



Call for Presentations and Submission Guide

Submissions deadline:
Friday, October 30, 2020

Learn more:
sreb.org/SummerConference

Contact us:
summerstaffdev@sreb.org

SREB | School
Improvement

Making Schools Work Conference

Nashville, July 6-9, 2021



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Making Schools Work Conference Overview

Join us in Nashville, July 6-9, at the 2021 Making Schools Work Conference, for a powerful professional learning event for elementary through high school teachers, counselors, principals, technology center directors, and state and district education agency personnel.

Formerly known as the High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference, the Making Schools Work Conference is the nation's premier professional learning event for school improvement. Each year, thousands of educators come together to share promising practices for advancing students' readiness for college and careers and deeply implementing research-based school improvement strategies.

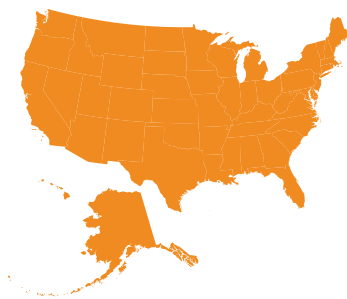
We invite you to learn more about conference objectives and sessions, register and submit a proposal that shares how you've enhanced student engagement and achievement and improved the culture of your school, center or postsecondary institution.



Quick Facts About the Making Schools Work Conference



3,500+ Attendees



35 States



740+ Schools



400+ Sessions



700+ Presenters

65%

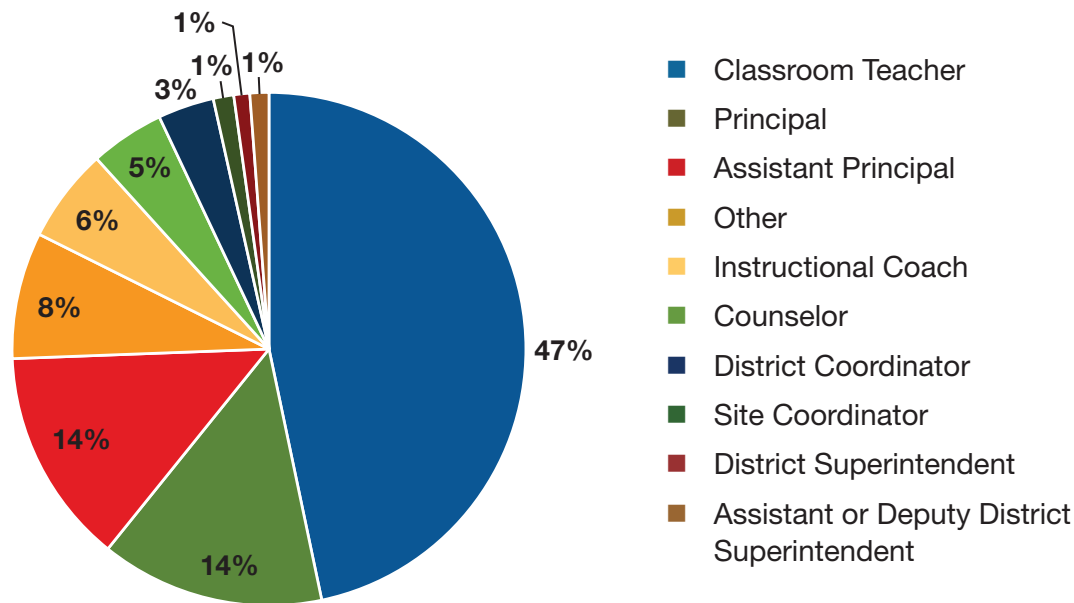
**Sessions led
by practitioners**

How to Submit a Successful Proposal

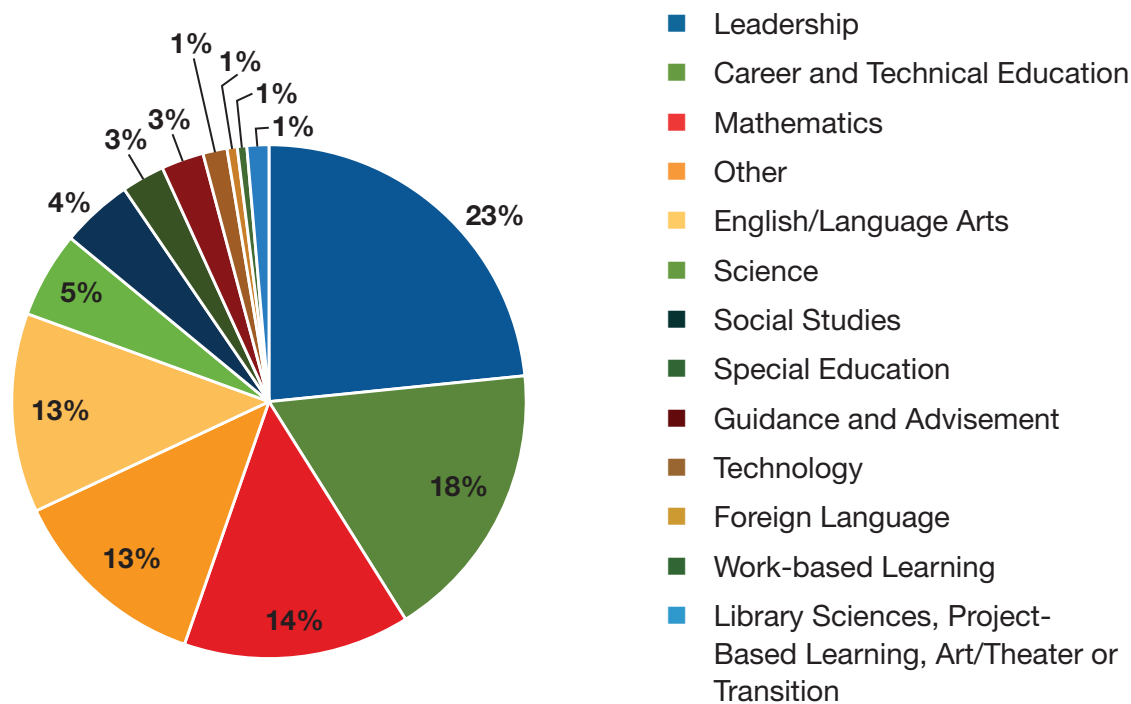
Know your audience.

Thousands of K-12 teachers, counselors, principals, technology center directors and national, state and local education agency staff attend SREB's Making Schools Work Conference to participate in transformative professional learning, hands-on workshops, networking opportunities and awards ceremonies. Here's a snapshot of who attended in 2019 and the content areas they represented.

Who attends?



What are their interests?





Choose the right session format.

Each year, teams of teachers, counselors and school leaders convene at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference to identify their schools' strengths and challenges, explore new tools and strategies, deepen their self-confidence and create plans for student success.

Innovative, inspirational sessions led by educators like you are the reason school teams return to our conferences again and again!

What session type is right for you and your audience?

