

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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## WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

### Spring 2026 Professional Development School Workshops

William Paterson University is excited to provide professional development workshops to engage educators in areas of interest and grade level. Please join us to reinvigorate, reinforce, and restore your passion for and practices of the teaching profession.

The workshops offered support you to ***Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice; Harnessing Technology – Teaching and Learning Using Technology; and Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner.*** You will find in this document workshops are first listed by date, modality, and then by theme.



**Advanced registration is required.** You may register using this [REGISTRATION LINK](#) or QR code

Please enter the requested information and then click on the workshop(s) you plan to attend. Workshops are conducted in person on the campus of William Paterson University or virtual workshops offered via Zoom.

Dates	In Person Paired Workshops	Time
Thursday, March 12, 2026	Make Time for Science by Integrating Children's Literature	10am - 12pm
Thursday, March 12, 2026	Phonics	1pm - 3pm
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	Beyond Tests and Quizzes: Quantifying informal and formative assessments in your classroom	10am - 12pm
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	Engagement that Elevates: Strengthening Professional Practice for Tomorrow's Classroom	1pm - 3pm
Thursday, March 26, 2026	Learning Stations/Centers: Next steps	10am - 12pm
Thursday, March 26, 2026	Math Centers	1pm - 3pm
Thursday, April 2, 2026	Strategic Grouping: Setting Multilingual Learners Up for Success	1pm - 3pm
Thursday, April 2, 2026	We Speak Music Here (Hablamos Musica Aqui): Teaching English Language Learners with Songs	4pm - 6pm
Thursday, April 23, 2026	Co-Teaching: Moving Towards Partnership Teaching for Student Success	10am - 12pm
Thursday, April 23, 2026	Covering Your Bases, Efficiently	1pm - 3pm
Dates	PreK Specific Workshops	Time
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	Engaging Children During Choice Time	5pm - 7pm
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	Supporting Social-emotional Learning	5pm - 7pm
Wednesday, April 15, 2026	Creating an Emotionally Responsive Preschool Classroom	5pm - 7pm
Tuesday, April 21, 2026	Family Connections	5pm - 7pm
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	The Classroom Environment as a Teacher	5pm - 7pm

***Thursday, February 19, 2026***

***Google Classroom and Gemini: An AI Resource for Planning and Differentiation of Instruction***

**Description:** This workshop will explore Google's "suite of generative AI tools designed to help educators" with planning lessons for diverse groups of students. General uses of Gemini and more specific lesson planning tasks will be reviewed and applied. Bring your lesson objectives and unit ideas for creating tailored lessons during this workshop.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers, 9-12 Teachers, School Administration, Academic Support Staff

**Theme:** Harnessing Technology – Teaching and Learning Using Technology

**Presenter(s):** Carol Bruzzano, WP Professor in Residence and Clinical Supervisor

**Time:** 5pm - 7pm

**Modality:** Virtual

***Wednesday, February 25, 2026***

***Engaging Children During Choice Time***

**Description:** Children are spending more time with technology and less time playing. We will discuss practical strategies to promote play and engage students in learning during choice time. You will take away practical strategies to increase engagement between children.

**Audience:** PreK Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Amanda Colon, WP Early Childhood Leader in Residence and Adjunct Professor

**Time:** 5pm - 7pm

**Modality:** Virtual

***Thursday, February 26, 2026***

***From Chaos to Calm: Organizing Your Elementary Classroom for Success!***

**Description:** Is your classroom working for you—or against you? In this interactive workshop, you'll learn practical strategies to streamline your classroom setup, routines, and materials to create a calm, efficient learning environment. Discover how thoughtful organization can reduce stress, support student independence, and make space for personalized learning. Walk away with tools you can implement immediately to bring more focus and flow to your K–5 classroom.

