

2021 Bridge Conference

Statement of Accessibility and Inclusion



Version 6.15.21

SOWA is committed to creating a welcoming space for all attendees at our virtual Bridge Conference. If you have any requests for accommodations, please email us directly at bridge@schoolsoutwashington.org at least two weeks prior to the first day of the Conference and include your request when you register. We will do our best to accommodate accessibility requests and/or work with you to identify alternative solutions if we're not able to meet the exact need. We are committed to working on these areas for virtual accessibility:

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Learning Environment

- SOWA recognizes that we are a neurodiverse community: we all take in knowledge, navigate technology, and express ourselves differently. We encourage you to participate via one or more modes – active listening, typing into the chat box, and/or raising your hand and unmuting to speak when those opportunities are available in the sessions.
- Our intention is to offer an array of events that match different virtual learning preferences, from interactive workshops with group discussions and activities to presentation-style sessions.
- We welcome all languages while recognizing that we operate in English as a dominant language.

Accommodations for Our Virtual Conference

- American Sign Language interpretation will be available for our Opening and Closing Plenaries.
- Automated closed captioning and transcription will be available during the Plenary sessions, workshop periods, and Cultivating Connections (excluding breakout rooms) via the Zoom – Otter AI integration. Full transcripts of individual recorded sessions may be available upon request.

Supporting You to Be an Engaged Learner

- We encourage participants to have snacks and beverages on hand for refueling mind and body.
- We intentionally scheduled breaks of 30 minutes or more in-between sessions to encourage participants to move, take care of basic needs, and address pressing work or personal matters.
- Give yourself and others grace. Set your status as needed if you need to focus on other things in your environment for a moment during a session.

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Accessing Our Virtual Platforms

- You may join the Conference via a computer or phone. We encourage you to download the latest version of Zoom to your device before the event.
- We will provide access to our virtual event platform at least two weeks in advance. We will offer an “Open House” and instructions on how to choose which sessions you will attend so you can build your personalized schedule and become familiar with the online platform.
- We will send your personalized daily schedule to your email to make accessing the event easy.
- In addition to the presenter(s), each session will be supported by at least one staff or volunteer, and live customer service support will be available before, during, and after the conference.

Materials

- Most of our workshops and Plenary sessions will be recorded and available to registrants for access for at least four weeks following the Conference.
- We will encourage presenters to use 20-point font and color contrast for presentation slides, and upload PDFs of slide decks and other materials to our virtual platform for attendee review.

