



# THIRD ANNUAL MASTERING KIDS SUMMIT 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



The Third Annual Mastering KIDS Summit started with a bang on Thursday, December 12 with an evening reception to celebrate KIDS fall data collection. In addition to live jazz, delicious appetizers, and networking with new peers from around the state, we heard from Darren Reisberg, Chair of the Illinois State Board of Education; Carisa Hurley, Director of Early Childhood at ISBE; and Cornelia Grumman, Director of Education at the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.



The full Summit took place on Friday, December 13. More than 350 administrators, principals, teachers, and district staff registered to participate in conversations and peer-to-peer learning about how to ensure every child in Illinois arrives to kindergarten ready to learn.





## Keynote by Dr. Nagle

*Learning from our keynote speaker, Dr. Geoff Nagle, President of the Erikson Institute*

Dr. Nagle challenged our assumptions about the current education system, arguing that while that schools do a good job of educating students one grade per year, they aren't designed to help students who are far behind starting in Kindergarten to ever truly catch up. As a result, we need to strengthen our early education system to ensure greater readiness by Kindergarten. He also called attention to the impact Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have on our *telomeres* (meaning scientists have found long-term effects on physical and emotional health within a person's DNA), reminding us of the important connection between children's earliest years and their long-term success.

## Lunch with Dr. Ayala

*Listening to our State Superintendent, Dr. Carmen Ayala*

Dr. Ayala emphasized the importance of the KIDS tool and applauded schools and districts that have made a move to guided play as a means of instruction. She clarified that "play" is not an end goal, but that it's the method by which young children develop their cognitive, social, and emotional skills. Guided play features two crucial elements: child agency and gentle adult guidance to ensure that the child progresses toward an explicit learning goal.



## Break Out Sessions

Attendees chose from a variety of open sessions offered during three distinct breakouts throughout the day. Sessions were geared toward administrators, teachers, and teams. Breakout sessions offered a range of topics, including: implementing play-based instruction in Kindergarten classrooms, transitions between early years and Kindergarten, learning from other districts and communities, how to collect and access KIDS data, and more. Full descriptions of the sessions can be found [here](#).



## Make It and Take It

Teachers were encouraged at any point during the day to stop by this booth run by KIDS Coaches to learn about aligning classroom centers with KIDS measures, while still addressing academic standards. Not only could they meet their KIDS Coach, they could actually take supplies straight to their classroom! You can find more information about how to contact the KIDS Coach assigned to your district and the services available [here](#).



## KIDS MVPs

ISBE honored five educators for their leadership in implementing the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS). The “KIDS MVPs” have embraced KIDS as a tool to better understand what kindergarten students need at their age, such as developmentally appropriate play-based instruction. Read more about KIDS MVPs [here](#).



### The 2019 KIDS MVPs are:

- **Missy Crisci**, *Plano School District 88*
- **Melissa Davidson**, *Morrisonville Community Unit School District 1*
- **Julie Frank**, *Bethalto Community Unit School District 8*
- **Michelle Lewis**, *West Chicago Elementary School District 33*
- **Laurel Mateyka**, *Plano School District 88*

### KIDS RESOURCES

If you attended the 2019 KIDS Summit, all speakers' PPTs and handouts were uploaded to the Summit app. You can access all of that information until December 2020 by signing in [here](#).

Many people attended a session led by the DeKalb County ROE about the use of the Illinois Basics. The Illinois Basics resources are free and available for use [here](#).

Specific information about the DeKalb Basics program can be found [here](#).

Additional tools and resources can be found on the [ISBE website](#). If you have any questions regarding KIDS resources, please contact Terri Lamb, Principal Consultant for ISBE at [tlamb@isbe.net](mailto:tlamb@isbe.net).

### WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

If you attended the 2019 KIDS Summit, we would love your feedback on the experience. Your comments help us determine what future events could look like. Click [here](#) for the survey.

### WANTED: KINDERGARTEN READINESS INNOVATORS

Teach Plus Illinois is looking for educators across the state with innovative ideas on how to use the KIDS data and/or tool to improve Kindergarten readiness. Recipients will receive a small grant to implement their idea, a stipend for their work, and leadership coaching to implement their project.

**Apply [here!](#)**  
**Applications**  
**are due**  
**March 8**

A tremendous thanks to the **Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)**, **Robert R. McCormick Foundation** and the **Steans Family Foundation** for providing support to make the KIDS Summit possible.