**Audience:** PreK Teachers, K-5 Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Marina Tornabene, Grade Chair, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology

**Time:** 5pm - 7pm

**Modality:** Virtual

***Wednesday, March 4, 2026***

***Classroom Reboot: Re-Arrange, Re-Frame, and Re-Imagine***

**Description:**

Transform your learning space into a powerful teaching tool! This workshop explores how intentional classroom design can boost student engagement, support diverse learners, and create a sense of belonging. Participants will learn practical strategies for arranging furniture, organizing materials, and establishing flexible zones for collaboration, independence, and movement. Whether you're wanting to refresh your classroom or planning for a full redesign, you'll have ideas to implement immediately to make your classroom more inviting, functional, and student-centered.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Adriana Battista, WP Professor in Residence and Clinical Supervisor

**Time:** 1pm – 3pm

**Modality:** In Person

***Thursday, March 5, 2026***

***Unleashing the Magic of the Mathematical Practices 1, 6, 7, 8***

**Description:** The Mathematical Practices are part of the NJ Math standards that also need to be taught. In this first part, teachers will gain more in-depth understanding of Mathematical Practices 1, 6, 7 & 8 and how they can be incorporated into their daily lessons.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Rosemarie Chromey, Supervisor of Mathematics, Paterson Public Schools and WP Clinical Supervisor

**Time:** 1pm - 3pm

**Modality:** In Person

***Tuesday, March 10, 2026***

***Supporting Social-emotional Learning***

**Description:** We will discuss strategies to promote social-emotional development in all children, focusing specifically on children struggling in this area. We will connect social-emotional development to your classroom environment and daily routines. We will discuss strategies to improve relationships between adults and children, as well as between children in the classroom.

**Audience:** PreK Teachers

**Theme:** Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner

**Presenter(s):** Amanda Colon, WP Early Childhood Leader in Residence and Adjunct Professor

**Time:** 5pm - 7pm

**Modality:** Virtual

***Thursday, March 12, 2026***

***Make Time for Science by Integrating Children's Literature***

**Description:** Elementary teachers usually struggle to find time to teach science in a time-limited day. By using children's books to engage students, areas such as reading, vocabulary, and comprehension can be addressed while connecting the book to science activities and investigations. The science standards reflect a three-dimensional approach, including disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and cross cutting concepts.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Eva M. Ogens, WP Professor in Residence and Clinical Supervisor

**Time:** 10am - 12pm

**Modality:** In Person

***Thursday, March 12, 2026***

***Phonics***

**Description:** Similar to the Hands-on Phonics workshop that has been offered in the past, this workshop will take a deeper dive in the functions of phonics in words. This workshop will be great for teachers who are new to teaching ELA or just need a refresher in the foundations of phonics. There will be hands-on techniques and strategies guaranteed to engage and promote reading and comprehension growth in your classroom.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Jacqueline Bounouk, Teacher, Paterson Public Schools

**Time:** 1pm - 3pm

**Modality:** In Person

***Wednesday, March 18, 2026***

***Beyond Tests and Quizzes: Quantifying Informal and Formative Assessments in Your Classroom***

**Description:** Participants will review assessment methods in the classroom and focus on creating new assessment materials to aide them in being able to show evidence of what the student learned. Individualizing student needs based on data collected will be a focus. Teachers should bring a lesson/unit they want to develop based on assessment methods discussed.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers

**Theme:** Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner

**Presenter(s):** Cathy Nalesnik, WP Clinical Supervisor

**Time:** 10am - 12pm

**Modality:** In Person

## ***Wednesday, March 18, 2026***

### ***Engagement that Elevates: Strengthening Professional Practice for Tomorrow's Classroom***

**Description:** This workshop focuses on how intentional student engagement is a powerful lever for improving teaching and learning. This session equips educators with practical, researched informed strategies that deepen student voice, participation and ownership of learning. Participants will reflect on their instructional practices while exploring approaches that are responsive to today's learners and adaptable for tomorrow's classrooms. Educators leave empowered with tools they can implement immediately to elevate professional practice and create more dynamic, inclusive learning environment.

