



**MARYLAND ASSESSMENT GROUP**

**School Improvement for Educational Achievement**

# **Transforming Maryland Education Through Policy and Practice**

## **DRAFT**

**Program is usually final about 3 weeks prior to conference.  
Session assignments are subject to change – please continue to monitor program  
for additions, changes, and time assignments.**

**Maryland Assessment Group  
2024 Annual Conference**

**November 18-20, 2024  
Ashore Resort & Beach Club  
Ocean City, Maryland**

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**MARYLAND ASSESSMENT GROUP**

School Improvement for Educational  
Achievement

Make sure you keep hearing from MAG and keep our emails out of your junk folder.  
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Maryland Assessment Group

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Website: [magonline.net](http://magonline.net)

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Send an email to [mdassessmentgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:mdassessmentgroup@yahoo.com) with your email address and we will add you to our distribution list. We appreciate you spreading the word!

Your Friends at MAG!

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**MARYLAND ASSESSMENT GROUP  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**NOVEMBER 18-20, 2024  
ASHORE RESORT & BEACH CLUB  
OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND**

**MAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jaime Bowers  
Timothy Guy  
Karen Hitch

Deborah Gilmartin, Executive Director  
Timothy Guy, Program Director

**The MAG Board of Directors wishes to thank the vendors and sponsors for their financial support. Their support and contributions reduce the cost of this conference for Maryland educators.**

*Conference arrangements provided by MIXT MEDIA MARKETING*

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## **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.      **REGISTRATION**  
Lower Terrace Lobby

### **VENDOR DISPLAYS IN SALON A (Tidelines A)**

Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. – . November 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Salon B  
**Local Accountability Coordinators' Meeting**  
**Led by Dr. Simeon Sanders, MSDE**  
Local Accountability Coordinators and MSDE staff will gather for a formal state meeting.

## **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Conference Room 1/2

### ***“Hacking the Brain to Study Better”* *Monday***

**Presenters: Judith V.T. Wilson Retired- Montgomery County Public Schools**

Come and discover how the brain learns best. Many current study techniques are now known to be counter-productive. However, educational neuroscience research now has presented us with better study practices and strategies (that enhance long-term memory) for improving students'™ learning. Walk-away with ideas to use at home or school.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Conference Room 3

### ***“Meaningful Data”***

**Presenters: Pearson**

Description coming soon.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Conference Room 4/5

### ***“Leveraging Data Literacy through School-Level Data Monitoring Approaches”***

**Presenters: Dr. Kecia L. Addison & Erika McCrea, - Montgomery County Public Schools**

Empowering educators with data literacy and monitoring skills transforms student outcomes. This session highlights how our district's professional learning initiative enhances teachers' ability to interpret student data, track progress, and inform instruction in core content areas, fostering a data-driven culture for continuous academic improvement.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Conference Room 6

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## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Salon B

### ***“ADAM Overview”***

**Presenters: Pearson**

Participants will get an overview of the Assessment Delivery and Management (ADAM) platform LEA and school staff will be using to assign accommodations, manage proctor groups, and access reports.

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Conference Room 1/2

### ***“Mastering State-Wide Testing: Innovative Strategies and Systematic Solutions”***

**Presenters: Mandy Verme & Brok Hess - Ivymount School**

This collaborative presentation will include strategies on conducting state-wide testing. A facilitated discussion will have audience participants share new ideas and how various systems are used to increase efficiency and decrease errors. Bring your strategies to share and walk away with new ideas to implement this spring!

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Conference Room 3

### ***“Unpacking Inequities and Crafting Solutions”***

**Presenters: Windy Phillips - Worcester County Public Schools**

This presentation will detail how one district tackled disproportionality in special education identification and discipline through systemic change. We will discuss addressing biases and systemic issues through implementation science, a school improvement process, and data analysis. Learn our strategies for promoting equity, fair practices, and improved student outcomes for all children.

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Conference Room 4/5

### ***“The Power of Data: Using Data to Inform Decision Making”*** **Monday or Tuesday**

**Presenters: Dr. Monica Hetrick - Baltimore County Public Schools**

Participants will: (1) Learn how BCPS leverages data tools and systems to build data literacy and support informed decision making; and (2) Engage in a discussion focused on best practices for the effective use of data as part of ongoing continuous improvement.

