

Conference Feedback

FAMIS – 2011 Summer Conference

Agenda / Presentations

Don't put more than 3 DOE sessions in one time block. Ex - 3:30 Tuesday

Please re-run important sessions at times less likely to conflict with other important sessions.

In the future, it would be nice if the "big" sessions were not all at the same time. When only 1 person can attend, it makes it really difficult to attend all that should be attended.

i.e. Tuesday 8 a.m. – FLA Cohort, D/O Prevention & DJJ New Eval; ESE

I really needed to be at all 3. Or, if you do have to schedule them that way, maybe there could be another session allocated for it.

When a session includes a large amount of info, it would be nice to have handouts to take notes on. Another option to this would be to e-mail the presentation to all attendees. Even if it is the day before the conference. Allows for the attendee to print out if they want and no paper cost to DOE or presenting district.

Need more paper handouts of sessions.

Need to look at room and time assignments vs. topic/presenter

Need larger room if only 1 DOE presentation is happening in a time slot.

Need longer time if topic is something new for the coming year or is one that has many changes and might generate "extra" questions or discussion.

Handouts / Materials - Need to have sufficient amount for all – In these budget crunches – Districts are cutting back on attendees – It would be great if there were extras. Not all of us could attend all the sessions due to the # being sent to attend. Otherwise, a great conference!

Presenters should use font colors that can be seen. Light yellow on green is not visible on slides.

It would be helpful to receive copies of PowerPoint presentations. This is the only conference I've ever attended (I attend many as Title 1 coordinator), that handouts were not provided by all presenters.

Have a opportunity for an introductory level presentation on FTE, DOE elements, etc. While a majority of conference attendees have been in these positions for a number of years, some of us are new and want to get some basic level information on the importance of the data, etc.

Have a true agenda well in advance for district to get a clear idea of what will be presented.
Post at least one month in advance.

More district presentations with info on how to ensure data fidelity.

More on highly qualified and out of field reporting.

With the importance we place on data in today's society, this conference should be a must to attend. Sadly, I did not learn much.

Duplicate DOE sessions so you can attend what you need if a conflict arises.

At certain time periods, I wanted to attend all sessions but could only attend 1. The problem is I have no solution for you.

Tuesday at 3:30 had too many important meetings at one time. That was difficult to cover. The time slot before had only two meetings.

I missed Lavan's opening soliloquy. His opening was too short. Next year I hope he has more time to address us!

Need more presentations.

Have conference earlier – sometime at end of May, before the end of school year which are too busy

Need more district sharing

The sessions were very good.

In the future, please include some more technical sessions. After all, it is DOE/DB and MIS.

Would like to get a sheet that has all the presenters with e-mails and phone #'s

Need some duplicated DOE sessions, ESOL handouts provided or ready prior to workshops.

Need more DOE sessions.

A few presentations were only 15-20 minutes which seems a waste of time. It would be nice to have better timed ones.

Too long between sessions, could have been less days.

Limit amount of vendor presentations in one time slot.

Have vendors demo in conjunction with districts using their products.

Have the presentations available on-line before the conference.

What happened to Lavan's opening talk? That used to be the highlight of the DOE conference. I learned more useful information from that one session than the rest of the conference combined.

More technical sessions are needed, some sessions were scheduled for an hour but only lasted 15 to 30 minutes. Not enough information. I didn't feel like I learned enough for the time & travel.

Need more staff info.

Would like to have the presentations loaded 1 week before the conference to bring with me

Need more sessions – technical

Need more county meetings for collaboration

DOE needs to go over basic info instead of just new. Think workshops would benefit new people gathering important data.

Liked the sharing sessions

Need more sessions and more discussion sessions

I attended one session that I was disappointed since it only lasted around seven minutes & was hoping get more info. The session was "helpful online reports" on Tuesday, 6/14, 2:30 p.m. Beside this one session, I thoroughly enjoyed all the sessions I attended.

Handouts for all meetings would be helpful.

Presenters need to be motivated.

Good coverage of topics.

Handouts of power points should be available for each participant or notification that they will not be provided and where we might be able to print our own.

Meeting Rooms

Need tables in sessions.

Get air working in smaller rooms.

Many rooms were too hot.

Very hot in rooms.

Poor wireless service

Hot, especially in vendor hall.

Many rooms were too hot.

Some rooms got hotter than comfortable on Tuesday

This may be beyond your control, but some meetings were held in rooms that were too small.

Some meeting rooms did not accommodate size.

I do not like the large board having lines through it. Several times I could not read the information.

Some of the rooms were not large enough for the # of people.

Room temperature needed improvement.

Need more common areas.

Some meeting rooms were too warm.

Small meeting rooms were crowded and hot.

