EDUCATORS RISING

Teacher Leader Handbook



educatorsrising.org

2026-2027 School Year

Educators Rising Handbook for Chapter Teacher Leaders

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Created by the staff of Educators Rising
Arlington, Virginia

Special Thanks for Contributions from

Together, we are changing the way that students fall in love with teaching.

Thank you for choosing to lead as an educator and to work with young people. We recognize the job is not easy, and sometimes the rewards happen years after your students have graduated. But know that in your role as a teacher leader you are not only changing the life of your students, but the students they will work with later in their career.

Educators Rising is a national organization focused on preparing young people to lead. While not all of your students will end up in a classroom, the job before us is still authentically important.

The journey students take to become educators depends upon imporant touchpoints with educators they encounter every day. The journey is also enhanced with networking with peers who share your students' affinities with service toward others.

While we understand that every chapter may not make it to our national conference each year, we encourage you to participate in the regional and state events happening around your community.

We stand committed to supporting you and your students through their journey this school year. Know that your feedback and input makes our organization stronger. Together, we are changing the way that students fall in love with teaching!

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Welcome & Introduction

Educators Rising is a national network that supports young people in exploring teaching as a future career. Through competitions, conferences, classroom resources, and leadership opportunities, students gain hands-on experience and professional development to prepare for careers in education. As a national network, we are able to build resources and create connections that can significantly boost your impact day-in and day-out — and help you avoid "reinventing the wheel."

Educators Rising resources are designed to be integrated directly into CTE programs of study and used as part of co-curricular chapter activities. These resources have been carefully crafted and curated to help students take their first steps on the path to great teaching.

This handbook is for teacher leaders of local chapters. It is not intended to be prescriptive. Hopefully, it offers ideas and possibilities; we want teachers, working with their students, to shape chapters to reflect needs identified by the students and refined by knowledge from the profession.

It highlights the benefits of joining the Educators Rising community, including the resources available to students and Teacher Leaders, scholarships, national competitions, Kappan discussion topics, EdRising week, and leadership opportunities.

Here's to a year full of excellent teaching and learning experiences! We look forward to collaborating with you and your students.

Stay Connected!

Website & Social Media

The biggest key to having a successful chapter is staying informed about events, deadlines, updates, and announcements from the national office. Don't miss out on important information by checking the website often and connecting with Educators Rising on social media. This year we have *Rising Voices*, where we encourage both teacher leaders and students to contribute stories that originate in your chapters. We encourage your students to follow and engage across our network.

- Educators Rising Website
- Educators Rising on X
- Educators Rising on Facebook
- Educators Rising on Linked In
- Educators Rising on YouTube

Teacher Leader Facebook Group

This is a space for Educators Rising teacher leaders and the national office to share updates, offer support, resources, and a safe discussion forum. The collective passion and expertise in our network is powerful!



Leah Jefferson is honored at the 2026 Educators Rising National Conference, with national student leader, Faith Gonder (OH).

History & Organization

History of the Educators Rising

During the first half of the last century, the National Education Association initiated a Future Teachers of America program. Local chapters of that program still exist in a number of states. In 1994, Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) International took the lead on Future Teachers of America and provided it with an international headquarters. In 2005, PDK changed the name to Future Educators Association to more accurately reflect the international nature of the organization. In 2015, PDK rebranded the Future Educators Association to Educators Rising, which remains today. And after 120 years as PDK International, our organization's focus and brand is now Educators Rising.

Joining Educators Rising makes you part of a nationwide network of more than 20,000 members in all 50 states — all committed to making sure that students develop the skills and knowledge needed to become great teachers.

The Educators Rising organizational structure exists at three levels: the national office, state programs (where they exist), and local chapters.

At the **national level,** Educators Rising supports the implementation of cocurricular high school programs where students explore the teaching profession and gain hands-on teaching experience. Through our school-based programs, local partnerships, statewide programs, and national outreach efforts, we provide teachers and school leaders with the resources they need to help recruit and prepare the next generation of highly skilled educators.

The national office Educators Rising assumes responsibility to:

1. Provide resources for leading a chapter.
2. Organize the annual national conferences and share information on conferences held at the state levels (information is provided through newsletters and websites).
3. Maintain an international roster of local chapters, teacher leaders, and student members.
4. Receive information from state programs, where they exist.

Educators Rising programs at the **state level** exist in several states. These programs provide an additional layer of support to local chapters and often hold their own statewide conferences and leadership training. In those states, students can run for statewide office. If your state or region is affiliated with Educators Rising, students may owe additional state dues that are collected during the national application process. Visit our website to contact your state/regional coordinator.

For **local chapters**, the school building administration and the teacher leaders are the two key figures. The administrator promotes the establishment of Educators Rising chapters and encourages ongoing activities. They may demonstrate their commitment to the program by providing guidance for the establishment and maintenance of the Educators Rising chapter in the school. The administrator can establish a committee to select the best-qualified candidate as an Educators Rising teacher leader. Additionally, they can work with the teacher leader to develop appropriate activities and materials. The administrator can also help by:

- Maintaining lines of communication with district administrators regarding Educators Rising chapters.
- Contacting college/university and professional organizations to work with the chapter teacher leader and students.
- Establishing opportunities for students to work with other teachers and in mentoring programs.
- Ensuring that your charter and awards are displayed in the school.

The teacher leader provides key professional leadership to the local chapter by monitoring the implementation and maintenance of policies and rules

set forth in the constitution and bylaws, serving as a role model and mentor for chapter members, attending local, state, and national meetings related to coordination of Educators Rising chapters, and encouraging chapter officers to assume their respective leadership roles.

Other levels of support for the local chapter

Local chapters of the Educators Rising may find support for their work in a variety of places. Teacher leaders and chapter officers are encouraged to explore the resources available from the following groups:

- The state department of education/chief state school officer.
- Education associations, organizations for educators, and employee unions in education.
- College faculty members from area colleges/universities that prepare teachers.
- Local school system's administrative officers, including the superintendent.

Educators Rising Standards

There's power in teaching. High school students searching for experiential learning experiences can gain early opportunities in these Educators Rising Standards-aligned programs to begin to build the skills and mindsets they will need to thrive as educators in the 2020s and beyond.

Educators Rising curriculum and competitions are anchored by the Educators Rising Standards. Developed with support from the National Education Association (NEA), these seven standards define what high school students exploring teaching need to know and be able to do to take their first steps on the path to high-quality teaching. The standards were created by a committee of accomplished educators via the professional consensus model developed by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).



STANDARD I: Understanding the Profession
Rising educators learn about the profession to explore career opportunities, develop skills they need, and make informed decisions about pathways to accomplished teaching.

STANDARD II: Learning About Students
Rising educators learn about themselves and their students for the purpose of building relationships and supporting student development.

STANDARD III: Building Content Knowledge
Rising educators learn how to build content knowledge for the purpose of creating relevant learning opportunities for their students.

STANDARD IV: Engaging in Responsive Planning
Rising educators learn how to respond to students' needs through thoughtful planning.

STANDARD V: Implementing Instruction
Rising educators learn effective instructional strategies to engage students and promote learning.

STANDARD VI: Using Assessments and Data
Rising educators learn to use assessments and interpret data for the purpose of making decisions that will advance teaching and learning.

STANDARD VII: Engaging in Reflective Practice
Rising educators learn how reflective practice enables them to advance student learning and grow professionally.

How to Start an Educators Rising Chapter

Starting an Educators Rising chapter is a powerful way to inspire and support the next generation of educators. Chapters provide students with opportunities to explore teaching as a career, build leadership skills, and engage in meaningful service within their schools and communities. With the guidance of a teacher leader, chapters become a hub where students can collaborate, grow, and connect with the national Educators Rising network.

The process to launch a chapter is simple, just a few key steps can open the door for students to begin their journey toward becoming future educators. To start a chapter, you will need a teacher leader and at least one student. Watch this video to learn about the components of a thriving GYO program.

Get started with these steps:

1. **Get School/Organization Approval** – Obtain permission from your school, district, or organization to start a chapter.
2. **Secure a Teacher Leader** – A current educator agrees to serve as the chapter's advisor/mentor.
3. **Register the Chapter** – Complete the chapter registration process on the Educators Rising website. Begin with the Teacher Leader becoming an approved member.
4. **Recruit Members** – Invite students interested in education careers to join.
5. **Set Up Chapter Operations** – Create bylaws, establish meeting times, elect student leaders, and plan the yearly program of work.
6. **Engage with National Resources** – Connect members with Educators Rising competitions, events, and leadership opportunities. If the school has purchased the Educators Rising Curriculum, attend training and plan the yearly scope of work.