**Audience:** PreK Teachers, K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers, 9-12 Teachers, School Administration, Academic Support Staff

**Theme:** Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner

**Presenter(s):** Linda Miller, Speech Language Specialist, Jersey City Public Schools

**Time:** 1pm - 3pm

**Modality:** In Person

## ***Thursday, March 19, 2026***

### ***The Power of Connection: Why Student-Teacher Relationships Matter***

**Description:** The Power of Connection: Why Student–Teacher Relationships Matter is an engaging, research-based workshop that shows educators how meaningful relationships drive student motivation, behavior, and academic success. Participants will explore practical strategies for building trust, fostering emotional safety, and creating culturally responsive connections that make every learner feel seen and valued. Through real classroom examples and interactive reflection, educators will learn how connection transforms engagement and elevates their professional practice. This workshop empowers teachers to walk away with actionable tools they can use immediately to strengthen relationships and ignite student growth.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Grace Alves, Teacher, Paterson Public Schools

**Time:** 5pm - 7pm

**Modality:** Virtual

## ***Tuesday, March 24, 2026***

### ***Building Critical AI Literacies: AI Generated Content in Students' Written Compositions***

**Description:** AI literacies refer to the competencies supporting an individual's ability to think about and apply AI tools critically and responsibly. This workshop focuses specifically on AI literacies related to AI written compositions. Participants will explore AI text generators, AI text humanizers, and AI text checkers. The workshop's objective is to identify and examine the capabilities and limitations of these AI tools and their impact on lesson designs, lesson assignments, and assessment strategies, ultimately leading to better decision making for planning and designing instruction and assessments.

**Audience:** 6-8 Teachers, 9-12 Teachers, School Administration, Academic Support Staff

**Theme:** Harnessing Technology – Teaching and Learning Using Technology

**Presenter(s):** Carol Bruzzano, WP Professor in Residence and Clinical Supervisor

**Time:** 5pm - 7pm

**Modality:** Virtual

***Thursday, March 26, 2026***

***Learning Stations/Centers: Next Steps***

**Description:** If you have already established learning stations/centers as an instructional tool in your classroom, this workshop will help you make the most of them! We'll talk about fine-tuning your routines and procedures, strategies for planning and finding station ideas, and effectively incorporating differentiation. We'll also focus on the essential role of teacher-led stations.

**Audience:** PreK Teachers, K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers, School Administration, Academic Support Staff

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Jean Schoenlank, WP Professor in Residence and Clinical Supervisor

**Time:** 10am - 12pm

**Modality:** In Person

***Thursday, March 26, 2026***

***Math Centers***

**Description:** This workshop explores how math centers and manipulatives can meet the diverse needs of all learners by promoting hands-on engagement, differentiation, and conceptual understanding. Participants will experience practical strategies for designing and managing effective math centers that support varying skill levels and learning styles. They will leave with ready-to-use resources and tools to create inclusive, student-centered math environments that make abstract concepts accessible for every learner.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers

**Theme:** Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner

**Presenter(s):** Maureen Lee, WP Professor in Residence and Clinical Supervisor

**Time:** 1pm – 3pm

**Modality:** In Person

***Wednesday, April 1, 2026***

***Equity in Action: Reaching All Students in Diverse Classrooms***

**Description:** Participants learn how to design lessons that reflect the diverse needs of students, including different learning styles and modalities, varied readiness levels, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and students with special learning or behavioral needs. My workshop will offer concrete resources such as, choice boards, tiered assignments, flexible grouping, and scaffolding techniques. Also, a big emphasis around engagement and a sense of belonging for every learner.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers

**Theme:** Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner

**Presenter(s):** Stephanie Murphy, Teacher, Newark Public Schools

**Time:** 5pm - 7pm

**Modality:** Virtual

***Thursday, April 2, 2026***

***Strategic Grouping: Setting Multilingual Learners Up for Success***

**Description:** In this interactive session, participants will explore how purposeful grouping can elevate multilingual learners' language and academic growth. Together, we'll unpack various grouping methods—based on language proficiency, academic data, and classroom dynamics—and discuss why no single approach fits all. Participants will engage in hands-on activities using mock reading, math, and language data to design effective groups, create seating charts for bilingual and ESL classrooms, and reflect on how collaboration fosters peer learning. Through modeling and discussion, they'll gain practical strategies for flexible grouping, peer scaffolding, and integrating tools such as interactive and vocabulary notebooks, anchor charts, and sentence stems. By the end of the session, participants will walk away with ready-to-use templates, classroom visuals, and a deeper understanding of grouping with intention.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Mary Callirgos, Bilingual Teacher, Clifton Public Schools

**Time:** 1pm - 3pm

**Modality:** In Person

***Thursday, April 2, 2026***

***We Speak Music Here (Hablamos Musica Aqui): Teaching English Language Learners with Songs***

**Description:** It has been said, "Music is the universal language". Exploring song lyrics makes learning language simple and fun. For ELL's, singing songs lights up their brains, activating new vocabulary categories. This workshop gives teachers a musical approach to fostering language acquisition skills. Join music educator/clinical supervisor, "Guitar Bob" Messano, for a participatory, creative session. Learn fresh ideas to stimulate language learning.

