

Melissa D. Gunter

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Education, *George Mason University*, Present

- Specialization: **Special Education**
- Secondary Specialization: **Teacher Education Leadership**
- Research Interest: *Preparing Teachers for the Implementation of Inclusive Practices*

M.S. in Education, *Longwood University*, May 2021

- Specialization: **Educational Leadership**
- Capstone Project: *Meeting the Needs of Students with Disabilities During COVID-19*

M.A. in Teaching, *Liberty University*, Dec. 2017

- Specialization: **Special Education**
- Specialization: **Middle Grades Mathematics**
- Honors: *graduate with high distinction*

B.A. in Religion, *Campbell University*, Dec. 2007

- Specialization: **Religion & Christian Ministries**
- Honors: *cum laude*

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATIONS

Virginia Postgraduate Professional License

Endorsements:

- Administration and Supervision PreK-12
- Special Education General Curriculum K-12
- Middle Education 6-8: Mathematics

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Faculty

Aug. 2025 – Present

University Supervisor of Interns

George Mason University, College of Education and Human Development

Administrative/Professional Faculty

April 2023 – Present

Training and Technical Assistance Center Coordinator

George Mason University, College of Education and Human Development

Adjunct Instructor

Jan. 2023 – May 2025

University Supervisor of Student Teachers (Undergraduate & Graduate)

Liberty University Online (LUO), School of Education

Special Education Teacher

July 2017 – April 2023

Inclusive and Resource Reading, Math, SEL, & Executive Functioning Skills (K-5)

Child Study Chair

Campbell County Public Schools, Altavista Elementary School

Substitute Teacher

Jan. 2017 – June 2017

Campbell County Public Schools

Lynchburg City Public Schools

Private Tutor

Reading, Math, & Executive Functioning (K-9)

June 2020 – Present

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Lexia via Campbell County Public Schools, 2021-2023

Language Essentials for Teachers of Literacy and Spelling (LETRS); Volumes 1 & 2

Institute for Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE)

Phonological Awareness Training (12.50 hours) – July 2021

Intermediate IMSE Orton-Gillingham Training (30-hours) – July 2019

VDOE Multi-Sensory Structured Literacy Initiative, April 2019

AOGPE's Orton-Gillingham Classroom Educator Level Training (30-hours)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Weiss, M. P., McKenney, N., & **Gunter, M.D.** (2025, November). *United in Teaching: Exploring Collaboration and SDI in Co-Teaching Instructional Planning with a web-based planning application*. [Multipaper presentation]. Council for Exceptional Children Teacher Education Division Conference. Kansas City, MO.

Gunter, M. D. & Santos, R. (2025, May 21). *Total Participation Techniques (TPTs)*. [Conference presentation]. 2025 Spring Virginia Council of Administrators of Special Education Conference, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Cooper, D. & **Gunter, M. D.** (2025, May 21). *Administrators' Guide to Specially Designed Instruction*. [Conference presentation]. 2025 Spring Virginia Council of Administrators of Special Education Conference, Williamsburg, Virginia.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATIONS

Boger, J., **Gunter, M. D.** (2026, January). *High-Leverage Practice #16: Using C-R-A to Deliver Explicit Instruction*. [In-person presentation]. Professional Development, Johnson-Williams Middle School, Berryville, Virginia.

Boger, J., **Gunter, M. D.**, & Santos, R. (2026, January). *FBA & BIP State Training*. [In-person presentation]. Professional Development, Virginia.

Boger, J., **Gunter, M. D.** (2025, October). *High-Leverage Practice #16: Classroom Management & Collaborative Teaching*. [In-person presentation]. Professional Development, Johnson-Williams Middle School, Berryville, Virginia.

Boger, J., **Gunter, M. D.** (2025, September). *High-Leverage Practice #16: Instructional Practices*. [In-person presentation]. Professional Development, Johnson-Williams Middle School, Berryville, Virginia.

Gunter, M. D. (2025, August). *Designing with Intention: Planning for Effective Specially Designed Instruction*. [In-person presentation]. Innovation Conference, Clarke County Public Schools, Virginia.