Grow Your Own (GYO) describes multiple approaches for districts to take in developing their own teacher pipeline. Educators Rising for many communites helps develop local talent that will come back to work within the district they attended as a student.



How to Become a Member

Registering all chapter members as national Educators Rising members is essential for accessing the full range of resources and opportunities including participating in state and national conferences and competitions. It is also a requirement for co-curricular programs. To be officially recognized, chapters must be affiliated with a national Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO). For education pathways, Educators Rising is that CTSO. Check out a step-by-step video.

National membership connects students to a network of aspiring educators across the country, provides access to exclusive resources, and ensures eligibility for state and national competitions, scholarships, and leadership roles. It also opens doors to state and national conferences, where students can collaborate, learn, and grow as future educators. By registering, chapter members strengthen their local program while becoming part of a nationwide movement to shape the future of teaching.

There are two annual membership deadlines.

- For students joining in the fall, the deadline is **November 1.**
- For students joining in the spring, the deadline is **February 1.**

Joining the Educators Rising community is free for teachers and administrators. For students, there is a $15 annual fee for any student participating in an Educators Rising class, program or chapter. If your state is affiliated with Educators Rising, we may also collect state dues. Visit our website to contact your state/regional coordinator. Membership runs from July 1 through June 30 of each year. Members must renew each year to maintain membership.

NOTE: Teacher Leaders are required to have all participating students enrolled with the national organization by joining via the online EdRising Membership Portal.

Joining as a Teacher Leader

- **Step One:** Go to the Educators Rising website's Join page. Select to join the Middle/High School Division button.
- **Step Two:** You will be taken to the main home page of the Educators Rising Membership Portal. You should be directed to the online application form.
  - TIP: If you do not see it, follow the steps below using the left-hand navigation of tabs.
  - Find the Memberships tab.
  - Select Join or Renew-EdRising Middle/High School.
- **Step Three:** Create an account as a new user OR Login to an existing account.
  - If you have never created a membership before, use the link click here to create an account.
  - When creating your login and password, we recommend that both teachers and students use an email that will not block third-party emails or have a strict firewall.
  - TIP: Personal emails often work better than school emails for receiving information from the national office. Students should use an email that they will be able to access during the summer months.
  - If you already had an account, use the link click here to login.
  - If you have ever previously had an account, click "login".
  - If you need help accessing a previous account, contact a membership associate for assistance at (812) 339-1156 | info@educatorsrising.org.
- **Step Four:** Complete (or update) the application form for Teacher Leader membership.
  - Select the Teacher Leader radio button and fill out at least the required fields.
  - To be approved, you MUST upload the Teacher

Leader Intent Form, which is hyperlinked for download on the page.

- **Step Five:** Once all the required information has been filled out, select Save. From there it will ask you to Review & Checkout. Check that the membership type reads: Educators Rising-Teacher Leader. NOTE: State membership dues may be added if applicable. Once you confirm that all information on the screen looks correct, click Submit.
- **Step Six:** If an amount is due, select your payment method. You can select Bill Me if you need to mail in your payment. Then click Submit Your Order.
- **Step Seven:** Read your confirmation email for details on accessing resources. Check your junk folder if you do not receive it within a few minutes of completing your order. Be sure to mark all email from info@educatorsrising.org as not junk so you don't miss any communication from the national office.

Please wait 3-5 business days for your membership to be approved. Once approved, you will have access to both the Teacher Leader and Student Resources pages under the Educators Rising High School Resources tab in the Membership Portal.

Note: You can add teacher leaders to your school by having them create a profile and join as a teacher leader as you did in the EdRising Membership Portal. Once the Educators Rising national office approves them, they also will have access to the Teacher Leader Resources section.

Joining as a student

- **Step One:** Go to the Educators Rising website's Join page. Select to join the Middle/High School Division button.
- **Step Two:** You will be taken to the main home page of the Educators Rising Membership Portal. You should be directed to the online application



form.

- TIP: If you do not see it, follow the steps below using the left-hand navigation of tabs.
- Find the Memberships tab.
- Select Join or Renew-EdRising Middle/High school.

- **Step Three:** Create an account as a new user OR log into an existing account.
  - If you have never created a membership before, click the link click here to create an account.
  - When creating your login and password, we recommend that students use an email that will not block third party emails or have a strict firewall.
  - TIP: Personal emails often work better than school emails for receiving information from the national office. Students should use an email that they will be able to access during the summer months.

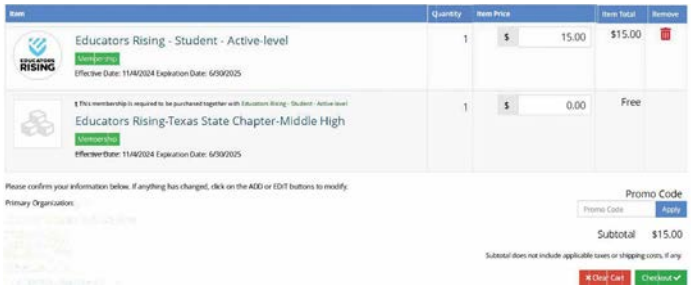
- If you already have an account, click the link click here to login.
- If you have ever previously had an account, click login.
- If you need help accessing a previous account, Contact a membership associate for assistance at (812) 339-1156 | info@educatorsrising.org.
- Please do not create a second account!

- **Step Four:** Connect to the chapter. When adding your organization (school), please double check with your teacher leader to ensure you are connected to the same one as them. This is an important step. Sometimes there may be multiple organizations with similar names.
  - Note: If you do not connect to the same school as your teacher, you will not be connected to the chapter, and they will not be able to see your invoice for payment.
- **Step Five:** Once you have successfully created your account and logged in, you should be returned to the online application. If you are not, follow the instructions given in Step 2 of this document to reach it.
  - Complete the online application, indicate yourself as a Middle or High School Student and fill out at least the required fields and click Save.
  - From there it will ask you to Review & Checkout (Please be certain the membership type reads: Educators Rising- Student Membership-Active-level.) NOTE: State membership dues may be added if applicable.
  - Once you confirm that all information on the screen looks correct, click Submit.
- **Step Six:** Complete the process and make payment. Verify whether you or your school is paying your membership fee or if you have a promo code to cover the fee.

If your school is paying for your membership, select Bill Me on the payment screen. After you have completed this process, the amount of your bill should show up on your teacher leader's account. To double check it went through, have them look at their balance, if they do not see it, please reach out to info@educatorsrising.org before re-trying the purchase. NOTE: Students will not be considered members until payment has been received. They will not have access to resources or appear on any member list.

If you have received a promo code to pay for your membership fees,

a. On the checkout page, locate the Promo Code box on the bottom right corner of the screen.
b. Enter your promo code, select Apply, and then Checkout.



If you are required to pay your own membership fees, enter your credit card information on the payment page. NOTE: If paying by credit card, be sure your billing address matches the address listed on your credit card statement to avoid any issues in processing the payment.



Signing Day has became a national tradition in chapters across the country where we take time to celebrate those graduating who have chosen to major in education in college.

How to Promote a Chapter and Recruit New Members



Every chapter should have a membership committee. Imagine your Educators Rising chapter buzzing with passionate future educators. A strong membership committee is the key to making this a reality. This group focuses on two crucial things: bringing in new members and keeping existing ones engaged with Educators Rising.

A portion of the membership committee's job involves building loyalty and pride among members themselves, in the chapter, and in the school. One way is to promote the chapter's activities within the school and community. This increases the visibility of the chapter and may spark interest in other students.

Recruiting new members: Why it matters

Members graduate every year. That's why recruiting new faces is vital. A membership committee helps you develop a robust recruitment plan, complete with exciting events, enticing incentives (think swag or prizes), and a clear goal for how many new members you want to attract.

Building chapter pride

But it's not just about numbers. This committee also plays a superhero role in fostering loyalty and pride among your members. They'll brainstorm ways to promote all the chapter activities happening within your school and community. The more everyone sees how awesome Educators Rising is, the more students will be drawn to join.

Creating a recruitment strategy

When the membership committee meets, one of the first things they should consider is a recruitment strategy. Check out resources in Appendix A and the Recruitment and Promotions section of the EdRising Membership Portal to help your membership committee craft a recruitment strategy that will help your chapter grow and thrive.

