



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

August 24, 2026

Dear Chief State School Officer:

I am writing to remind you about the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA) **2027 National ESEA Conference**. This is an important professional learning experience for educators. As in prior years, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) staff plan to be in attendance to provide timely updates and lead professional learning sessions regarding Federal education programs and funding issues. In light of our work to return education to states, we remain committed to ensuring educators are equipped with the tools they need to best support children across the country.

The National ESEA Conference is scheduled for **February 23-25, 2027, at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky**. A virtual option will also be available. The National ESEA Conference welcomes thousands of K-12 educators from across the country each year. This year's theme, ***Empowering Voices, Building Futures***, creates an opportunity to empower educators from across the country to use their voices to influence their classrooms and communities. In turn, empowering students to find their voice to learn, grow, and build successful futures.

This year, NAESPA is introducing conference tracks—a core framework that will shape each session, learning experience, and professional connection. Whether you are leading Federal programs, improving classroom instruction, supporting special populations, or strengthening family partnerships, each track is built to move your work forward and, ultimately, improve outcomes for students.

Conference participants, including State agency officials, school district administrators, school building leaders, and teachers, will gain new knowledge, instructional strategies, and skills needed to transform student learning. The conference is a unique opportunity to meet and learn from professionals working to address learning gaps and help students succeed. The conference includes both plenary sessions with nationally recognized speakers as well as smaller interactive workshops designed to provide attendees the opportunity to learn from and connect around best practices from education experts working in States and school districts.

We recognize that States may have constraints on conference registrations, out-of-state travel, and association memberships for Federally funded program staff, but we encourage you to consider having staff working on ESEA programs attend. We hope that the hybrid conference format will enable even greater involvement from the education community.

Conference details, including registration materials, are available at <https://www.eseanetwork.org/conference>. If you have questions about the conference, please contact **Dr. M. Edward Cheeks**, CEO of the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA), at medward@eseanetwork.org or 800-256-6452.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Ryder
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