

2025 Aspiring Educators Conference



The NEA Aspiring Educators (AE) Program is the leading voice for the next generation of educators. The mission of NEA's AE Program is to advocate for education professionals and to unite its members and the nation in fulfilling the promise of public education. Its mission is also to prepare every student to succeed in a diverse and interdependent world.

Aspiring Educators Request for Proposals

Aspiring Educators meet each year at the end of June before NEA's Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly. We are now accepting applications to present at the 2025 Aspiring Educators Conference. The Conference will be held in Portland, Ore. from June 27 – June 30, 2025.

The purpose of the Aspiring Educators Conference (AEC) is to offer future educators the opportunity to connect with their colleagues, learn about their profession, and act on important education issues affecting public schools and communities. The AEC is designed to support experiential learning that provides opportunities for NEA Aspiring Educator members and leaders to develop the knowledge and skills articulated in the "[NEA Leadership Competency Framework](#)"¹ and to highlight and embody the AE Core Values.²

Aspiring Educators seek learning and information (such as, advocacy, social and emotional learning, and classroom practice) to take home and share with other members and their communities. The AEC is for NEA members and leaders, regardless of experience level, membership type, or educator category. With that in mind, NEA views a Request for Proposal (RFP) as an application for a training session that directly supports the purpose of the AEC. The proposal must incorporate content from the Leadership Competency domains and clearly explain how the use of the content will help develop the knowledge and skills within the AE Core Values.

To submit an RFP for the upcoming 2025 AEC, please use the link below.

[Aspiring Educator Conference RFP Submission](#)

❖ **The deadline to submit a proposal is 11:59 PM ET on December 15, 2024.**

All applicants will be notified of selection by March 1, 2025

❖ **Registration for the Aspiring Educators Conference will open in May 2025.**

Notes: ¹The Competency Framework's Seven [Leadership Competency](#) Domains and [AE Core Values](#)

I. Preparing A Successful Proposal

Proposals are expected to offer engaging, interactive, solution-oriented sessions that enable participants to return to their universities and/or communities with innovative ideas, skills, and a plan of action for making a difference. The proposals should be written to articulate how the session will apply to Aspiring Educators.

A team of reviewers evaluates and rates all session proposals. Reviewers consider the following questions when evaluating proposals; please consider them carefully as you prepare your session descriptions. Provide enough details for reviewers to fully understand your plans.

Advance NEA Leadership Competencies and Goals

- o How well does this proposal utilize NEA's Leadership Competency Framework and instill the skills, knowledge, and behaviors articulated in the competency description?
- o Does the proposal include a session description that clearly identifies which specific Leadership Competency experience level (Level 1, Level 2, Level 3) is targeted?
- o How well does this proposal advance NEA's strategic objectives? (Click [here](#) to view NEA's Strategic Framework, 2024-25.)

Advance AE Core Values

- o How well does this proposal relate to the AE Core Values (Educator Quality, Community Engagement, Political Action, Social and Racial Justice) and the needs of AEs?

Presenter and Session Quality

- o Will your presentation demonstrate proven practices and push the leading edge of the profession?
- o Does the proposal adequately explain what will occur in the session?
- o How engaging is the presentation likely to be?
- o What credentials and/or experience does the presenter have in delivering this content?
- o Does this proposal include examples that are inclusive of aspiring educators?

Interactive and Action-Based

- o How do you expect your presentation will deliver positive, solution-oriented outcomes supported by data and other evidence?
- o Will the session require and inspire action on the part of those participating?
- o What are the expected outcomes for your session?
- o Do these outcomes support the AEC's purpose?

II. Important Information

A. What is Required for the RFP:

- Be sure to fill out the presenter's form in its entirety and include the names of all potential presenters on the online application. If you presented at previous AECs before or at other NEA conferences, you must still complete this form.
- Presentation titles should not exceed the maximum **100** characters, including spaces and punctuations.
- Presentation descriptions should not exceed the maximum **1,000** characters, including spaces and punctuations.
- To maximize the number and diversity of presenters and perspectives, each is limited to two proposal submissions.

B. What I Need for Travel and Related Conference Disclaimers:

- NEA will pay for travel and hotel accommodations for two nights only for the Primary Presenter in accordance with our travel guidelines. (Note: Honoraria/fees and work release time are not reimbursable, and payment for substitutes is not covered). **NEA will not cover expenses for Secondary Presenter(s).**
- NEA will provide specific guidelines and information for travel arrangements and accommodations. NEA will also provide specific follow-up guidance and agreements for all presenters.
- All presenters **ARE REQUIRED** to register for the AEC by the registration deadline. Failure to register may result in your session being canceled and replaced.
- If your proposal is accepted, you will receive more information and can finalize session information after receiving your acceptance notice.
- NEA will NOT accept/make changes to the primary presenter identified in the original RFP application to receive NEA travel accommodations after confirmation of your acceptance to present.

We ask that you carefully review this guidance and utilize it as a reference as you complete your application.

If you have questions about the submission, please contact Tierra Snead, tsnead@nea.org or Ann Nutter Coffman, aCoffman@nea.org.

SMARTSHEET FORM: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/cbd817842fe6498fa054b4eaa8bc5bc7>