Decide on event dates, possible incentives (ask local businesses to donate items), and a recruitment goal. Consider the following outline as you develop your strategy.

I. Information to be shared with prospective members

- Welcome letter from membership committee chair or chapter president
- Goals and objectives of chapter
- Meeting dates and times
- Calendar of events or newsletter
- How to join

II. Membership campaign

- Ask local merchants to donate gifts, services, and/or prizes
- Establish a specific timeframe for membership campaign
- Set goals for the number of students you want to recruit
- Set theme and guidelines for membership campaign
- Announce campaign for members in publications and through displays
- Recognize the achievement of current members

III. **Sites and times for membership campaign**

- New student orientation
- Lunch break(s)
- School sporting events, plays, and concerts
- Career day

Retention of current members

Chapters always should strive to enhance their membership with new candidates. However, chapters also need to retain and keep their members from the previous year active. Chapters will be able to retain members by using some or all the following:

- Make the initiation of new members impressive and memorable.
- Encourage officers and experienced members to personally contact new members.
- Strive to make new and experienced members feel welcome.
- Frequently explain the advantages of membership.



- Give all members opportunities for responsibility and ownership in the chapter's future.
- Build loyalty and pride with chapter T-shirts, jerseys, patches, pins, etc.

Promotion and recruitment activities

Here are some additional recruitment strategies to try:

- Host a fun "Get to Know Educators Rising" event with food, member testimonials, and information on benefits such as scholarships and hands-on experiences.
- Encourage word-of-mouth recruitment — offer incentives for current members who bring in new students.
- Ask teachers to recommend students interested in teaching.
- Include Educators Rising information in the student handbook or orientation materials.
- Set up a recruitment booth at the start of the year and during career days with fliers and displays.
- Create posters, bulletin boards, and social media pages to promote the chapter and highlight opportunities.
- Present to school/community organizations and partner with teacher groups for publicity.
- Hold special ceremonies (initiations, signing days, scholarship recognitions) and post photos and videos on social media.
- Make announcements through the school PA system or school newsletter.
- Invite students in education-related classes like Intro to Education or Teacher Cadet.
- Engage retired teachers as speakers, mentors, or scholarship sponsors.
- Sponsor schoolwide activities or participate in events like homecoming or back to school night with an education theme.

The 2026 National Grand Champion Chapter is from La Promesa High School in Texas.





Eddy is our spirit animal, and a favorite with both students and our teacher leaders.

Leading a Chapter

Consistency helps members plan ahead and stay engaged. Hold a regular meeting either once a week, once every two weeks, or once a month. If your chapter meets only once a month, be sure to maintain communication between meetings. This can be done through bulletin boards, notes, school announcements, text messages, social media platforms, a chapter website, or email updates. Regular communication ensures members remain connected and informed about upcoming activities, deadlines, and opportunities.

Always prepare and follow an agenda for each meeting. An agenda helps meetings run smoothly, keeps discussions focused, and ensures time is used effectively. It also provides a record of pending issues, so that important topics are not overlooked. Assigning a chapter officer or secretary to take meeting notes is strongly recommended, as this creates accountability and helps track progress on chapter goals.

> See the sample agenda and meeting minutes in Appendix C for guidance. Important: Meeting agendas and meeting notes are required components of the National Outstanding Chapter Competition. Keeping these records not only supports competition requirements but also builds strong organizational habits for your chapter.

Steps for holding a successful initial chapter meeting

The chapter teacher leaders may be in charge of meetings until officers are elected.

1. For this meeting, if a temporary secretary has not been identified, a volunteer might be solicited at the beginning of the meeting to take minutes.
2. Students should fill out a sign-in sheet requesting information for a chapter roster (name, ad-

dress, phone, parents' names, email address).

3. To start the meeting, ask students to introduce themselves. In addition to giving their names, students might share something interesting about themselves and why they are interested in Educators Rising.
4. Explain the purpose of the chapter and share portions of this handbook with the students. Discuss the following:
   - Chapter officers, nominations, and election procedures
   - Chapter membership standards and requirements
   - Expected participation and commitment of members
   - Chapter programs and activities
   - Chapter meeting schedule
   - Chapter dues (if any)
5. In preparation for the next meeting, ask students to come prepared to nominate chapter officers and to volunteer or be appointed to the committees.
6. Share information on officer and committee duties and responsibilities.
7. Discuss how to best publicize the organization. Ask volunteers to help with a publicity campaign.
8. Schedule the next meeting for the next week. The immediate goal is to get the chapter organized and functioning as quickly as possible.
9. Conclude the meeting by expressing the importance of the chapter and what membership offers.

Steps for holding the second chapter meeting— formal organization

1. Welcome any new members and ask them to introduce themselves.
2. 2Distribute and have the temporary secretary read the minutes from the first meeting.
3. Briefly review purpose, goals, and objectives with new members.
4. Review the responsibilities of chapter officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer.
5. Determine election procedures and proceed with election of officers. Elected officers will assume their responsibilities following the election.
6. Determine the chapter's dues structure, if any.
7. Plan an installation ceremony for officers and an initiation ceremony for chapter members. Consider a formal ceremony at a time and place that allows faculty, school administrators, students, parents, and others from the community to attend.
8. Discuss standing committees and their responsibilities. The chapter president should ask for volunteers or appoint standing committee chairs at this time.
9. Solicit volunteers for the standing committees and assign specific activities for each committee to accomplish by the next meeting.
10. Discuss specific activities and programs that the chapter will begin to carry out.
11. Determine the frequency of general and chapter committee meetings.
12. After the meeting adjourns, ask the officers to remain to plan the agenda for the next meeting and to address other matters needing the attention of the leaders.

Tips for regular chapter meetings

1. Schedule and hold meetings on a regular basis.
2. Start meetings on time
3. Follow your agenda
4. Make the agenda available to the chapter members at the meeting, as a handout, or on the chapter's website or social media.

5. Have paper and pencils for each member
6. Use parliamentary procedure
7. Find a regular meeting place that is quiet, well lit, well ventilated, and easy to reach.
8. Have each member sign in as they enter the meeting.

Parliamentary procedures for your chapter's meetings

A. **Welcome by the president or advisor**

B. **Call to order** (Chapter officers should be seated at head table.)



PRESIDENT: "I now call to order this meeting of the (name of school) Chapter of Educators Rising."

(Rap gavel twice.)

C. **Inspirational comments** (optional)

CHAPTER OFFICER

D. **Recite the Educators Rising Creed**

CHAPTER OFFICER: "Will the membership please stand and recite the Educators Rising Creed with me?"

E. **Roll call**

CHAPTER OFFICER: "Will the secretary please take roll?" (or other procedure)

F. **Approval of the minutes**

PRESIDENT: "Will the secretary read the minutes of the last meeting?"

SECRETARY: (Reads the minutes)

PRESIDENT: "Are there any corrections, additions, or omissions to the minutes?" (Members give

corrections if any are in order.) "If there are no (further) corrections, I will entertain a motion

to approve the minutes as read (corrected)."

CHAPTER MEMBER: "I move to approve the minutes as read (corrected)."

SECOND CHAPTER MEMBER: "I second the motion." (No discussion is permitted.)

PRESIDENT: "All those in favor say 'Aye.' All those opposed, 'Nay.'"

PRESIDENT: (Announce if motion passed or not.)

G. **Officer reports**

PRESIDENT: "We will now move to the officers' reports." (Give short verbal reports.)

"Are there any questions?" (Answers questions.)

"Will the vice president please give his/her report?"

(Continue process for other officers.)

H. **Committee reports**

(The above process is repeated for each committee report.)

I. **Unfinished business**

PRESIDENT: "We will now move to new business. Is there any new business?"

CHAPTER MEMBER: "I move to (state motion)."

CHAPTER MEMBER: "I second the motion."

PRESIDENT: (Calls on members to discuss the motion. The member introducing the motion has

the opportunity to speak first or last to the motion. When all new business is completed, the president moves on.)

J. **Program**

1. Speaker

2. Presentation (film, demonstration, panel discussion)

3. Initiation

4. Entertainment (skit)

K. **Announcements**

PRESIDENT: "Are there any announcements?" (Chapter members are recognized to make any appropriate announcements.)



L. **Adjournment**

PRESIDENT: "If there is no further business, I will entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting."

