



TESA Summer Work Conference
Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio North Stone Oak



June 23-25, 2026

Breakout Sessions

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:50 AM

**101 – From Classroom to Keys: Homeownership, Refinancing & Equity Solutions for Educators:
Exclusive Loan Programs for Texas Educators**

Alex Rabiela, CEO, LO, LOA, BD; ML Mortgage Corp

Unveiled for the first time at the TESA Summer Work Conference, ML Mortgage proudly introduces a new educator-exclusive mortgage initiative covering first-time home purchases, refinancing solutions, and home equity solutions, and home equity options. This session simplifies complex lending topics and explains how educators can take advantage of programs tailored to their income structure and career stability.

102 – TESA 101 & CEOP 101

Alica Lopez, CEOP, TESA President 2025-2026, Garland ISD; Teri Baldrige, CEOP, Tomball ISD; Eva Zamora, CEOP, TESA Past President 2024-2025, Irma Ford, CEOP, TESA Past President 2003-2004, Retired, TPEP Area Coordinator

This session will answer all your questions regarding TESA. It will provide you all the information to become more involved with our organization. Presenting how to start your *journey* for CEOP and all you need to know to get your certification.

103 – Own Your Role, Evaluate Your Impact

Melanie Mays, Business & Compliance Analyst, Lamar CISD

This empowering session invites administrative assistants to step into their role with purpose and confidence. Participants will learn practical ways to strengthen organization, build momentum around daily responsibilities, and lead through small, intentional actions that make a lasting difference.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

10:00 AM – 11:20 AM

104 – Go to Bed Young – Wake Up Old! Attitudes Toward the Elderly

Barbara Jennings, CEOP, TESA Past President 2006-2007, Retired San Jacinto College

Problems we face as aging begins. Physical changes, psychological aspects, intimacies and dealing with death.

**105 – From Classroom to Keys: Homeownership, Refinancing & Equity Solutions for Educators:
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10:00 AM – 11:20 AM

106 – Foundations of Situational Awareness

Officer Arturo Castellanos #145, SAPD North S.A.F.F.E. Unit

This class introduces the core principles of situational and personal safety in everyday life. Participants will learn how to recognize potential risks, read their surroundings, identify behavior cues and make proactive decisions to reduce vulnerability.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Extended Session

107 – Together We Glow: Empowering with Sunshine

Gail Ward, Assistant Principal, Pasadena ISD & Ishmael Muhammad, RLA, Resource, Athletic Coach, Pasadena ISD

Are you ready to step into a session that truly celebrates the radiant impact of your role in the school environment? Would you like to discover how to Empower, Engage, and Enjoy while shining even brighter in both the office and classroom? Brain Power Today will have you energized, empowered and engaged because when you shine, the whole room shines.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

1:00 PM – 2:20 PM

108 – The Art of Being an Assistant

Devin Gabbard, Executive Director of Athletics, Lamar Consolidated ISD

This session will talk about key aspects of what it takes to be a good assistant.

109 – General Scrapbooking Technique

Glenda Brown

Instructor led instruction and practical application of general scrapbooking for a 2-page spread.

Attendees will need to bring their own scissors to the class.

*There will be a \$5.00-\$10.00 fee for supplies collected at the beginning of the session. **Cash Only!***

110 – Own Your Role, Evaluate Your Impact

Melanie Mays, Business & Compliance Analyst, Lamar CISD

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Tuesday, June 23, 2026

2:30 PM – 3:50 PM

111 – Angler Education

Shari Lewis, TPWD Certified Angler Education Instructor

Present topics of Angler Education program given to third grade students of Lamar CISD at Long Acres Ranch with fun fishing-related activities.

112 – Ready to Retire

Teacher Retirement System Representative

An overview of TRS benefits and the retirement process, including eligibility, tiers, calculation of benefits, retirement plans and insurance.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

113 – First Timers

TESA Past Presidents

You will learn more about TESA's rich history starting in March 1951 as well as current TESA programs and benefits including TPEP, Affiliate Services, Scholarships, Publications, Workshops and Conferences.

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

8:00 AM – 9:20 AM

201 – Angler Education

Shari Lewis, TPWD Certified Angler Education Instructor

Present topics of Angler Education program given to third grade students of Lamar CISD at Long Acres Ranch with fun fishing-related activities.