- Gunter, M. D.** (2025, August). *SDI Demystified: What Every Educator Needs to Know About Specially Designed Instruction*. [In-person presentation]. Innovation Conference, Clarke County Public Schools, Virginia.
- Gunter, M. D.** (2025, August). *High-Leverage Practice #16: Explicit Instruction*. [In-person presentation]. Professional Development, Johnson-Williams Middle School, Berryville, Virginia.
- Gunter, M. D. & Mitchell, R.** (2025, July). *Planning for SDI in Mathematics*. [In-person presentation]. VDOE Journey into Teaching Academy, Glen Allen, Virginia.
- Frawley, C., **Gunter, M. D.**, & Santos, R. (2025, June). *What Does SDI Look Like in Today's Math Classroom?* [In-person presentation]. VDOE Content Teaching Academy, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia.
- Gunter, M. D. & Santos, R.** (2025, May). *Planning for Specially Designed Instruction*. [Virtual presentation]. Professional Development, Clarke County Public Schools, Virginia.
- Gunter, M. D.**, Peterson, Y., & Santos, R. (2025, April). *Opportunities to Respond Across Multiple VESOL*. [In-person presentation]. VESOL Alliance, Training and Technical Assistance Center, George Mason University, Manassas, Virginia.
- Gunter, M. D. & Santos, R.** (2025, April). *Understanding Specially Designed Instruction*. [In-person presentation]. Professional Development, Clarke County Public Schools, Virginia.
- Gunter, M. D.** (2025, April). *HLPs & Evidence-Based Strategies: Effective Practices for Student Success*. [In-person presentation]. VDOE Journey into Teaching Academy, VT Richmond Center, Richmond, Virginia.
- Gunter, M. D.** (2025, April). *Maximizing Math Success: Strategies that Work*. [In-person presentation]. Professional Development, Loudoun County Public Schools, Virginia.
- Gunter, M. D. & Santos, R.** (2025, February). *Total Participation Techniques*. [In-person presentation]. Professional Development, Page County Public Schools, Virginia.
- Gunter, M. D. & Creighton Martin, C.** (2024, December). *Inclusive Practices: Strategic Co-Teaching Approaches*. [Virtual presentation]. Professional Development, Rappahannock County Public Schools, Virginia.
- Gunter, M. D. & Creighton Martin, C.** (2024, November). *Inclusive Practices: High-Leverage Practices in the Co-Taught Setting*. [Virtual presentation]. Professional Development, Rappahannock County Public Schools, Virginia.
- Gunter, M. D. & Santos, R.** (2024, September). *Active Engagement Strategies for Secondary Instruction*. [In-person presentation]. Professional Development, Page County Public Schools, Virginia.
- Bell, C., **Gunter, M. D.**, & Hobson, J. (2024, September). *Specially Designed Instruction*. [In-person presentation]. VDOE Journey into Teaching Academy, VT Richmond Center, Richmond, Virginia.

Gunter, M. D. (2024, August). *The Data Cycle in Action*. [In-person presentation]. Professional Development, Loudoun County Public Schools, Virginia.

Gunter, M. D. (2024, August). *Total Participation Techniques (HLP 18)*. [In-person presentation]. Innovation Conference, Clarke County Public Schools, Virginia.

Gunter, M. D. & Hobson, J. (2024, June). *Specially Designed Instruction in the Co-Taught Math Classroom*. [In-person presentation]. VDOE Content Teaching Academy, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Gunter, M. D. (2024, March). *Schema-Based Mathematics Instruction: Applying Prior Knowledge to Solve Complex Problems (Secondary)*. [Webinar presentation]. Training and Technical Assistance Center, George Mason University, Virtual.

Gunter, M. (2024, March). *Highly Effective Instructional Practices for Investigating Quadratic Functions*. [In-person presentation]. Professional Development, Loudoun County Public Schools, Virginia.

Gunter, M. D. (2024, February). *Schema-Based Mathematics Instruction: Additive & Multiplicative Schemas for 3-6*. [Webinar presentation]. Training and Technical Assistance Center, George Mason University, Virtual.

Gunter, M. D. (2024, February). *Schema-Based Mathematics Instruction: Additive Schemas for K-2*. [Webinar presentation]. Training and Technical Assistance Center, George Mason University, Virtual.

Gunter, M. D. (2023, August). *Mentor Training*. [In-person presentation]. Professional Development, Clarke County Public Schools, Virginia.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Gunter, M. D., Rice, R., & Van Acker, K. (2020, November). *Meeting the Needs of Students with Disabilities During COVID-19*. [Paper presentation]. Research Symposium, Longwood University, Virtual.

UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS

Gunter, M. D. (2025, Spring). *Cracking the Code: Teaching Reading with Orton-Gillingham*. (EDSE 341). Instructor: Dr. Kelley S. Regan. George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Gunter, M. D. (2025, Spring). *Evidence-Based Mathematics Practices: Multiple Representations: CRA Model* (EDSE 443). Instructor: Dr. Lisa D. Tullo. George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

SERVICE

Field Reviewer

Journal of Special Education Preparation (JOSEP) (2025-present)

University Representative

Battlefields of Northern Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics (BNVCTM) (2025–present)

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

George Mason University

Graduate

EDSE 783: Internship: Special Education General Curriculum, Fall '25, Spring '26

Liberty University Online

Undergraduate

EDST 460/464/480: Student Teaching Supervisor: Mathematics, '23-'24

EDST 475: The Reflective Educator: Resource Seminar: Middle/Secondary, '23-'24

Graduate

EDST 560/564/565 – Student Teaching Supervisor: Mathematics, Spring '25

EDST 562 – Student Teaching Supervisor: SpEd, Spring '25

EDST 585 – The Reflective Educator: Resource Seminar: Middle/Secondary, Spring '24 & '25

EDST 587 – The Reflective Educator: Resource Seminar: SpEd, Spring '25