CHAPTER MEMBER: "I move to adjourn the meeting."

CHAPTER MEMBER: "I second the motion."

(The motion is non-debatable; proceed to vote.)

PRESIDENT: (If approved) "I adjourn the meeting." (Rap gavel once.)

(If the chapter wishes to adjourn the meeting before all business is completed, the meeting must be adjourned by a motion.)

Student Officer Roles and Responsibilities



Educators Rising is a student-led organization. Our leaders from the national to the chapter level are responsible for many aspects of planning and executing activities.

The primary responsibility of the student officers of Educators Rising is to be ambassadors for the organization and the future of the teacher profession. Effective chapter-level officers are articulate, self-motivated, outgoing, conscientious students with a passion for Educators Rising's mission and vision, who will promote the organization as essential to the cultivation of tomorrow's great educators. Officers must be comfortable with public speaking and connecting with education stakeholders (students, teachers, administrators, policymakers, etc.) both virtually and in person.

All officers work and assist each other in chapter activities and projects.

What officers should a chapter have?

Each chapter should at minimum have both a President and Treasurer identified to manage basic chapter functions. In addition, some other student leadership roles may include Vice President, Secretary/Communications Officer, Activity and Programs Officer, and Advocacy Officer.

Chapter leadership is not limited to these roles. You may create additional roles for your chapter if needed. This depends on the activities and programs your chapter chooses to engage in, and it may change as one activity ends, and another begins. For example, you may want to identify a social media and/or newsletter editor/communications officer to get the word out to members about upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities or a recruitment officer to engage and find new members.

Primary roles in Educators Rising at the chapter level

President
The chapter President prepares the agenda and presides over chapter meetings. They lead their chapter in exciting Educators Rising chapter-sponsored activities that will tap into the talents of the chapter's members, develop their skills, raise their professional profiles, and make a difference to education in your community and beyond. Presidents should be activity-driven, action-oriented, and promote positive relationships among members.

Presidents should create a calendar of activities and programs that will engage their chapter and have a significant impact on education. These activities should resonate in your chapter members and education community. The most important thing to remember is whatever the chapter chooses to do, do it with enthusiasm and an outward focus that supports the Educators Rising chapter vision.

Vice President
The role of the Vice President is to assist and support the President in their duties, presiding over meetings in the absence of the President. Additionally, if the secretary is unavailable or one has not been appointed to your chapter, the Vice President is responsible for keeping an accurate record of all meetings.

In support of the President/Chapter, the Vice President helps supervise and coordinate the activities of the organization and works to build connections/network with other related organizations in your school on behalf of Educators Rising chapter. They are responsible for constructing and assembling the chapter scrapbook.

Treasurer
The Treasurer is the steward of chapter funds. In addition to collecting chapter dues and maintaining financial records, they are a key part of the chapter's decision-making team by assessing and reporting the financial implications of proposed chapter activities and other actions.

Monitoring the finances and anticipating and communicating possible issues are equally important. The Treasurer is expected to create and monitor the budget and plan chapter activities in a financially efficient way. They also are expected to approve all expenses and be responsible for fundraising projects.

Secretary/Communications Officer
The chapter Secretary/Communications Officer is responsible for recording all information at meetings. In addition, the Secretary/Communications Officer is responsible for working with the teacher leader and chapter President to maintain an accurate list of members and their contact information, and to establish and maintain all organization files, including attendance and activity records. The person in this role will also record all votes at chapter leadership meetings.

In addition, the Secretary/Communications Officer shall be responsible for the writing and distribution of a chapter newsletter or other notifications to chapter membership informing them of any upcoming meetings or activities. This person also may manage the digital presence of the chapter.

Activities and Programs Officer
Chapters can engage in a number of exciting activities to support members' professional development and Educators Rising chapter mission, vision, and goals. The Activities and Programs Officer works collaboratively with the chapter's leadership team to select and coordinate activities best suited for your members and the education community.

In addition to the activities outlined by the national office, chapters are encouraged to initiate any oth-

er activities that support chapter members and the Educators Rising goals.

The Activities and Programs Officer is responsible for recruiting and managing members as they volunteer in support of chapter activities. The officer should be sure to create volunteer opportunities that fit a variety of schedules and levels of commitment. These opportunities should be especially welcoming to new members volunteering their time. The officer makes sure to publicize activity dates well in advance so members can work them into their schedules.

Activities can be advertised in a chapter's newsletter or website, so the officer should inform the newsletter editor. Social media is another great way to promote your chapter's activities. No matter which method you use, be sure to let people know the details well in advance of any activity.

Advocacy Officer
One of the greatest benefits of being an Educators Rising chapter is the access to the most up-to-date research and information affecting education today. The Advocacy Officer is responsible for tracking state and federal policy as well as facilitating conversations around resources provided by the Educators Rising national office.





Development of leadership potential at the chapter level helps prepare students for state and national leadership roles. These images show participation of the state delegates at the Educators Rising National Conference this past year, held in Portland, Oregon.



Installation & Initiation Ceremonies

Installation ceremonies can be designed to meet your chapter's needs. Included are sample ceremonies for different membership types. They encourage the use of candles and other Educators Rising memorabilia.

Installation of Officers

One installation officer may be identified to conduct the entire ceremony. That installation officer could be the retiring president, a past president, the advisor, the principal, or a favorite teacher. Another possibility is that the retiring officer could install their successors.

Installation officer or past president:

On behalf of the _____ Chapter of Educators Rising, I wish to welcome you to our installation ceremony. Your installation as officers is both an honor and a responsibility. By accepting this role, you commit to advancing the mission of Educators Rising: inspiring and growing rising educators to become leaders and advocates for high-quality education. As officers, you are entrusted to model the values of Leadership, Community, Service, Optimism, and Excellence.

(Installer lights a white candle.)

Installation officer or president:

Leadership – True leadership is rooted in vision, integrity, and collaboration. As officers of Educators Rising, you are tasked with guiding your peers, setting a positive example, and ensuring that our chapter reflects the best of what education can be. Leadership is not only about direction—it is about inspiration.

(President inductee holds a blue candle that is now lighted.)

Installation officer or vice president:

Community – At the heart of Educators Rising is a commitment to community. Our strength lies in the connections we build — with each other, our schools, and the profession we aspire to enter. As officers, you are called to create inclusive spaces where every member feels supported, valued, and connected.

(Vice president inductee holds a red candle that is now lighted.)

Installation officer or secretary:

Service – Service is both our calling and our legacy. To serve is to uplift others, to share knowledge, and to dedicate time and talents to the growth of our schools and communities. As officers, your service

demonstrates your commitment to shaping a brighter future for students and educators alike.

(Secretary inductee holds a yellow candle that is now lighted.)

Installation officer or treasurer:

Optimism – Educators are builders of hope. Optimism is the belief that challenges can be overcome and that every student has potential. As officers, you are called to be voices of encouragement, cultivating positivity and resilience in all that you do.

(Treasurer inductee holds a green candle that is now lighted.)

Installation officer or program officer:

Excellence – Excellence is a continuous journey toward growth, achievement, and impact. As officers of Educators Rising, you must pursue excellence in your studies, leadership, and character. In doing so, you raise the standard of what it means to serve as future educators.

(Program officer or additional officer inductee holds a purple candle that is now lighted.)

(Chapters also may appoint/elect additional officers, such as social media and/or newsletter editor/communication, historian, parliamentarian, reporter, and/or photographer. The installer should introduce all officers by name at this time and then move forward with the creed.)

Installation officer:

Officers, remain standing, raise your right hand and take the pledge of office with me: (All say the following)

I _____, pledge to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office to which I have been elected to the best of my ability. I will uphold the values of Community, Leadership, Service, Optimism, and Excellence. I will strive to be a positive role model, to promote the profession of education with pride, and to work collaboratively with my fellow officers and our teacher leader. Together, we will strengthen our chapter, our school, and our community.

Installation officer or chapter officer:

Your initiation as officer of Educators Rising is a meaningful step. You have chosen to join a movement dedicated to strengthening education, supporting schools, and inspiring the next generation of leaders. As members, you are called to embody our shared values—Community, Leadership, Service, Optimism, and Excellence. With these values, you will become role models for your peers and champions for education.

New officers, please stand, raise your right hand, and say your pledge of membership with me.

Confirmation of officers

Officers, please stand, raise your right hand and repeat after me, filling in your name where appropriate.

