

2026 Federal Programs Institute Schedule

Tuesday, Aug. 25

TIME	DETAILS	SPEAKER	ROOM
7:15 – 8:15 a.m.	Registration		Lobby
8:15 – 8:25 a.m.	Welcome	Jonathan Criswell Debby Thompson	Ballroom E-J
8:25 – 8:40 a.m.	Red Bank High School Band	Hamilton Co. Schools	Ballroom E-J
8:40 – 10:05 a.m.	Panel: Rising Together: A Tennessee Federal Programs Conversation	Angelia Askins Darrell Wooden Krista Cole Ronnie Mincey	Ballroom E-J
10:05 – 10:20 a.m.	Break		
10:20 – 11:30 a.m.	Session Block 1	See next section	See next section
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)		
1:00 – 2:10 p.m.	Session Block 2	See next section	See next section
2:10 – 2:35 p.m.	Refreshment Break		
2:35 – 3:45 p.m.	Session Block 3	See next section	See next section
3:45 p.m.	Adjourn		

Wednesday, Aug. 26

TIME	DETAILS	SPEAKER	ROOM
7:30 – 8:15 a.m.	Registration / Help Desk		Lobby
8:15 – 8:30 a.m.	Welcome & Announcements	Debby Thompson	Ballroom E-J
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Bruman Federal Program Updates	Julia Martin	Ballroom E-J
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Break		
10:15 – 11:25 a.m.	Session Block 4	See next section	See next section
11:25 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)		
1:00 – 2:10 p.m.	Session Block 5	See next section	See next section
2:10 – 2:50 p.m.	Refreshment Break		
2:35 – 3:45 p.m.	Title I Eligibility: Reaching New Summits Through Exceptions	Maryanne Durski Debby Thompson	Ballroom E-J
3:45 p.m.	Adjourn		

Thursday, Aug. 27

TIME	DETAILS	SPEAKER	ROOM
7:30 – 8:15 a.m.	Registration / Help Desk		Lobby
8:15 – 8:25 a.m.	Welcome & Announcements	Debby Thompson	Ballroom E-J
8:25 – 8:50 a.m.	Blazing the Trail: Modernizing ePlan	Debby Thompson	Ballroom E-J
8:50 – 9:35 a.m.	Trailside Insights from Census Data	Debby Thompson	Ballroom E-J
9:35-9:50 a.m.	Break		
9:50 – 11:00 a.m.	Session Block 6	See next section	See next section
11:00 a.m.	Adjourn		

Breakout Sessions Day 1

	1	2	3	4	5
10:20–11:30 a.m.	Providing Stability, Guiding Success: Supporting Youth in Foster Care Jackie Jacobson	Designed to Rise: Building Digital Workflows that Strengthen Title Program Compliance Ted Fuller - Germantown	Routes to the Summit: Strengthening EL Program Models for the Climb Ahead Raven Cleveland	Legal Session Pending Josselyne Blackard & Chelsea Morgan	Rising Through Equity: A Practical Guide to Comparability Compliance Lynn Dotson
1:00–2:10 p.m.	Guiding Opportunity Higher: Strengthening Neglected and Delinquent Programs Jackie Jacobson	Guiding Programs Higher: Essential Insights for Every Director Mick Shuran - Manchester	Compliance that Supports the Climb: The ESL Rule in Real-World Contexts Hannah Gribble	Policy to Practice: Charting the Trail to Program Success Emily Cornute	McKinney-Vento Overview Vanessa Waters
2:50–4:00 p.m.	Rising Together Through Flexibility: Ed-Flex in Tennessee Brinn Obermiller	Finding the Path Forward: Common ESSA Findings and Strategies for Success Heather Farley	Leading the Climb: A Title III Director Panel Hannah Gribble	Legal Session Pending Josselyne Blackard & Chelsea Morgan	Rising Above Barriers: Collaboration Strategies for Serving Students Experiencing Homelessness Vanessa Waters

Session has been or will be repeated

Session presented by or with district leadership.

Breakout Sessions Day 2

	1	2	3	4	5
10:20–11:30 a.m.	Rising Together Through Flexibility: Ed-Flex in Tennessee Brinn Obermiller	Building Strong Foundations: Procurement and Contract Management for Federal Programs Taffe Bishop	ESSA Evidence: Elevating Impact Through Evidence-Based Practices Henry LaFallotte	Guiding Student Success Through Family Engagement Alisha Gilmore	Reaching Higher with Title II, Part A: Investing in Educators, Elevating Student Success Mark Gullion & Michelle Carter
1:00–2:10 p.m.	Finding the Path Forward: Common ESSA Findings and Strategies for Success Heather Farley	Rising Through Equity: A Practical Guide to Comparability Compliance Lynn Dotson	Compliance that Supports the Climb: The ESL Rule in Real-World Contexts Hannah Gribble	The Path to Better ESSA Data Teri Manning	Consult to Elevate Equitable Services: Meaningful Consultation in Action Michelle Harless

Breakout Sessions Day 3

	1	2	3	4	5
9:10–10:20 a.m.	Trailblazing Strong Internal Controls: Navigating the Path to Federal Program Compliance Shelby Ownbey	Building Strong Foundations: Procurement and Contract Management for Federal Programs Taffe Bishop	Routes to the Summit: Strengthening EL Program Models for the Climb Ahead Raven Cleveland	Guiding Student Success Through Family Engagement Alisha Gilmore	Charting the Course: Strategic Funding for Student Success Ladona Herrin – McKenzie Ben Duffey – Alamo City

Session has been or will be repeated

Session presented by or with district leadership