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Conference Room 6

### ***“The Intersection of AI and Data in Schools”***

**Presenters: Beth Kawecki & Matthew Riese - PowerSchool**

Removing data silos is crucial for enabling AI to interact with all of an organization's data in one centralized location. By integrating data from various sources into a unified platform, organizations can unlock the full potential of AI by providing it with comprehensive and holistic datasets.

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**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

5:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **DINNER BUFFET** - Crystal Ballroom  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Opening remarks

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER** - Crystal Ballroom



***Opening Keynote***

**Priscilla Rodriguez, Senior Vice President, College Readiness Assessments**

**College Board**

A first-generation American who credits the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT and AP classes with changing her trajectory, Priscilla is passionate about the generational impact of education and is deeply committed to access and equity. Prior to leading the College Readiness Assessments division, Priscilla created and launched the College Board Opportunity Scholarships (now called the BigFuture Scholarships), a unique program that annually awards thousands of students with millions of dollars in scholarships simply for taking important college planning steps during high school. Prior to joining College Board, Priscilla was a Senior Vice President at the Poses Family Foundation. There she developed and managed Understood.org, the Webby-winning online resource for parents of children with learning and attention issues. Prior to leading Understood.org, Priscilla worked as a strategy consultant for large foundations and non-profit organizations at the Bridgespan Group. She began her career in investment banking and private equity.

Priscilla earned her MBA from the Harvard Business School and her bachelor's degree in finance and marketing from the University of Virginia. She lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband, two daughters, and dog.

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., **Cocktail Reception**, Salon A  
**Sponsored by Pearson**

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.           **REGISTRATION** - Lower Terrace Lobby

7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** - Crystal Ballroom  
*(Included in your conference registration fee.)*

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.           **KEYNOTE SPEAKER** - Crystal Ballroom

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Salon B  
**“Accountability Taskforce Update: Federal Accountability”**  
**Presenters: Scott Marion – Center for Assessment**  
Description coming soon.

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Conference Room 1/2  
**“From Bored to Engaged: Creating Lessons that Inspire” **Tuesday****  
**Presenters: Despina Moniodis, Carrie Tiedeken, and Allie Racioppi - Kennedy Krieger School and Kennedy Krieger Fairmount**  
As educators, we are invested in student learning, but how do we motivate students to invest in their own learning? It is challenging to design and deliver lessons that provide the necessary content, meet individual student needs, and sustain student attention. Learning should and can be fun, without burning us out as educators! Join us as we explore strategies that capture student interest, create meaningful and memorable learning experiences, and ignite (or reignite) the joy of teaching.

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Conference Room 3  
**“Scientific Literacy and Writing”**  
**Presenters: Jeremy Marcus-Wenger – MSDE**  
Constructed responses on the Maryland Integrate Science Assessment are a critical factor in determining a student’s scale score, though current trends indicate this is an area for growth. Participants will learn about MISA constructed response items and dissect student examples to determine methods for supporting student writing in science.

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Conference Room 4/5

### ***“Transition to the New PGCPS Assessment and Reporting Platform (PARP)”* **Tuesday****

**Presenters: Christopher Gardy - Prince George’s County Public Schools**

With the Maryland Department of Education’s (MSDE) transition from Pearson Access to Pearson’s Assessment and Management (ADAM) System, we would like to share Prince George’s County Public Schools experience making the transition to the ADAM platform, which we have renamed as the Prince George’s County Public Schools Assessment and Reporting Platform (PARP), for our district and local assessments. This presentation aims to provide insights into our experiences with the platform as both an assessment delivery and reporting tool. Additionally, we will offer a basic understanding of the platform’s functionality and address any questions regarding the real-life use of ADAM with teachers and students.

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Conference Room 6

### ***“How Schools Can Get Better at Getting Better”* **Tuesday** after Keynote**

**Presenters: Dr. Ronald S. Thomas - Towson University**

Studies have shown that improvement planning often does not result in significantly reducing learning gaps and increasing the learning of all students, despite the hard work of educators. This presentation will show how the research-based strategies of improvement science, a systems approach, and equitable practices can be used to capture the passion of stakeholders; incorporate protocols in which the push for improvement is blame-free; honor the perspectives of all stakeholders by incorporating discreet data; facilitate a convergent root cause analysis process; implement high-leverage practices to replace inequitable systems with more equitable ones, and use rapid iterative cycles of small-scale field tests.