Installation officer:

I, _____, pledge to live by the values of Educators Rising: Community, Leadership, Service, Optimism, and Excellence. I will support my chapter, encourage my peers, and contribute to the growth of my school and community. I will always honor the calling of education and work toward a brighter future for all learners.



Initiation of members

This ceremony may be used annually when initiating new members or when beginning a new chapter.

Installation officer or chapter officer:

Your initiation as a member of Educators Rising is a meaningful step. You have chosen to join a movement dedicated to strengthening education, supporting schools, and inspiring the next generation of leaders. As members, you are called to embody our shared values—Community, Leadership, Service, Optimism, and Excellence. With these values, you will become role models for your peers and champions for education.

New members, please stand, raise your right hand, and say your pledge of membership with me.

Inductees:

I pledge to uphold the high standards of Educators Rising. / I will strive at all times to live by the values of Community, Leadership, Service, Optimism, and Excellence. / I will conduct myself honorably and perform to the best of my ability. / With pride and responsibility, I accept membership in Educators Rising.

Installation officer or chapter officer:

May you find purpose and joy in your membership with Educators Rising, and may your contributions bring lasting impact to your school and community.

Now, let us all stand — new and current members together — and recite the Educators Rising Creed.

Installation officer or chapter officer:

New members remain standing and other members please stand and join your new members. Join me in saying the Educators Rising Creed.



Educators Rising Creed

The members of each chapter are encouraged to stand and recite the Educators Rising Creed at each meeting and during Educators Rising-sponored activities.

"We are rising education professionals, committed to excellence in teaching and learning. We lead with optimism, serve with purpose, and honor the various voices of our communities. Through leadership, service, and a deep sense of community, we prepare ourselves to advocate for high-quality education for all."

Tips for Running a Meeting

When conducted properly, a meeting provides an effective means of communicating information to a number of people and at the same time checks for their understanding. Effective meetings also promote a healthy exchange of ideas that, in turn, help develop high-quality decisions. In today's rapidly changing and complex environment, meetings have become a key vehicle for communicating information.

Planning ahead

Meeting leaders ensures the best possible use of each participant's time and energy. In doing so, you will find these meetings benefit your members, your chapter, and your school.

No matter how often you meet, chapter leaders should plan each meeting in advance. This means developing an agenda with objectives and topics to be covered, along with time allocations for each topic. The leader should make sure that members and invited speakers know the meeting schedule. For example, the chapter president contacts the fundraising committee to remind them that fundraising will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

During the meeting, the chapter president keeps the discussion moving and on topic. The president also ensures that each member has opportunities to participate, the leader helps build the group's commitment to any actions agreed on during the meeting. You can tell if your meetings are effective by looking at:

- The quality of the meeting's results.
- The group's satisfaction with their decisions and the group's sense of teamwork.
- The willingness of group members to accept tasks to achieve goals and objectives, and to take responsibility for carrying out the group's decisions.

How to conduct a meeting

Explain the purpose and importance of the meeting.
The purpose should be a concise statement of what is to be achieved by the meeting. This statement should answer the questions "Why should I spend my time in this meeting?" and "Why is the discussion important to me and the organization?" A clearly stated purpose provides a focus for the group. By explaining the importance of the meeting to group members, you will encourage cooperation and participation.

Review the agenda.
An agenda outlines for participants the procedures you want to follow in discussing the topics. Since you probably distributed the agenda in advance of the meeting, briefly review the procedures to be followed as well as the sequence of topics.

Collect and clarify relevant information.
Bring out all relevant information about each topic and ensure that everyone understands this information before developing solutions or deciding on courses of action. If you have information that is unknown to the other members, introduce it and ask them about concerns or information. This helps chapter members to better understand the issues and encourages their involvement by showing them that you feel their contributions really are worthwhile.

Summarize information discussed.
Summarizing ensures that everyone understands the information that has been discussed. If the issues

are complex, you can review content or further clarify information. If the discussion has been fairly simple, your summary will serve as a transition to the next step.

Seek suggestions, solutions, or alternatives.
Always ask for ideas and suggestions from members. Group commitment to a solution comes from their ability to contribute ideas. Two techniques that can help you draw out ideas are brainstorming and building on suggestions. Effective brainstorming involves seeking as many ideas from the group members as possible before evaluating the pros and cons of each idea with the group. When building on suggestions, the meeting leader begins by commenting on the part of the suggestion that moves the original idea toward the goal. These approaches help to keep members engaged and build their commitment to taking action.

Reach agreement on specific action(s).
It is important that the group agrees on specific actions and responsibilities. You will need to summarize frequently and check for understanding to ensure group agreement. You will be able to achieve greater commitment if you allow participants to choose specific actions or assignments, if appropriate. Remember to specify who is responsible for what task and by when.

Summarize and set follow-up date(s).
Regardless of how successful the discussion seems, it is meaningless if participants leave the meeting unsure of specific actions and responsibilities. A concise summary of agreements reached, specific actions, and responsibilities will ensure thorough understanding. By setting follow-up dates, you indicate to the group the importance of the meeting. Follow-up dates allow you to check progress and ensure that important actions are not being overlooked.

Note: In using these steps, keep in mind that for each major issue on the agenda, you need to follow steps 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Key principles

Effective meeting leaders plan thoroughly and develop clear goals to be accomplished in the meeting. They are sensitive to the special needs of each group member as they build commitment to a successful outcome. Effective meeting leaders follow these key principles.

Help participants feel respected.
For a meeting to be productive, each participant must feel respected by other group members, and that their opinions and suggestions will be valued. As meeting leader, you can help create this feeling of respect by sincerely and specifically praising individual group members' useful suggestions and recognizing their contributions. Avoid taking sides in discussions or placing blame on individuals. Not only will this enhance each group member's self-esteem, but it will also encourage them to participate more actively in your meetings.

Listen and respond with empathy.
Everyone wants to be heard, understood, and accepted. When meeting participants know you understand their feelings, as well as what they are saying, they will be more open and willing to work toward a stated purpose. You can show participants you understand their feelings by listening carefully to them and responding with empathy to their suggestions and concerns. Since some participants may express their feelings without speaking, you will need to be aware of participants' nonverbal signals such as frowning, clenching fists, and daydreaming, among others.

Check for understanding.
In any meeting, there will be new information, ideas, or policies discussed. For your meetings to be effective, it is important that each participant walks away with a clear understanding of exactly what was discussed, accomplished, or assigned. This can be a difficult task, because participants usually are more concerned with their own ideas than listening to

someone else's thoughts. That is why it is so important for you to check participants' understanding of each key point. By doing so, you can ensure that everyone in the meeting receives the same message and that the person conveying the message is saying what he or she really means to say. Phrases like, "Then it's agreed that...," "Did I hear you say...," "We seem to agree (disagree) that...," or "Am I right in saying..." help you check for participants' understanding. They also help the participants confirm or deny the accuracy of your understanding.

Make a procedural suggestion.
Use this principle whenever you see that the meeting has begun to stray off track or is temporarily deadlocked. Procedural suggestions help you return the group to the agenda item in such a way that you don't appear to be "taking over" the meeting or blaming any individual(s). It is important to keep your procedural suggestion's objective, so you don't appear to be taking sides. Procedural suggestions are most effective when presented as questions, such as, "May I suggest that...?", "Do you think it would be a good idea to...?" or "Can we talk about...?" When making a procedural suggestion, remember to give participants an opportunity to accept or reject it; this helps them feel they have a measure of control in the meeting and maintains their self-esteem.



Types of Meetings

Three types of meetings are described below, with a list of critical steps to conduct each one. These meetings are in addition to your regular business meetings.

Clarifying/informing meeting

Purpose: To communicate information about changes that may affect a specific issue or group. Information may be provided by the leader or obtained from group members. No action or decision is required in this type of meeting. Examples: safety meetings, introducing change.

Critical Steps:
- Explain purpose and importance of the meeting.
- Review agenda.
- Collect and clarify relevant information.
- Summarize and set follow-up dates.

Brainstorming meeting

Purpose: To generate ideas or solutions without criticism or evaluation. These solutions or ideas will be used by others to reach a final decision, or they will be used by group members later. No specific action or decision is required. Examples: fundraising ideas, team building, and recruiting new members.

Critical Steps:
- Explain purpose and importance of the meeting.
- Review agenda.
- Collect and clarify relevant information.
- Avoid judgments.
- Summarize information discussed.
- Seek suggestions, solutions, or alternatives.
- Summarize and set follow-up dates.

