenting one pre-conference session and one breakout session.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

MASCA
Massachusetts School Counselors Association

Monday, April 5, 2027

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Sessions
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (Pre-Conference Participants Only)
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Breakout Session 1
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Break with Exhibitors
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Breakout Session 2
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Extended Break with Exhibitors
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Breakout Session 3
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Bingo and Evening Reception (Includes Drink Ticket and Appetizers)

Tuesday, April 6, 2027

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Registration and Information Center Open
7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Welcome & Keynote – Terri Tchorzynski
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Breakout Session 4
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	SIG meetings
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Awards Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Break with Exhibitors
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Breakout Session 5
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Break with Exhibitors
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Breakout Session 6
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Membership Meeting and Raffles
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting

MASCA Massachusetts School Counselors Association

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Before registering for the conference, please visit www.masca.wildapricot.org/join-us and become a member or renew your annual membership.

REGISTRATION FORM (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME (as it should appear on name badge) _____

JOB TITLE - (REQUIRED PLEASE) _____

ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL DISTRICT _____

WORK ADDRESS _____ COUNTY _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CELL PHONE ( ) _____ WORK PHONE ( ) _____

ATTENDEE EMAIL (REQUIRED FOR CONFIRMATION) _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ PHONE ( ) _____

DO YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE **MONDAY EVENING RECEPTION**? ☐ YES ☐ NO

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: ☐ MOBILITY NEEDS ☐ LANGUAGE INTERPRETER OTHER: _____

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: ☐ GLUTEN FREE ☐ VEGETARIAN ☐ VEGAN ☐ DAIRY-FREE

MASCA MEMBER NUMBER _____

A. Main Conference April 5-6, 2027

	IN PERSON				VIRTUAL ONLINE			
	MEMBER*			NON-MEMBER**	MEMBER*			NON-MEMBER**
	PROFESSIONAL	STUDENT	RETIREE		PROFESSIONAL	STUDENT	RETIREE	
Early Registration*** (By Jan 31)	$225	$115	$145	$285	$130	$70	$70	$200
Regular Registration (After Jan 31)	$249	$140	$160	$305	$145	$80	$80	$215

All in person registration will include access to the online platform.

B. Pre-Conference (In Person Only) April 5, 2027

PLEASE CHECK WHICH SESSION YOU'LL BE ATTENDING, YOU MAY ONLY CHOOSE ONE SESSION

	MEMBER*			NON-MEMBER**
	PROFESSIONAL	STUDENT	RETIREE	
☐ 1. Ethics Unscripted: Real Dilemmas, Real Solutions for School Counselors (Cripps) ☐ 2. Family Engagement as a Relational Practice (Wojtaszek) ☐ 3. From Ideas to Impact: Building Sustainable MTSS Practices (Tchorzynski) ☐ 4. Implementing Tier 1 Elementary SEL Curriculum (VanDeKoppel) ☐ 5. Job Market 101: What They Don't Teach You in Grad School (Beck) ☐ 6. Making MyCAP Meaningful with the Redesigned MEFA Pathway (Bento-Pinyoun) ☐ 7. Navigating Tier 1 (Robidoux) ☐ 8. Strong Systems, Inclusive Communities (Regal)	$85	$30	$70	$140

* Membership must be good through April 6, 2027 to qualify for these rates.

** If you register for the Main Conference as a Non-Member you will receive a complimentary MASCA membership. Pre-Conference Only registration does not include a complimentary MASCA membership.

*** To qualify for the Early Registration Rate, your registration form AND payment (copy of your purchase order, check, or credit card) must be received or postmarked by the Early Registration cutoff date.

(A) Main Conference (In Person or Virtual) $ _____

(B) Pre-Conference (In Person Only) $ _____

Total Due (A + B) $ _____

REGISTRATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT PAYMENT. PLEASE SEND PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION FORM(S) TOGETHER.

How and Where Do I Pay?

	WEBSITE	EMAIL	FAX	PHONE	MAIL
CREDIT CARD	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
PURCHASE ORDER		✔	✔		✔
CHECK					✔

WEBSITE: www.ncyionline.org/mascac

EMAIL: registrations@ncyi.org

FAX: 423-899-4547

PHONE: 866-318-6294

MAIL: National Center for Youth Issues
P.O. Box 22185
Chattanooga, TN 37422-2185

Please make your check or purchase order payable to: ***National Center for Youth Issues.***

A W-9 is available on the website.

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ **PURCHASE ORDER** A COPY OF THE PURCHASE ORDER IS REQUIRED.
(PAYABLE TO NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH ISSUES, P.O. BOX 22185, CHATTANOOGA, TN 37422-2185)

☐ **CHECK ENCLOSED** (MADE PAYABLE TO NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH ISSUES)

☐ **CREDIT CARD** ☐ PERSONAL ☐ CORPORATE

CARD NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____ CID# _____

NAME ON CARD (PLEASE PRINT) _____

CREDIT CARD BILLING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____ EMAIL _____

CANCELLATION POLICY: If we are forced to cancel the MASCA Conference because of a "force majeure" event, such as a government restriction on large gatherings that cover the intended size of the conference, then we will issue full refunds of the registrations. Otherwise, our normal cancellation policy will be upheld: There will be no refunds after March 5, 2027. All cancellations before March 5, 2027 will be refunded less a $25 handling fee. The conference is not responsible for and cannot give refunds due to problems beyond its control such as weather or school closings.

On social distancing and other health and safety measures, the regulations/guidelines that apply to hotels and conference centers may change. The MASCA Conference will conform to all necessary regulations/guidelines that are in place as of the date of the conference.

If you transfer your registration from Virtual to In person (or vice-versa), a $25 transaction fee will apply.

ACCOMMODATIONS



Renaissance Framingham Hotel & Conference Center

1657 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01701









Make Hotel Reservations Early! Limited Availability!

All events of the conference will be located at the Renaissance Framingham Hotel. Standard rooms at the hotel may be reserved at a special conference rate of **$175 plus tax. This rate is valid through March 5, 2027.**

For phone reservations, call Marriott reservations at **1-888-236-2427**. Please mention the dates of the conference (March 15-17, 2027), the "Renaissance Framingham Hotel" and the "Massachusetts School Counselors Association Conference" to receive the preferred conference rate. Code: ASCASCC

Register Online:

Go to **www.ncyionline.org/mascac**. Under the "Accommodations" section follow the instructions for the hotel's reservation system.

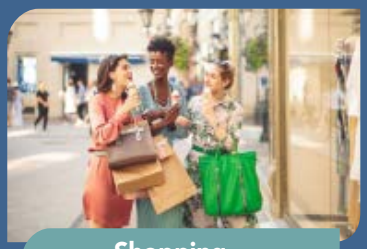
Relax and Recharge

After full conference days, it's nice to have easy options nearby to relax or enjoy a change of pace — and just a few miles from the hotel, the **Natick Mall** offers dining, shopping, and entertainment all in one convenient location.



Dining & Coffee

- Casual and sit-down dining options
- Coffee shops and dessert spots
- *Examples include: The Buckley Kitchen & Bar, A South East Kitchen, and Malone's Irish Pub & Social*



Shopping

- Clothing, books, and gift shops
- National retailers and specialty stores
- *Find over 200 stores at the Natick Mall*



Movies & Entertainment

- Movie theater nearby for an easy evening out
- A relaxed way to unwind after sessions



Self-Care & Services

- Salons, nail services, and massage options
- *Recharge outdoors with a stroll through Callahan State Park or Wellesley College campus*