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11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Salon B

### ***“Accountability Taskforce Update: Assessment System”***

**Presenters: Scott Marion – Center for Assessment**

Description coming soon.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Conference Room 1/2

### ***“Performance Reporting in ADAM”***

**Presenters: Elizabeth Pennington - Pearson**

How can data inform instructional decisions? This session will focus on the new MCAP reporting data available at the LEA/school level. Understanding the data available and how it is expressed can open doors to using the information to impact student learning.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Conference Room 3

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## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Conference Room 4/5

### **“A Journey Toward Measuring Equity in Schools” **Tuesday****

**Presenters: Eva Yiu, PhD & Mary Klyap, PhD – Howard County Public Schools**

Equity is a concept that school systems strive to achieve but challenging to measure. HCPSS developed an Educational Equity Framework to define and measure equity in schools. Presenters discuss the framework's elements, indicators, and data dashboards. Participants will hear how collaboration with other offices/stakeholders helped refine tools. Participants will gain insights into operationalizing equity in their settings.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Conference Room 6

### **“Creating a Test Ready Culture In Schools”**

**Presenters: Simene' Walden – Prince George's County Public Schools & Pretty Healed Enterprises, LLC**

This session will present ways to rally schools together before, during, and after tests. I will include celebration strategies and how to provide parents with the resources to assist their child. I will include key protocols teachers can implement to prepare students and execute without error during testing days.

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **LUNCH** - Crystal Ballroom

*(Included in your conference registration fee.)*

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER** - Crystal Ballroom

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Exhibit Hall, Salon A

**Dessert and Beverages**

**Vendor Discussions**

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**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Salon B

***“Introducing Star Early Literacy”***

**Presenters: Emily Oliver - MSDE and Stacy Blair, Larry Ehert, & Gretchen Guffy - Renaissance Learning**

MSDE is pleased to announce a partnership with Renaissance Learning to implement a new assessment system for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students in Maryland. Learn about assessment administration, reporting, and instructional implications.

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Conference Room 1/2

***“Assessing Brilliance: Feedforward Approaches for Next Generation Learners”*** **Tuesday**

**Presenters: TJ Heck – Cognia, Jill Wertheim – WestEd, & Rosanna Haywood – Montgomery County Public Schools**

Explore innovative interim assessments aligned with OpenSciEd curriculum which incorporate Learning Center Rubrics providing “Feedforward” instructional guidance to help educators recognize student brilliance and support deeper student sensemaking. Cognia and WestEd partners will highlight gaps in current assessment systems and demonstrate how an integrated interim assessments can more effectively support the success of all students.

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Conference Room 3

***“Stress & Tests”*** **Tuesday**

**Presenters: Judith V.T. Wilson Retired - Montgomery County Public Schools**

Discover what’s happening in the brain when students feel anxiety or stress. Hear about several educational classroom strategies that can help students feel better prior to tests. Find out how practicing mindfulness can bring back students focus, concentration, calmness, and relaxation. Walk-away with several mindfulness exercises to start practicing tomorrow.

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Conference Room 4/5

***“Accessing College and Career Readiness Across Maryland”***

**Presenters: Bard Keeler & Joi Jones – College Board**

Access to college and career readiness begins with access to opportunity. Within this context, we will review Maryland’s SAT Suite of Assessment and Advanced Placement participation and performance data followed by a discussion of College Board programs and services that support districts expanding access to opportunity. Topics include AP Access courses, Pre-AP opportunities, Career Kickstart, and BigFuture.

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Conference Room 6



**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Salon B

***“End-to-End Guide to MCAP Assessments”***

**Presenters: Chris DeLong - ETS, Angela Kellogg & Elizabeth Pennington - Pearson**

The end-to-end process of creating fair and valid assessments to determine student understanding of statewide and national standards is long and cyclical. In this session, ETS and Pearson, the development and administration vendors for the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP), will explain the process and interactions from item and test creation to test administration and reporting.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Conference Room ½

***“Academic Integrity: Safeguarding Standardized Test”***

**Presenters: Adei Snyder - ETS and Pearson**

Educate educators and administrators on current trends in academic dishonesty and best practices for ensuring the integrity of testing procedures. Topics will include data validity, secure test administration, prevention, and the affect breaches have on MCAP. Possible 2 sessions.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Conference Room 3