Problem-solving meeting

Purpose: To reach agreement on solutions and to decide on specific actions that will solve a problem.

Critical steps:

- Explain purpose and importance of the meeting.
- Review agenda.
- Collect and clarify relevant information.
- Summarize information discussed.
- Seek suggestions, solutions, or alternatives.
- Reach agreement on specific action(s).
- Summarize and set follow-up dates.

Sometimes, you will encounter problems during meetings. All officers may encounter one or more of the following problems while they are presiding over a meeting or giving a report. Review with them the various problems and possible solutions. It may be helpful after the review to create a role-play scenario in which your officers can practice solving problems in a mock meeting.

Problem: Low level of contribution

- Ask questions to bring in participants who have said little.
- Praise contributions when made by those who are reluctant to participate.
- Make procedural suggestions to control contribution. (For example, have group members comment in turn or state "No one can offer a second idea until we hear from each person present.")
- Assign reports to be prepared in advance.
- Call on participants by name.
- Assign a person to the role of recorder.

Problem: Excessive contributions

- Make procedural suggestions to control contributions and put the meeting back on course (interrupt if necessary).
- Acknowledge contributions and ask for contributions from others.
- Bring in participants who have said little.
- During a break, talk with people who are making excessive contributions and ask them to help you to get others involved.

Problem: Arguing

- Listen and respond with empathy to each person's point of view (interrupt if necessary).
- Maintain or enhance self-esteem of each.
- Highlight meeting purpose.
- Make procedural suggestions to put the meeting back on course.
- Summarize or check for understanding of progress made.
- Invite contributions from other group members by asking direct questions.

Problem: Rambling

- Acknowledge the contribution and restate the focus of meeting.
- Make procedural suggestions to put the meeting back on course.
- Invite contributions from other group members by asking direct questions.

Problem: Laughter and diversion

- Allow to continue briefly to see if behavior will stop.
- Make procedural suggestions to put the meeting back on course.
- Summarize, if appropriate.

Problem: Late arrivals

- Start on time.
- Praise people who arrive on time.
- Summarize progress, if appropriate.

Problem: Personal attacks

- Keep your cool.
- Seek information to establish whether there is a problem.
- Maintain the other person's self-esteem.
- Make a procedural suggestion to settle the matter at some specific, later time.
- Summarize the discussion, as you understand it, just before the attack commenced.



Chapter Committees

An Educators Rising chapter committee can be thought of as a miniature chapter. Its purpose is more specific than that of the chapter, which is to investigate, report, or act upon matters of a certain kind. In other ways, it is a reflection of the chapter's structure. It holds scheduled meetings, follows an agenda, has a committee chairperson who functions like a president, and its members participate as they would in a chapter meeting. Other similarities include a committee recorder, who serves the same purpose as the chapter's secretary, and committee meetings that are run according to parliamentary procedure, as are the chapter meetings.

Why committees are needed

To carry out a balanced program of work, your chapter has four choices. It can:

Let the Teacher Leader do all the work. This option may sound ridiculous, but when Educators Rising members do not understand how to use committees, they may get frustrated and call the teacher leader for assistance. It is sometimes a temptation for a teacher leader to step in and make decisions for the group, rather than to guide the members in making their own decisions. The results are that the members are deprived of important learning experiences.

Let the officers do all the work. Your chapter members should understand that officers are not the chapter workhorses. No team relies on the team captains to win the game while team members sit on the sidelines. There simply are not enough hours in a day for five or six officers to plan, carry out, and evaluate all the chapter's activities in addition to holding chapter meetings, attending school, learning a job skill, doing homework, and perhaps holding down a job.

Do the work as a group. At first glance, this option may appear to be the most democratic. If your goal is total student involvement, everyone should have a chance to offer some ideas at the chapter business meetings. However, the meetings would be overburdened with details of planning, and most of the activities would never get off the drawing board.

Divide the workload into manageable portions and let committees handle it. Committees are the best workable way to get things done, rather than just planning them.

How committees work

Once students know to what committee(s) they have been assigned, the committees are ready to meet. The first meeting may take place in the classroom; it is important for all chapter members to take part since the committee is at the heart of the chapter's activities. The advisor should be available to offer guidance and suggestions, as needed, to each committee.

After the first meeting, an agenda should be prepared for the next meeting, so that each chairperson is aware of committee goals.

After the chairperson calls the meeting to order, his or her first item of business is to appoint a committee recorder (and a co-chairperson, if that is believed to be useful.) The recorder's duties are to keep notes (minutes) of each meeting and prepare them for the chairperson's report at the chapter business meeting. Once the recorder is appointed, he or she should begin to take notes immediately. The notes should include place, date, and time of the meeting, names of the members present, name of the presiding officer (chairperson), and the highlights of the meeting.

During the first meeting, committee members should be encouraged to brainstorm ideas and suggestions for activities without regard to details. When all the ideas are down on paper, the committee should review its entire list and select several activities that they will recommend to chapter members. When the committee members are satisfied with their list of proposed activities, the chairperson may adjourn the meeting, and the recorder should write up the report.

The president or vice president monitors the committees, keeping track of when they meet, ensuring that they are ready to report to the chapter, and coordinating between committees and the chapter. The president or vice president makes sure that the chairperson is given a place on the agenda for the next chapter business meeting to submit the committee report to chapter members. The committee report contains recommendations from committee members.

Immediately after the report to the chapter membership, the chairperson should move the report be adopted. If the motion carries, the activities become the official contribution of the committee to the chapter's program of work. If the chapter adopts some but not all the suggestions, the committee must add, delete, and revise its proposal until it is adopted by the chapter.

After the activities have been adopted, committee members should meet to begin to firm up the details of their activities.

Determining what kinds of committees are needed

The chapter creates committees based on chapter needs and goals. All organizations, large or small, have different committee needs. For example, the U.S. Senate has no use for an Educators Rising Week Committee, and an Educators Rising Chapter does not require a foreign relations committee. Both, however, can use a finance (ways and means) committee.

Your chapter's constitution and bylaws may provide for at least some of the following committees: awards and ceremonies, membership, public relations, websites, fundraising, program and services, and activities. These committees may be called standing committees because they operate the whole year. Activities conducted in these areas make up a balanced program of work.

Another kind of committee is the special or ad hoc committee. Members of an ad hoc committee meet to consider a single matter or event. Depending on its task, this committee may operate anywhere from a few days to several weeks.

Selecting standing committee chairpersons

Officers have specified duties and need not serve as committee chairpersons. But in many chapters, officers serve as committee chairpersons as well. This is done to coordinate activities (for example, treasurer as chairperson of the financial committee; reporter as public relations committee chairperson, etc.). If your group is small, this may be the best practice.

The chapter president or vice president has the responsibility of coordinating overall committee operations and should direct the selection process. Survey your members. Determine those who desire to chair a committee and the areas in which they have the greatest interest.

Certain members have special abilities that qualify them to chair specific committees. Individual interest and particular abilities will provide important background information. The chapter executive committee should appoint the standing committee chairpersons.

In larger chapters, the officers probably have enough to do without serving as committee chairpersons. Leading a committee is an opportunity for members, rather than just officers, to demonstrate leadership and acquire additional leadership skills. Chairpersons should be recognized for their service.

Assigning members to standing committees

The committees have been determined, and the chairperson is named. The time has come to assign every chapter member to one or more committees. To assist the first-year members in their selection of committees, the advisor may describe the purpose of each committee and the areas of responsibility.

Consider the following:

1. Member interest.
2. Special abilities.
3. Suitable meeting times.
4. Desired representation by school, age, grade level, gender, member status, or other factors.



Some chapters assign committees by classes, enabling them to reduce the difficulty in arranging meeting times for their committees. Once the committees have been completed, the vice president or the secretary should enter the names for the chairpersons and members on a chapter flow chart.

Coordinating committee activities

It's common for two or more committees to suggest the same or a similar activity for the program of work. When this happens the chapter leadership should involve both committees in the planning and execution of the activity. If another committee is formed to do this work, each committee chairperson should be on this new committee.

Committee reporting

Prior to each meeting of the chapter executive committee meeting, the chairperson of each committee should prepare a short committee report. This report is used to record the committee's actions and should be submitted during chapter executive committee meetings.