**Audience:** PreK Teachers, K-5 Teachers

**Theme:** Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner

**Presenter(s):** Robert Messano, WP Clinical Supervisor

**Time:** 4pm - 6pm

**Modality:** In Person

***Wednesday, April 15, 2026***

***Creating an Emotionally Responsive Preschool Classroom***

**Description:** We will explore a variety of ways to create an emotionally responsive classroom through supporting social and emotional development in the environment, routines, relationships, activities and materials.

**Audience:** PreK Teachers

**Theme:** Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner

**Presenter(s):** Carolyn E. Tebbetts, WP Professor in Residence and Jenine Van Dyke, Lead Teacher, Center for Family Resources

**Time:** 5pm - 7pm

**Modality:** Virtual

***Tuesday, April 21, 2026***

***Family Connections***

**Description:** Teachers often struggle to connect with parents. We will share ideas around supporting connections between school and home. Strategies will include parent connections which promote continuity in support for students in the classroom and at home.

**Audience:** PreK Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Amanda Colon, WP Early Childhood Leader in Residence and Adjunct Professor

**Time:** 5pm - 7pm

**Modality:** Virtual

***Thursday, April 23, 2026***

***Co-Teaching: Moving Towards Partnership Teaching for Student Success***

**Description:** Join us for an engaging workshop designed for educators looking to enhance their co-teaching practices. This session will explore the seven models of co-teaching, providing you with the tools to foster collaboration and boost student success in diverse classroom settings. Targeted primarily at multilingual (ML) teachers who push into classrooms, this workshop is also beneficial for any educators involved in co-teaching partnerships.

**Audience:** PreK Teachers, K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Kim Melman, WP Professor in Residence and Clinical Supervisor

**Time:** 10am - 12pm

**Modality:** In Person

***Thursday, April 23, 2026***

***Covering Your Bases, Efficiently***

**Description:** This session will cover strategies and resources to efficiently deal with the "paperwork" of teaching. New teachers, new to the grade or new to the subject will find this helpful. Anyone teaching hundreds, such as music, art, or gym special, or anyone who doesn't have enough time in the day.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers

**Theme:** Harnessing Technology – Teaching and Learning Using Technology

**Presenter(s):** Raquel Ford, Art Teacher, Paterson Public Schools

**Time:** 1pm - 3pm

**Modality:** In Person



***Tuesday, April 28, 2026***

***Organized to Grow!***

**Description:** This workshop will focus on classroom structures that empower students to take ownership of their learning. Participants will learn strategies to transform their classrooms into spaces that support student independence and academic success. Participants will be shown visual tools, labels, and structures that will empower students to self-manage materials and tasks, thereby reducing teacher workload.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Laura Avalone, Teacher, Newark Public Schools

**Time:** 5pm - 7pm

**Modality:** Virtual

***Thursday, April 30, 2026***

***Unleashing the Magic of the Mathematical Practices 2, 3, 4 & 6***

**Description:** The Mathematical Practices are part of the NJ Math standards that also need to be taught. In this second part, teachers will gain more in-depth understanding of Mathematical Practices 2, 3, 4 & 6 and how they can be incorporated into their daily lessons.

**Audience:** K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Rosemarie Chromey, Supervisor of Mathematics, Paterson Public Schools and WP Clinical Supervisor

**Time:** 1pm - 3pm

**Modality:** In Person

***Tuesday, May 5, 2026***

***The Classroom Environment as a Teacher***

**Description:** We will discuss how to use your classroom environment as a third teacher. We will discuss strategies for how to set up your environment to promote learning and independence. We will also discuss how to use the environment to connect to your theme/unit of study.