***“Decoding Formative Assessment: Using a Conceptual Framework to Improve Practice”***

**Presenters: Terry Morgan & Gail Charles-Walters - RISE for Tomorrow**

Teachers’ understanding of formative assessment shapes its impact on student success. What began as an effort to improve its application evolved into a powerful tool for educational growth. This session reveals a conceptual framework that streamlines planning, enhances target instruction, and fosters teacher reflection.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Conference Room 4/5

***“Leveraging MSDE Data for Accountability and Transparency: CLF’s Data Dashboard for its Public Charter Schools”***

**Presenters: Tekin Tuncer - Chesapeake Lighthouse Foundation (CLF)**

This session focuses on how CLF’s Data Dashboard (<https://clfmd.org/data-dashboard>) utilizes MSDE data to ensure accountability and transparency for its public charter schools in AACPS and PGCPS. Attendees will learn how key metrics such as MCAP, MD Report Card, NWEA MAP and college readiness data drive data-informed decisions, improving school performance and stakeholder engagement.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Conference Room 6

***Cocktail Reception, Salon A***

**5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

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**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

**6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., DINNER**

*(Included in your conference registration fee.)*

**MAG Networking/Happy Hour – Taproom and Shore Deck**

**8:00 p.m. – until? (not too late, you have sessions to go to tomorrow)**

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## **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Salon B

### ***“Understanding Adaptive Testing: ELA”***

**Presenters: Sukkeun Im - Pearson & Emily Oliver - MSDE**

What is a Multi-Stage Test? How does this differ from a CAT? This presentation will discuss how each stage is selected using an algorithm that uses the student’s performance on previously answered items and their difficulty level. Participants will learn about the theory behind MST assessments and how they precisely measure a student’s knowledge and ability.

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 1/2

### ***“Science of Reading and Assessment Practices”***

**Presenters: Wicomico County Public Schools**

Join us for an enlightening exploration into the dynamic fusion of assessments and the science of reading in elementary education. In this empowering presentation, we delve into the crucial role assessments play in fostering literacy proficiency among young learners. Grounded in the latest research and insights from the science of reading, attendees will discover practical strategies for designing and implementing assessments that effectively identify students' strengths and areas for growth. During the session, participants will dig deeper into practices with formative and diagnostic assessments to identify struggling readers. Don't miss this opportunity to elevate your teaching practice and empower students to become confident, proficient readers!

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 3

### ***“Grade 5 and 8 Reporting Category Changes”***

**Presenters: Jeremy Marcus-Wenger – MSDE**

The Spring 2025 administration will see a change in the grade 5 and 8 Maryland Integrated Science Assessment system reporting categories. Participants will learn about the new reporting categories and the reasons for the change.

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 4/5

### ***“Local Accountability Coordinator (LAC) State Aligned Metrics”***

**Presenters: Local Accountability Coordinators**

Come join your LAC colleagues to the aligned metrics from Blueprint and the MSDE strategic plan. How is your district utilizing the metrics? How will you navigate federal reporting and accountability with the new targets/metrics? Are there impacts for school improvement plans? Come for open discussion with your LAC colleagues.

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9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Salon B

### ***“Understanding Adaptive Testing: Math”***

**Presenters: Sukkeun Im - Pearson & Adei Snyder - MSDE**

What is a Computer Adaptive Test? This presentation will discuss how each item or item set is selected using an algorithm that uses the student’s performance on previously answered items and their difficulty level. Participants will learn about the theory behind CAT assessments and how they precisely measure a student’s knowledge and ability.

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9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Conference Room 1/2

***“Data-Driven Instruction and Interventions to Support Students with IEPs”***

**Presenters: Dr. Joseph Bostic, Jr. – Montgomery County Public Schools**

This proposal outlines the data-driven approach and interventions designed to support students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) at Northwood High School. The goal is to improve academic achievement, social-emotional development, and overall school experience for students receiving special education services by leveraging targeted interventions, progress monitoring, and collaborative efforts between staff, families, and support teams.

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Conference Room 4/5

***“Systematizing School Improvement Planning”***

**Presenters: Anna Harding, Nicole Howard, and Nuria Williams - Anne Arundel County Public Schools**

Discover practical strategies for systematizing school improvement planning through hearing AACPS lesson filled journey. This session will cover data-driven decision-making, stakeholder engagement, goal setting, action planning, and sustainable improvement practices. Equip yourself with tools to create effective, collaborative plans and resources that drive continuous growth and enhance educational outcomes.