60-minute promising practice/concurrent sessions — Promising practice sessions highlight powerful practices and pedagogies that transform teaching and learning in any disciplinary area and in any setting — including elementary schools, middle grades schools, high schools, technology centers and postsecondary institutions. Promising practice sessions are your chance to spotlight strategies that have enhanced student engagement and achievement and improved the culture of your school, center or postsecondary institution.

Past attendees agree: The best sessions include multimedia, movement and hands-on learning. Start with an icebreaker to get attendees energized, then involve them in group exercises, case studies, discussions or games. Switch activities frequently to keep their attention. Consider including students' perspectives or participation in your session, too!

More tips for a successful promising practice session:

- Explain how you achieved faculty buy-in and supported staff participation. Describe whether professional development supported your efforts and who implemented key strategies.
- Share data showing how student engagement and achievement improved — this might include state and national assessment results, course grades, attendance and behavioral data, student surveys and classroom artifacts.
- Offer personal reflections — yours and those of fellow educators or students — on your school improvement journey. Describe what you might have done differently and what you'd like to do in the future.

Proposal Checklist

Don't forget these key elements!

Title – Memorable titles draw a crowd! Limit your title to **no more than 15 words** that give attendees a clear idea of what they'll experience.

Abstract – If your session's title is an appetizer, the abstract is the main course. Abstracts should summarize the goal of your session in **no more than 150 words**. Some tips:

- ✓ Offer an accurate, detailed preview of what attendees will learn.
- ✓ Highlight key takeaways.
- ✓ Define any abbreviations or acronyms that might be unfamiliar.
- ✓ Explain any instruments, research or technology tools you'll address.

Additional Information:

- ✓ **Session type and length** – Promising practice (60-minute), deep dive (120-minute) or sharing session/table talk (two back-to-back 25-minute sessions)
 - **target audience** – Who would benefit from attending your session?
 - **grade level(s)** – Does your session relate to students in the elementary grades, middle grades, high school or technology centers?
 - **content area(s)** – What disciplinary areas or issues does your session address?
 - **Re-do** – Are you willing to **repeat your session**?

