Statement of Accessibility and Inclusion

SOWA is committed to creating a welcoming and safe space for all attendees to ensure the virtual Bridge conference meets your needs. If you have any requests for accommodations, please email us directly at bridge@schoolsoutwashington.org.

We are committed to working on these areas for virtual accessibility:

**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 – listening, typing into the chat box, and/or raising your hand and unmuted to speak when those opportunities are available in the sessions.

- Session descriptions will be available approximately one month prior to the conference and we will provide access to our virtual event platform at least two weeks in advance so you can build your personalized schedule and become familiar with the online platform.

- SOWA will provide a training for workshop presenters to cover virtual workshop best practices.

**Supporting You to Be an Engaged Learner**

- We encourage participants to have snacks, coffee, tea, and other beverages on hand for refueling the mind and body.

- We intentionally scheduled breaks of 30 minutes or more in-between sessions to encourage participants to stretch, take a moment to step away from their computers or mobile phones and to provide time for people to take care of basic needs.

- We encourage you to share your video to facilitate community building with each other and recognize that you may choose to turn off your camera.

- We encourage each other to give ourselves and others grace and to acknowledge we may have people and/or things in our environments that need our attention during the session. Set your status as needed if you need to focus on other things for a moment.

**Technology**

- All participants will be provided with multiple ways to access each session, whether via the internet or by calling in via phone.

- We will provide instructions on how to navigate the scheduling process (when you will choose which workshops you will attend), and we will share the Zoom links to the sessions in your personalized daily schedule directly to your email to help make accessing the event easy.

- Most of our workshops and keynotes will be recorded and available to registrants for access for a month after the conference ends.

- In addition to the presenter(s), each session will be supported by multiple staff and volunteers, and live customer service support will be available before, during, and after the conference.

- Live Captioning will be available for our Opening Plenary on Tuesday, October 27th and Closing Plenary on Friday, October 30th.

- Automated transcription provided by Otter AI will be available for all conference workshops when possible (transcription during Zoom breakout rooms is currently not available).

- Post conference workshop transcriptions may be available upon request.

This document will be updated as elements are added. Version 8.26.20