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Conference Room 6

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **BREAKFAST** - Crystal Ballroom

*(Included in your conference registration fee.)*

11:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER** - Crystal Ballroom

**Professional Development Certificates and Door Prizes**

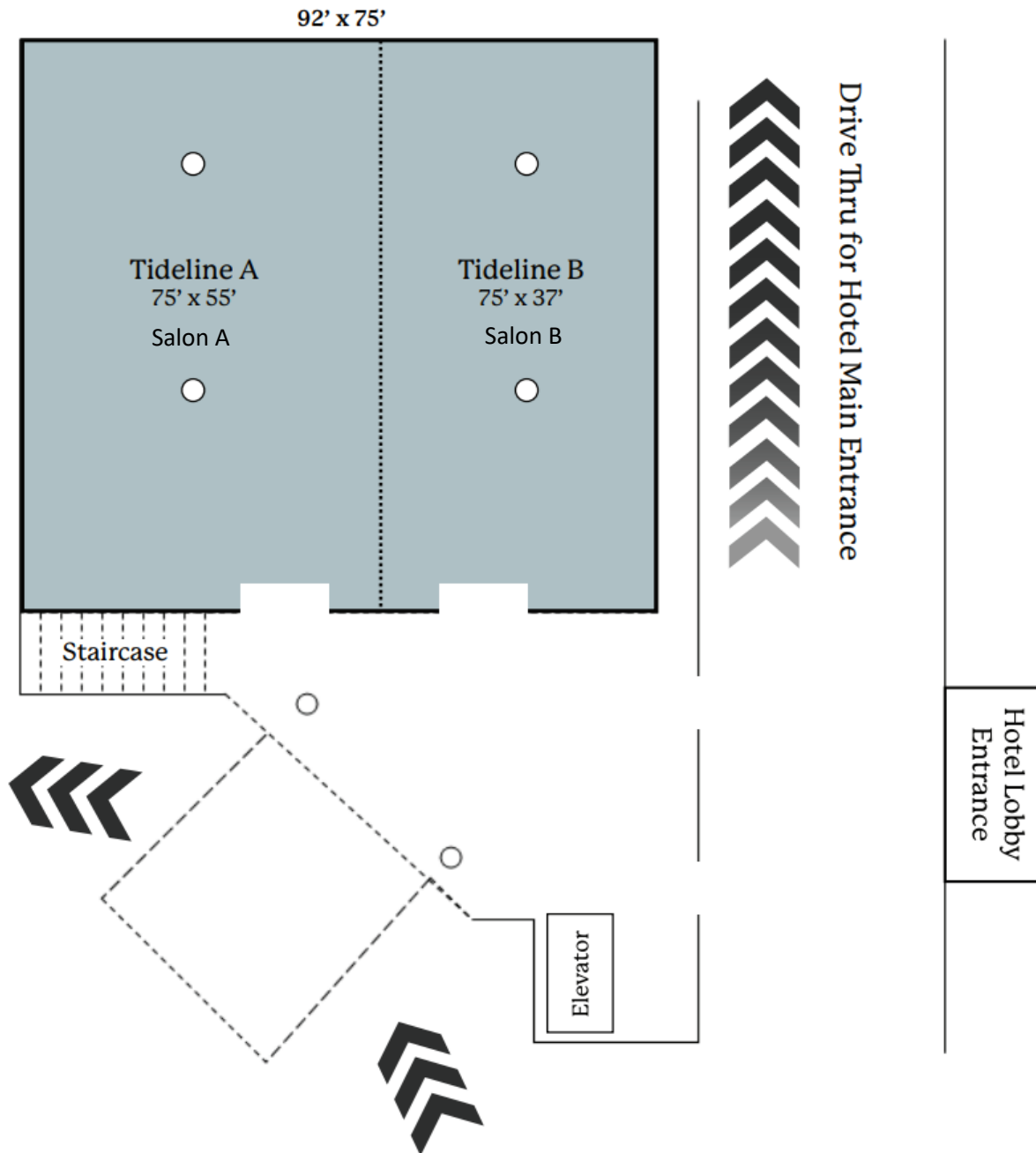
12:30 p.m. – Professional Development Credit Certificates will be distributed.

