

2026 Southern Regional Education Board
Meeting of Legislative and Governors' Staff

Education Issues, Policies and Priorities in 2027 and Beyond

Hyatt Centric Midtown Atlanta | September 17-18, 2026

SREB is focused on the critical needs of our region: artificial intelligence, educator workforce development, career pathways for an AI-transformed economy and sustainable education funding. Join us as we explore those critical needs and work together to define what success looks like in providing every student in the region with a high-quality education leading to meaningful careers, fulfilling lives and thriving economies.

Thursday, September 17

12 p.m. <i>The Strip</i>	Lunch for all Attendees
1 p.m. <i>Blooming Hill 1</i>	Roundtable Discussion of State Education Issues Discuss with SREB staff and your SREB-region colleagues the critical education issues states will be tackling in 2027 and beyond. <i>Valerie Greenhill</i> , SREB President
2 p.m. <i>Blooming Hill 1</i>	Education Funding in the Face of Demographic Change Most states have seen declines in student enrollments alongside larger shifts in demographics and population. We will consider the implications of these shifts and how states are navigating a changed environment. <i>Jeffrey Grove</i> , SREB Program Specialist <i>Ben Scafidi</i> , Education Economics Center Director, Kennesaw State University
3 p.m.	Break
3:15 p.m. <i>Blooming Hill 1</i>	Analyzing Educator Workforce Data: Ideate with SREB Explore SREB's work to take the analysis and visualization of our region's educator workforce data to a new level, discuss ideas for making the projects more impactful for policymakers and education leaders, and help shape these future data tools. <i>Megan Boren</i> , SREB Educator Workforce Program Director <i>Sheniqua Pierce</i> , SREB Educator Workforce Analyst

4:15 p.m. <i>Blooming Hill 1</i>	Connecting Learning to Careers through Credentials of Value Learn how the SREB Commission on Career Pathways and Credentials is helping states identify priority occupations, align education and training with labor market demand, and develop pathways for learners to earn credentials of value leading to meaningful careers and opportunities for economic mobility. <i>Courtney Liedner</i>, SREB Research and Accountability Analyst <i>Dale Winkler</i>, SREB Senior Vice President for School Improvement
5 p.m.	Adjourn
6 p.m. <i>Authors Den</i> <i>The Strip</i>	Reception and Dinner

Friday, September 18

7:30 a.m. <i>The Strip</i>	Breakfast
8:30 a.m. <i>Blooming Hill 1</i>	SREB State Progress Reports See how SREB is tracking data and policies for workforce, postsecondary and high school as states progress toward the 2030 Challenge to Excel Goals for Education. <i>Natalee Jones</i>, SREB Policy Analyst
9:15 a.m. <i>Blooming Hill 1</i>	Blue Sky Brainstorming to Support Legislative and Governors' Staff Year-Round Join SREB President Valerie Greenhill in generating innovative ideas to strengthen the engagement of legislative and governors' staff with SREB, discussing how SREB can support staff year-round. <i>Valerie Greenhill</i>, SREB President
10:15 a.m.	Break for Hotel Checkout
10:30 a.m. <i>Blooming Hill 1</i>	Literacy: A Critical Link Early grades literacy and numeracy are the foundation for student academic success and positive outcomes later in life. We will dive deeper into the State Progress Report data to identify the challenges states must address to prepare all students for success. <i>Creed Dunn</i>, SREB Policy Analyst
11:15 a.m. <i>Blooming Hill 1</i>	Shared Legislative and Executive Priorities and How SREB Can Help SREB works with its compact member states to bring policymakers together on education topics and policies of critical importance. We will discuss the crucial role of staff in making those connections and how SREB can help. <i>Jeffrey Grove</i>, SREB Program Specialist
11:30 a.m.	Adjourn
11:30 a.m. <i>The Strip</i>	Lunch for all Attendees