202 – Interacting with Strong Willed Individuals

Kelly Smith, Behavior Specialist, Mesquite ISD

This session will briefly discuss the characteristics of strong-willed people and explore interaction styles that help improve relationships in a respectful manner.

203 – Working with Difficult People

Jacqueline Ortega, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director of Enrollment Management

This course is designed to help administrative assistants understand difficult behaviors and develop effective strategies for managing them in the workplace. You'll learn practical techniques, including cultural awareness and sensitivity, as well as coping strategies to navigate challenging situations with confidence and professionalism.

Wednesday, June 24, 2026
Extended Session

1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

204 – GET Ahead: Communication Styles for Educators

Robert Higle, Consultant Certification/New Teacher Support Programs Education Service Center Region 20

This engaging session is to develop and/or maintain a proactive and systematic approach to communicating with parents, colleagues, and administration.

205 – Google Sheets, Building a Friendship – Beginner to Intermediate

Michele Barber, Retired, Digital Learning Coach/Director

Bring a device, IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. We will begin with some basics then build into formatting, filtering, sorting, basic formulas, protecting cells/sheets, procreating charts and graphs. Forms, data management, split column text, smart chips and a little more? Build your Google Sheets friendship.

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

1:30 PM – 2:50 PM

206 – Interacting with Strong Willed Individuals

Kelly Smith, Behavior Specialist, Mesquite ISD

This session will briefly discuss the characteristics of strong-willed people and explore interaction styles that help improve relationships in a respectful manner.

207 – A.I. in Education: What All Support Staff Should Know

Tina Niemann, Digital Learning Specialist, Tomball ISD

Whether or not your school or district is allowing staff and student to use AI, they are! Learn what A.I. is and how it can help or hinder, what you should look for in an A.I. assistant, and play with some of the tools available to you as school support staff.

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

3:00 PM – 4:20 PM

208 - Zumba

Irma Ford, CEOP, TESA Past President 2003-2004, Retired, TPEP Area Coordinator

Exercise in disguise to music. Lots of fun, laughter, energizing and just having a good time to music.

209 – Canva for Edu: Making Magic Happen

Tina Niemann, Digital Learning Specialist, Tomball ISD

Canva Edu is a design studio and one stop shop for just about anything you need to create: From Presentation, and Newsletters to Certificates, Videos and Website, Canva has you covered. With some amazing tools to help you create and edit. Canva is all you need.

Thursday, June 25, 2026
Extended Session

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

301 – Becoming a Dynamic Duo

Dr. Jon Maxwell, Executive Director of Enrollment Management, Jacqueline Ortega, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director of Enrollment Management, Lamar CISD

This session inspired by Chapter 13 of *The Together Leader*, will explore how to build a strong efficient partnership between an administrative assistant and their supervisor. Your supervisor is encouraged to attend, but not required. Unlock the potential of collaboration.

Thursday, June 25, 2026

8:00 AM – 9:20AM

302 – Lost in Translation: Speaking and Interpreting the Language of Leadership

Candace Guinn, Secretary to the President of the Garland ISD Education Foundation

You are already a leader, and this session helps to ensure you sound like one. *Lost in Translation* explores how leaders communicate, interpret meaning, and move work forward using different leadership languages. This session is designed for administrative professionals who lead from every seat. Through real life, scenarios and practical tools, you'll learn how to recognize and speak different leadership languages so you can lead conversations effectively with supervisors, colleagues, and teams alike.

303 – Save Your Budget with Gateway

Dianne Page, Deidre Bock, Shelly Johnson, Account Executive, Gateway Printing, Office Supply & Alumni Furniture Solutions

Office supplies, furniture, printing, breakroom. Methods on purchasing that will save your ISD money and time. Will have an interactive presentation that will allow the audience a chance to participate.

Thursday, June 25, 2026

9:30 AM – 10:50 AM

304 – How to Grow Our Superhero Powers

Debbie Wade, CEOP, TESA Past President 2001-2002, Retired San Jacinto College

As educational support personnel, we seem to be constantly looking for ways to do better and be better in our jobs while successfully assisting our customers—sometimes with little help, resources, or support. So, let's step back and take a look at ourselves, inside ourselves, and about ourselves. Let's discover **HOW TO GROW OUR SUPERHERO POWERS?** We will determine the powers we have; learn about the powers we need; discover the powers that will help us grow; and find the powers we can share with others.

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