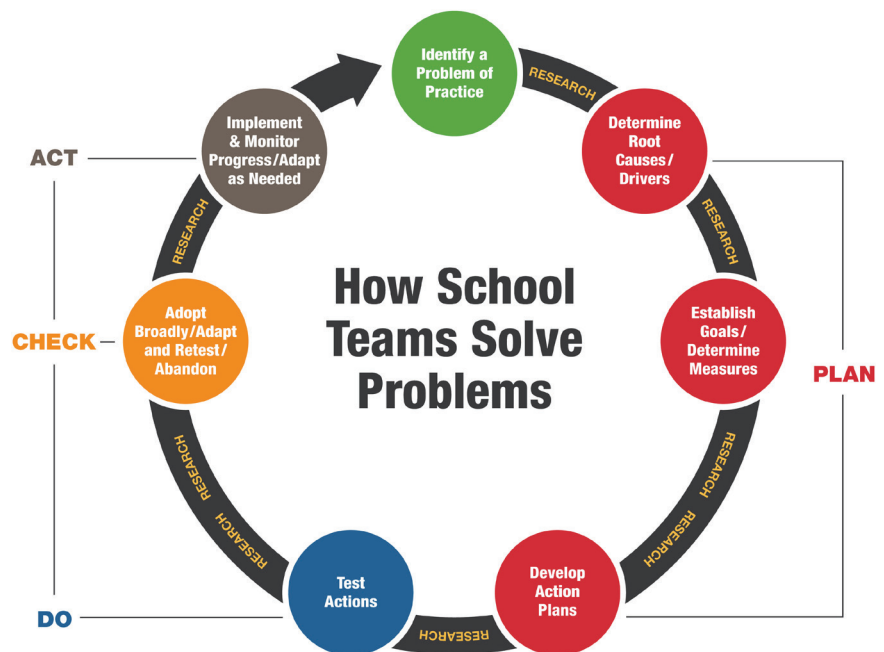
All submitters and presenters must provide complete contact information for each person associated with the session, including the email addresses at which we can reach you during the school year and the summer. We encourage you to also share a bio and social media information for our app.



120-minute deep-dive sessions —

Deep-dive sessions give school teams time to explore a problem of practice in their school, technology center or postsecondary institution and partner with other educators to develop tools, strategies and plans to address that problem. Deep-dive sessions will run throughout the 2021 Making Schools Work Conference.

Your deep-dive session proposal should describe how educators at your school, center or postsecondary institution identified a specific problem of practice, what data you used to identify potential causes of the problem, what goals and measures you set for assessing the problem, and how you researched, tested and adapted strategies for solving it.



Attendees should leave your session with tools, strategies or plans for tackling similar issues in their schools.

Table talk sessions — These 25-minute sessions, scheduled back-to-back in two blocks for one hour, allow presenters and attendees to share and gather information about a topic in a less formal setting. Table talk sessions are hosted at round tables that accommodate up to 10 attendees. They can be condensed versions of a 60-minute promising practice session or a 120-minute deep-dive session but can also be stand-alone sessions about key problems of practice and top-of-mind issues that relate to conference objectives. Conference organizers encourage you to follow many of the same tips offered for promising practice and deep-dive sessions — make sure your proposal indicates who would benefit from attending and what they will be able to share and take away from your session. Consider using concise handouts, short videos or other multimedia to help tell your story. We encourage you to capture attendees’ names and contact information so you can continue learning together after the conference.

Focus on a key conference objective.

Conference objectives are based on the five focus areas of the Making Schools Work school improvement process.

1. **Engaging Instruction** – Engage each student in every classroom through high-quality instruction that incorporates powerful literacy and mathematics practices and project-based assignments.
2. **Aligned Curriculum** – Ensure each student has equitable access to challenging academic and technical curricula that align instruction, assignments and assessments with grade-level readiness standards.
3. **Career Pathways** – Offer each student access to career pathways and programs of study that align with workforce needs and include opportunities to earn industry or postsecondary credentials and participate in work-based learning.
4. **Systems of Support** – Provide each student with the personalized career guidance, advisement, social and emotional supports, and extra help and accelerated learning opportunities needed to graduate ready for college and careers.
5. **Leadership for Continuous Improvement** – Engage the whole school community in promoting a culture of high expectations and continuously using data to identify problems of practice and develop action plans to solve those problems.

Submit your proposal!