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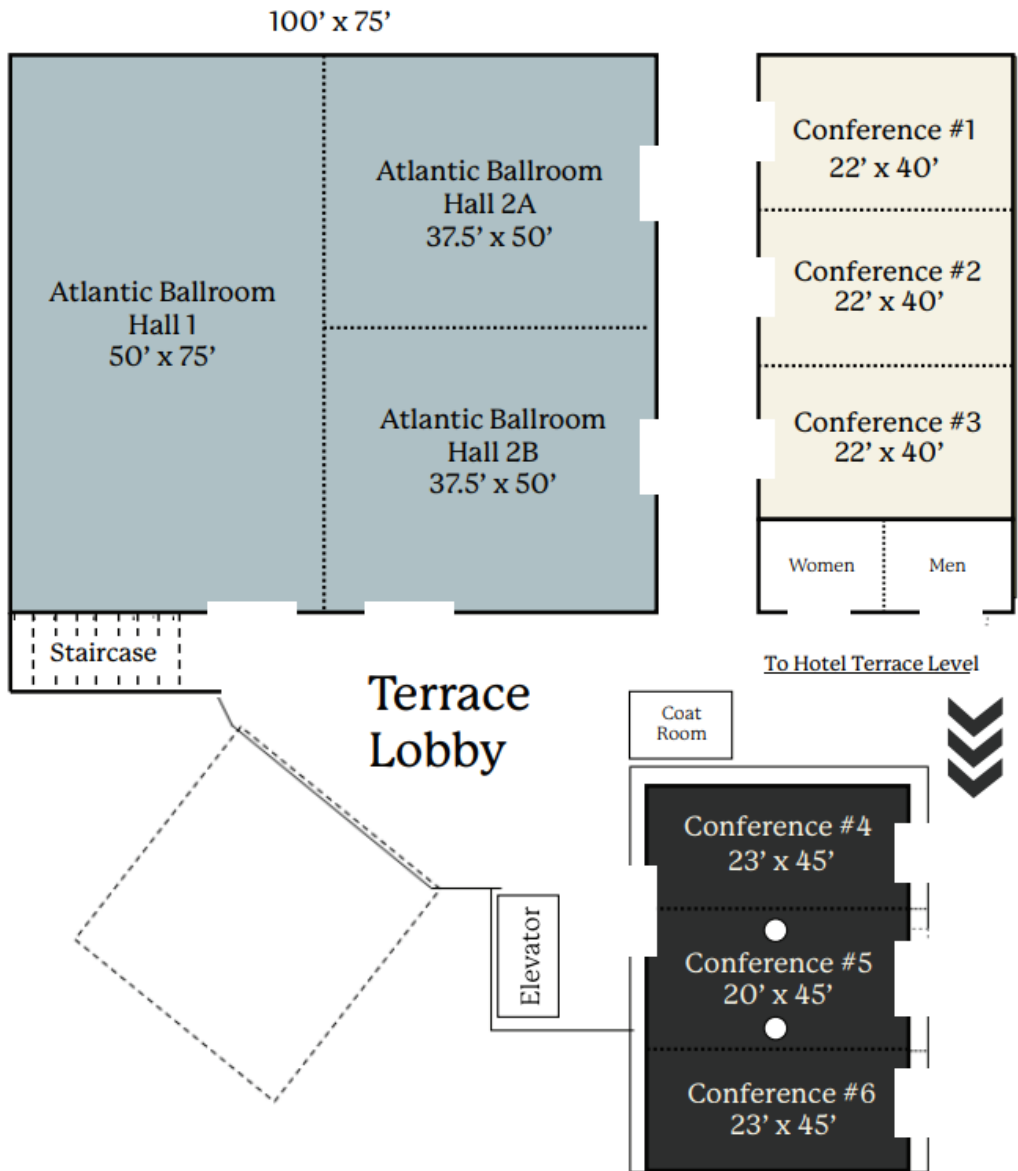
# Floor Layout | First Level

## GRAND BALLROOM



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## Floor Layout | Terrace Level

### ATLANTIC BALLROOM

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## **Ashore Things - OPEN 7AM to 1PM**

**In between MAG meals - enjoy delicious premium coffee along with quick foods and gift shop essentials.**

- Premium Coffee Drinks
- Fountain Sodas/Bottled Drinks
- Grab and Go Snacks and Meals
- Suntan Needs/Sundries
- Newspapers
- T-shirts/Sweatshirts

Located on the Terrace Level.

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