Evaluating committee activities

It is essential for committees to evaluate their progress in planning and carrying out their activities during the year. The more careful the evaluation is, the better the next activity will be. Be sure the tasks of each committee are evenly distributed.

Annual committee review

The committee chairperson and chapter executive committee should meet near the close of each school year to review the chapter's progress. An annual committee review should be completed and placed in the records for the next school year.

Developing a Yearly Program of Work

The selection of activities by Educators Rising chapter officers and teacher leaders is a key function of leadership. Selecting activities that focus on areas such as social activities, professional development, public relations, community service, industry connections, and leadership activities is essential for the success and sustainability of any student organization. These categories provide a balanced framework that nurtures personal growth, builds professional competencies, strengthens community ties, and fosters meaningful relationships within and beyond the educational environment.

A yearly program of work form and a sample yearly program of work is available in Appendix C and in the Educators Rising Membership Portal to assist you in creating your chapter's plan.

When developing the program of work, consider these questions:

- What is the activity?
- Why are we doing this activity?
- Who will be targeted and who will participate in developing the activity?
- When will this activity occur?
- How will this activity occur?
- What are the steps to implementing the activity?
- What are the costs and working hours needed to accomplish this activity?

A well-defined program of work is essential for every chapter. In many cases, chapters will be large enough to assign committees to specific activities. Smaller chapters should consider their capacity when determining how many activities to undertake and the extent of the activities. In school systems where middle level chapters are active, a mutually agreed upon curriculum or activity sequence should be determined to ensure the progression of projects and the progression of the middle grades through high school.

A chapter program of work should include regular meeting times and locations. Regular meetings are essential to maintain engagement and morale. Meetings should not be only for planning activities. Members should benefit in other ways, such as acquiring knowledge of teaching and developing a positive attitude about the education profession. Meetings also may be designed to help members obtain information to enhance their social, personal, or academic lives. (It is recommended that meetings be held on the same day of the week every two weeks.)

During a meeting, a faculty member, administrator, or college representative can be invited to share a short presentation about some aspect of education, such as "What Teaching Means to Me." If possible, half of the allotted meeting time, or one meeting per month, should be spent in discussion groups around a current educational issue using the quarterly Kappan discussion questions provided in the membership portal. Encourage them to record their video reactions, share them on their social media sites. Remember to tag us at @EducatorsRising on Instagram and Twitter.

At the first meeting of the school year, present a list of possible activities (such as fundraising, marketing, school, community, or social). After the specific activities are determined, the following steps should be followed to ensure their success:

1. Determine the time needed to prepare for the activity.
2. Obtain yearly calendars of events from other school organizations. If there are activities that have been sponsored solely by other school clubs that seem appropriate for Educators Rising to

sponsor, plan a meeting with the advisor of that club requesting to co-sponsor.
3. To make other school organizations knowledgeable about Educators Rising, group projects involving one or more other clubs are recommended. Financial and human resources are shared in this way. Sharing also serves as a method of recruitment of new members.
4. Assign committees (if possible) to research what is needed to make the activity successful and develop a plan for implementing the activity.
5. Ask committees to have reports in writing ready to present to the entire chapter.
6. Finalize the yearly program of work and present a written report to the administrator(s) and other advisors of various school clubs. (Prepare an alternative to the meeting times and locations as well as activities.)
7. If administrative approval is obtained, have all Educators Rising activities posted on the official school activity calendar or website in order to prevent conflicts with other activities.
8. The chapter officers are responsible for helping the chapter maintain its focus and pursue the goals presented in the program of work. Therefore, officers should begin announcing the upcoming events at each meeting and reminding the assigned committees to promote and publicize the activity.
9. Copies of the program of work should be shared with members, faculty, administrators, and other appropriate persons.

As chapter leaders select activities, they should carefully consider the appropriateness of the activity for members. The following questions may serve as guideposts. If the response is "no" to many of the questions, consider other activities instead.

1. Is the activity unique?
2. Is the activity in accordance with school or district policies?
3. Will the members of the chapter have an opportunity to participate?
4. Will the activity encourage recruitment of other members and provide visibility for the chapter?
5. If this is a fundraising activity, are the selected items to be sold readily available; and if unsold, can they be returned?
6. For fundraising, will the profit be sufficient to warrant the amount of work hours and initial investment?
7. If this is a fundraising activity, is the item being sold attractive to a variety of consumers?
8. Does each chapter member have an established goal?
9. Will the members enjoy participating in the activity?
10. Is the activity appropriate to the age and grade level of chapter members?
11. Will chapter members learn about schools, teaching, and learning?

Suggested Chapter Activities by Category

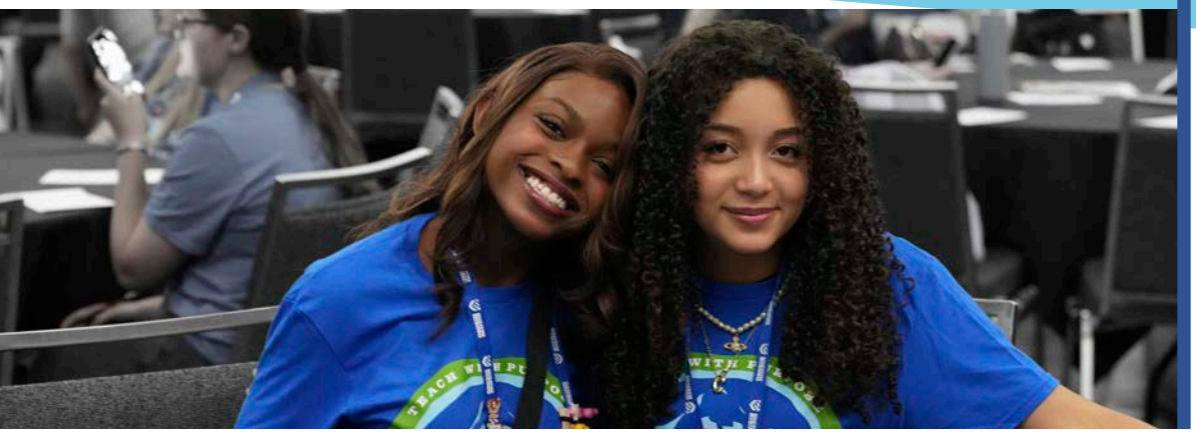
Social activities

- Hold a progressive dinner at the end of the school year.
- Hold an Ice Cream Social recruitment event
- Host a faculty breakfast.
- Host a fundraiser activity
- Send birthday cards to teachers from Educators Rising members.
- Participate in and host activities as a chapter with other school clubs and organizations.
- Maintain a chapter website to keep members updated on upcoming activities.

Professional development

- Attend the National Educators Rising Conference.
- Attend regional, state, and local conferences, workshops or seminars.
- Offer an elective course, Introduction to Education, in the high schools.
- Organize a Teacher Shadow Day.
- Shadow a student in a local college of education.


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- Arrange for individual chapter members to spend a day with a practicum student or intern.
- Help chapter members begin seeing themselves as teachers.
- Discuss the preparation programs for education personnel.
- Conduct a College Day conference.
- Attend and observe a meeting of the local board of education.
- Arrange for chapter members to participate in selected school or district in-service programs.
- Ask chapter members to attend appropriate conferences, workshops, and seminars.
- Organize a plan to provide multicultural awareness experiences.
- Conduct orientation for transfer students and underclass students.
- Plan and conduct orientation activities for junior high/middle school students.
- Ask chapter members to work with counselors to research college and career information on the teaching profession.

Public relations

- Develop a newsletter for students, teachers, and parents.
- Sponsor or co-sponsor columns that feature local teachers in the local newspaper.
- Create a Teachers' Wall of Fame.
- Host a table at Back to School Night or any school event to promote Educators Rising.
- Arrange to have a chapter booth at appropriate community functions.
- Arrange to have chapter officers present at school board meetings, PD days, and community events like the Chamber of Commerce or city planning committees
- During Educators Rising Week, create bulletin board displays and social media posts.

Community service

- Participate in the monthly Educators Rising community service project (See Appendix C for a sample list of projects)
- Provide services for elderly citizens, hospitals, nursing homes.
- Work with church groups or special populations.
- Organize community projects, such as a food drive.
- Arrange for the chapter to host a Senior Citizens' or Grandparents' Day.
- Ask individual members to provide services for the elderly.
- Assist at preschool or daycare centers.
- Provide schoolwide assistance for projects.
- Assist teachers with classroom responsibilities.
- Select a workday each quarter to assist teachers.
- Sponsor school improvement activities.
- Promote and assist with parent-student group activities.