The submission deadline for all Making Schools Work Conference session proposals is **Friday, October 30, 2020.**

Submit your proposal online: <https://bit.ly/MSW2021>

Don't forget to:

- Spotlight the tools, tips and strategies attendees can take home and use in their classrooms.
- Be clear and concise about your session's goals and how your session aligns with Making Schools Work Conference objectives.
- Make your session irresistible to your target audience!
- Include any key facts, research or pedagogies you plan to highlight.
- Be sure to choose the best session format for your topic.
- Check the FAQ (see next page) for additional details.



Session Submission FAQ

What is the deadline to submit?

The deadline to submit a proposal for the 2021 Making Schools Work Conference is **Friday, October 30, 2020**. Note that this is a much earlier deadline than in previous years. The sooner the system closes, the sooner we can publish our conference programs and you can begin planning your schedule!

How do I submit a session?

All proposals must be submitted through our new online system at <https://bit.ly/MSW2021>. Please note that you must complete your submission in one sitting.

I am submitting a proposal for someone else. What do I do?

Our online system will ask you to identify whether you are submitting a proposal on behalf of someone else (**Submitter**) or submitting a proposal yourself as a **Primary Presenter**. Submitters must identify at least one person as the primary presenter of the session.

Complete contact information must be provided for each person associated with the session (submitter, primary presenter and any co-presenters).

May I have multiple presenters?

Your session may have multiple presenters. On our Review Submission page, please add or delete your session's Primary Presenter and as many Co-Presenters as you would like by clicking the "Add Co-Presenter" button to the right of your session title. Our system will prompt you to look up each new presenter and enter his or her information.

Who will receive emails about my proposal submission?

All persons associated with a proposal – submitter, primary presenter and any co-presenters – will receive correspondence about their session.

May I submit more than one proposal?

Yes. However, if the number of quality proposals exceeds the number of sessions available, we may choose to accept one proposal per person.

I can't find my name or the name of one of my co-presenters in the system. What do I do?

We've adopted a new proposal submission system, so you may not find yourself or your school/organization when you begin submitting a proposal. Please follow the steps on our Search page, as follows:

- If your organization is listed but not your name, please click "New Contact" and enter yourself.
- If you do not find your name or your organization in the search results, click "New Registration."
- If you'd like to try your search again, click "New Search."

If you are a submitter or primary presenter and you cannot find your co-presenter(s) in the system, you will need to add them by clicking "New Contact" and entering their information.

I need to edit or update my proposal. What do I do?

Check your email for the automated message you were sent after submitting your proposal. It contains the username and password you must use to log in to our eShow Proposal Service Center. If you've lost your password, visit the Service Center, click "Forgot Password?" and follow the instructions to reset your password. Until October 30, when the system closes, you may edit or update all elements of your proposal's content or presenters.

When will I find out if my session has been accepted?

Presenters will receive notice of acceptance and the date, time and location of their sessions on or before February 1, 2021.

When will the conference program and app be available?

The conference program will be published online and via mobile app. For the most up-to-date version of the conference program, please use our online program, which will be available in February 2021.

Session Submission FAQ

Our electronic program will be available on our eShow website in February 2021. ***A limited number of printed conference programs will be available for purchase at the conference.***

What is required of presenters?

All presenters must:

- Align sessions with a conference objective.
- Provide your school and summer contact information.
- Provide your job title, position, school, district and state.
- Agree to present at your scheduled time.
- Bring your own laptop and any special AV connectors to your session. Projectors will be available in all meeting rooms.
- Arrange and pay for your travel and lodging.
- Register and pay your conference registration fee.

What can I do to ensure that my proposal is accepted?

We appreciate the care you invest in preparing proposals. When choosing sessions, we consider:

- **Session diversity:** SREB strives to ensure that conference sessions address diverse topics, audiences, grade levels and formats.

We encourage you to apply your unique perspective to a conference objective and to emphasize tangible takeaways for session attendees.

- **Session availability:** We've reduced the number of sessions at the Making Schools Work Conference to ensure that attendees aren't overwhelmed by choices and presenters can enjoy larger, engaged audiences.
- **Session value:** SREB's Making Schools Work Conference is renowned for helping educators and school teams acquire research-based, classroom-tested tools and strategies they can use to improve student engagement and achievement and transform their school communities. Conference organizers look for sessions that feature hands-on problem-solving, powerful practices, inspiring stories of transformational change and examples of strong leadership.

Still have questions?

Email us at summerstaffdev@sreb.org.





Making Schools Work Conference

Nashville, July 6-9, 2021

For more information on presenting at the 2021
Making Schools Work Conference, contact
summerstaffdev@sreb.org.

Southern Regional Education Board
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sreb.org/SummerConference

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