Temperature – hot!

A/C in room 214

Only issue – Wi/Fi not working or extremely slow.

Needs to be cooler

The temperature on level 2 tended to be a bit warm.

Temperature was not consistent in all meeting rooms.

The rooms were not kept cool.

The temperature of the rooms could be improved.

The restrooms on the 2nd floor were close during the sessions on the 3rd day.

The facility was great

I know this is beyond your control but the sectioned presentation boards were not appealing.

The grid lines on "screens" are disturbing

Common areas need more seating.

In 208, we did not like divided panels when power point was used.

Tables to write on would be more comfortable than using your lap.

Only problem was the temperature in the vendor area after lunch.

The temperature in the smaller rooms (205 & 214 particularly) was a problem.

214 got very warm in the afternoon

The rooms were too warm

Screen in conference room 208 shouldn't have lines on it. It's distracting to audience, the words are hard to read, lines go through words

The main problem was the heat in the rooms.

The rooms were too hot.

Air conditioning was a problem.

Don't close the bathrooms during the conference.

2nd day end of day temperature got very hot and uncomfortable

A/C was a problem

Need tables (to hold laptops)

Need wi fi.

WiFi was very slow many times.

Food & Beverage

The luncheon on Tuesday was delicious!

Lunch was awesome.

Food was great

Include onsite option for lunch on day 1.

Excellent lunch

Begin first day after lunchtime or provide an option to purchase lunch if you begin at 12:00 p.m.
Good cookies!

The lunch served was wonderful.

Give an option for lunch other than beef.

Need more lines at lunch

Lunch was wonderful!

Can we have some light breakfast food Tuesday & Wednesday?

Lunch was delicious.

Possibly add bagels etc for purchase at breakfast time

Maybe add lunch for purchase on opening day

Spread the food out to day 3! Move the cookies to the last day instead of after a big meal.

Snack options/meal options, vendors would be nice.

Meal was wonderful!

Excellent meal!

Location

Love the new location.

Very good location!

More centralized location

Make the conference more centralized - Tallahassee is nice but too hard to get to for the southern half of Florida. More districts may have been present.

It would be better to have the conference in a central location again like it was in previous years. Districts in the southern part of the state are unable to attend. We have not been able to attend the conference in many years because of the expense and how far the travel must take to participate.

Try to get back to accommodations at conference site. Networking opportunities were limited by having off-site.

Have conference in central Florida so more districts from the south can attend. – Hardee County

Central Location so less travel time and more attendees. - Hardee

Nice facility

Travel is difficult if from southern Florida region

Make it in Orlando.

The conference center is an excellent location. Convenient and very nicely laid out.

The facility was a good place to have FAMIS.

Prefer to have meeting rooms / conference in a hotel.

This is a beautiful facility and handled the crowd very well.

More convenient when conference is in a hotel

Move back to Orlando! Very difficult to attend.

From Presenters

Pre-load presentations on PC's.

Provide somebody for each session to make sure presenter is comfortable with equipment.

Provide Turnbull Center technical assistance at start of each session to help facilitate the transition from one presenter to another with Powerpoint set up.

Vendor Comments

2 sided name tags or name tag pouch

Give the silver and gold vendors a moment to announce their topic and synopsis at the kickoff session .

Vendors only on Monday & Tuesday

Don't schedule sponsor presentations with major DOE presentations.

Other

Possibly incorporate FSFOA (Finance Officer's meeting) and / or FASBO (Florida Association of School Business Officers) at one location with FAMIS. FSFOA usually meets about the same time (actually same week this year).

Let us know about parking beforehand.

Should be one week later (my staff could not attend because of end of year activities – report cards, payrolls, etc.)

Need conference bags

Need notification earlier of conference dates and locations.

I wish you had told us we could have parked for free in the garage before the conference.

Complements

Thanks for an awesome conference!!

Thanks for putting this conference together and allowing DOE to participate and provide info in so many sessions!

Thank you for this great opportunity for DOE & districts!!

Really enjoyed the conference.

Great conference.

Thank you for putting MIS & the DOE together!!

Great door prizes!!

A great conference! Thank you for your hard work! My 1st time here!

Ya'll did a good job.

Most things were very good.

Fantastic

Very well organized and smoothly run! Great job!

Good Job!

Done well.

Excellent assemblage!

Thanks to DOE for their info and expertise.

A lot of questions answered.

Great conference!

Really get a LOT out of these conferences.

Great conference, great lunch, great forum.

Everything was very professional and displayed very well.

Organized, professional

Great job by the FAMIS staff

Well done!

All was good!

Everything was awesome!

Great Job – appreciate all you do.

Thank you for all that did to make the FAMIS conference a success.

THANK YOU!!!