**Audience:** PreK Teachers

**Theme:** Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice

**Presenter(s):** Amanda Colon, WP Early Childhood Leader in Residence and Adjunct Professor

**Time:** 5pm - 7pm

**Modality:** Virtual

Date	Title	Theme	Target Audience	Time	Modality
Thursday, February 19, 2026	Google Classroom and Gemini: An AI Resource for Planning and Differentiation of Instruction	Harnessing Technology – Teaching and Learning Using Technology	K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers, 9-12 Teachers, School Administration, Academic Support Staff	5pm - 7pm	Virtual
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	Engaging Children During Choice Time	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	PreK Teachers	5pm - 7pm	Virtual
Thursday, February 26, 2026	From Chaos to Calm: Organizing Your Elementary Classroom for Success!	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	PreK Teachers, K-5 Teachers	5pm - 7pm	Virtual
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	Classroom Reboot: Re-Arrange, Re-Frame, and Re-Imagine	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers	1pm - 3pm	In Person
Thursday, March 5, 2026	Unleashing the Magic of the Mathematical Practices 1, 6, 7, 8	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers	1pm - 3pm	In Person
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	Supporting social-emotional Learning	Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner	PreK Teachers	5pm - 7pm	Virtual
Thursday, March 12, 2026	Make Time for Science by Integrating Children's Literature	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	K-5 Teachers	10am - 12pm	In Person
Thursday, March 12, 2026	Phonics	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	K-5 Teachers	1pm - 3pm	In Person
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	Beyond Tests and Quizzes: Quantifying informal and formative assessments in your classroom	Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner	K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers	10am - 12pm	In Person
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	Engagement that Elevates: Strengthening Professional Practice for Tomorrow's Classroom	Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner	PreK Teachers, K-8 Teachers, 9-12 Teachers, School Administration, Academic Support Staff	1pm - 3pm	In Person
Thursday, March 19, 2026	The Power of Connection: Why Student-Teacher Relationships Matter	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers	5pm - 7pm	Virtual
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	Building Critical AI Literacies: AI Generated Content in Students' Written Compositions	Harnessing Technology – Teaching and Learning Using Technology	6-8 Teachers, 9-12 Teachers, School Administration, Academic Support Staff	5pm - 7pm	Virtual
Thursday, March 26, 2026	Learning Stations/Centers: Next steps	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	PreK Teachers, K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers, School Administration, Academic Support Staff	10am - 12pm	In Person
Thursday, March 26, 2026	Math Centers	Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner	K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers	1pm - 3pm	In Person
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	Equity in Action: Reaching All Students in Diverse Classrooms	Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner	K-5 Teachers	5pm - 7pm	Virtual

Thursday, April 2, 2026	Strategic Grouping: Setting Multilingual Learners Up for Success	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	K-5 Teachers	1pm - 3pm	In Person
Thursday, April 2, 2026	We Speak Music Here (Hablamos Musica Aqui): Teaching English Language Learners with Songs	Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner	PreK Teachers, K-5 Teachers	4pm - 6pm	In Person
Wednesday, April 15, 2026	Creating an Emotionally Responsive Preschool Classroom	Personalizing Learning - Meeting the Needs of Every Learner	PreK Teachers	5pm - 7pm	Virtual
Tuesday, April 21, 2026	Family Connections	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	PreK Teachers	5pm - 7pm	Virtual
Thursday, April 23, 2026	Co-Teaching: Moving Towards Partnership Teaching for Student Success	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	PreK Teachers, K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers	10am - 12pm	In Person
Thursday, April 23, 2026	Covering Your Bases, Efficiently	Harnessing Technology – Teaching and Learning Using Technology	K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers	1pm - 3pm	In Person
Tuesday, April 28, 2026	Organized to Grow!	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	K-5 Teachers	5pm - 7pm	Virtual
Thursday, April 30, 2026	Unleashing the Magic of the Mathematical Practices 2, 3, 4 & 6	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	K-5 Teachers, 6-8 Teachers	1pm - 3pm	In Person
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	The Classroom Environment as a Teacher	Engaging Students – Improving Professional Practice	PreK Teachers	5pm - 7pm	Virtual

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