Industry connections

- Visit the State Department of Education.
- Visit the state's affiliate of the NEA, AFT, or other professional organizations.
- Use the monthly articles and guided discussion questions posted in the EdRising Membership Portal in a chapter meeting.
- Arrange for visits to special schools and teacher education institutions.

- Work with professional education associations/ organizations.
- Invite representatives from colleges and universities to be guest speakers.
- Arrange for colleges/universities to provide education courses.
- Establish a liaison at the community college or university.
- Use college/university services to establish a speaker's bureau.
- Collaborate with college/university-level Aspiring Educator chapters.
- Discuss possible joint-enrollment programs.
- Invite institutions to set up booths at state conferences.
- Solicit the support of school business partners.
- Contact local businesses to provide recognition and support.

Leadership activities

- Encourage students to apply to be an Educators Rising Ambassador and serve as a social media influencer.
- Encourage students to apply to be an Educators Rising National Officer.
- Provide opportunities for developing leadersihp skills.
- Arrange for the chapter president or other member to speak at community organizations' meetings.
- Have chapter officers give presentations to middle school students.
- Hold district mini conferences for members and advisors.
- Invite representatives to sit on local planning committees.
- Participate in state and national competitions.
- Host a Night of the Rising Stars: Competitors present to school board, local educators, and parents
- Encourage students to participate in EdRising Week





Budgets & Fundraising

Chapter fundraising is essential. Membership fees, chapter activities, and state and national conferences can be expensive. Here is a short guide to budgeting for activities, and a robust list of fundraising ideas.

Most plans need some cash to get off the ground. Here's the breakdown for budgeting:

1. What is the projected amount needed?
2. What are the sources of income?
   - chapter dues
   - fundraising projects
   - school allocations
   - contributions from other sources, such as business partners, professional organizations, etc.
   - gifts
3. Will the planned activities require a larger budget than is easily accessible? (In other words, is there an initial outlay of funds required to begin the project?)
4. How can the available finances best be spent?
5. Are there any available funding sources that have not yet been considered (such as grants)?
6. In order to tap these funding sources, will we have to consult with other people?

See **Appendix B** for useful resources to guide you on funding your chapter.

- Sustainable Funding for Educators Pathways
- Fundraising Ideas

See **Appendix C** for forms available to use when planning a budget.

- Budget for Activities Planning Guide
- Chapter Yearly budget Form
- Sample Budget
- Sample Treasurer's report

Share Your Success

If you had a successful fundraising project, please tell us about it so we can share it with other EdRising chapters. Email your chapter (school) name, date of project, name of project, description of project, and what the funds were raised for to info@educatorsrising.org. We'll post the best ideas on our website or include them in our newsletter.

National Conference

The Educators Rising National Conference is a must-attend event for anyone passionate about teaching, leadership, and the future of education.

Whether you're a student aspiring to become an educator, an advisor, teacher leader, or administrator supporting the next generation, the conference offers an unforgettable experience designed to inspire, connect, and elevate.

Here's why you don't want to miss it:

- **Inspiration that lasts**
  Hear from dynamic keynote speakers, award-winning educators, and changemakers who are shaping the future of education. Walk away motivated, empowered, and ready to lead.

- **Connections that matter**
  Network with hundreds (or thousands) of like-minded students and educators from across the nation. Build friendships, mentorships, and professional relationships that will last well beyond the conference.

- **Opportunities to shine**
  Showcase your knowledge, creativity, and leadership in our competitive events. Gain recognition and feedback while building confidence and skills that set you apart.

- **Learning beyond the classroom**
  Attend interactive workshops and breakout sessions that explore real-world teaching strategies, career pathways, classroom tech, and more.

- **A launchpad for your future**
  Explore educator preparation programs, scholarship opportunities, and career pathways at our college and innovation fair. The conference is a powerful step in your journey to becoming a teacher leader.

- **A community like no other**
  Be part of a movement that celebrates the teaching profession and supports those called to serve. You'll leave with renewed purpose—and maybe even some EdRising swag.

Don't miss your chance to grow, compete, connect, and lead. The Educators Rising National Conferences are where future educators rise—together.

Learn more about the upcoming National Conference and get a glimpse at last year's event.

The 2027 Educators National Conference will take place in Columbus, Ohio.



National Programs and Opportunities

The **EdRising Membership Portal** allows you access to the resources you and your students need to make the most of your Educators Rising experience. The Membership Portal includes access to:

- Videos of National Board Certified Teachers in action.
- 2,000+ authentic classroom videos from Teaching Channel Videos from diverse schools across the country and exclusive Educators Rising conference videos highlighting aspiring educators who share your passion for teaching.
- Original content — engaging articles and videos — to help students develop their teaching craft and prepare for college.
- Information about the Educators Rising National Conference, national competitions, scholarship opportunities, honor society, National Signing Day, and other programs.
- Applications for submitting breakout session proposals for the Educators Rising National Conference, student leadership positions, and the Educators Rising National Honors Society.
- Quarterly guided discussion questions and recommended readings designed to help students and their Teacher Leaders discuss the most-pressing issues facing educators today.
- Opportunities for students to earn "Beginning to Teach" micro-credentials.



Competitions

Educators Rising competitions and contests offer rising educators authentic opportunities to measure their creativity, skills, and initiative against high standards and their peers from across the country. Some states and regions hold preliminary rounds for competitions and contests, and the final rounds take place on-site at the Educators Rising National Conference in June.

Competitions will be divided into four levels: Middle School (Grades 7-8), High School Junior Varsity (Grades 9-10), Varsity (Grades 11-12), and Collegiate. Not all competitions are open to all divisions. Contests are open to all divisions. **The deadline to register and submit entries for national competitions and contests can be found in the national competition guidelines each year. All deadlines are firm, and no extensions are permitted.**

Students must complete and submit the online application by the stated deadline to be scheduled to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference. Participating in a state or regional conference does not allow you to bypass completion of this process. (Note: In states where state-level competitive events are not offered, students may register to compete in those events at the Educators Rising National Conference.

Students who compete in national competitions have the opportunity to be recognized for their accomplishments. Certificates are awarded to all competitors who place in the top 10 in National competitions. Medals and trophies are awarded to the top 3 in National Competitions. Ribbons are awarded to all competitors who score 90% or higher in national contests.

To download competition guidelines and rubrics, visit the Student Resource section of the Membership Portal. Please review the guidelines carefully, as they may differ from what is required for state and regional competitions.

Competitions (Sample list)

Visit the Educators Rising Membership Portal to see this year's list of competitions and contests as well as review complete guidelines and rubrics for each.

Middle School

- Children's Literature - K-3 (English & Spanish)
- Children's Literature - Pre-K (English & Spanish)
- Creative Lecture (TED Talk)
- Educators Rising Moment (English & Spanish)
- Ethical Dilemma
- Exploring Education Administration Careers
- Exploring Non-Core Subject Teaching Careers
- Exploring Support Services Careers
- Inside Our Schools Presentation (English & Spanish)
- Outstanding Chapter
- Public Speaking
- Public Service Announcement - Teacher Recruitment

High School (Junior Varsity and Varsity)

- Children's Literature - K-3 (English & Spanish)
- Children's Literature - Pre-K (English & Spanish)
- Creative Lecture (TED Talk)
- Educators Rising Leadership Award (Seniors only)
- Educators Rising Moment (English & Spanish)
- Ethical Dilemma
- Exploring Education Administration Careers
- Exploring Non-Core Subject Teaching Careers
- Exploring Support Services Careers
- Inside Our Schools Presentation (English & Spanish)
- Job Interview
- Lesson Planning and Delivery - Arts
- Lesson Planning and Delivery - Career and Technical Education
- Lesson Planning and Delivery- CDA/Early Childhood Education
- Lesson Planning and Delivery - Humanities
- Lesson Planning and Delivery- Professional Development
- Lesson Planning and Delivery - STEM
- Lesson Planning and Delivery - Spanish
- Outstanding Chapter
- Public Speaking
- Public Service Announcement - Teacher Recruitment
- Researching Learning Challenges

Collegiate

- Children's Literature - Higher Ed
- Creative Lecture (TED Talk)
- Ethical Dilemma
- Educators Rising Moment (English & Spanish)
- Outstanding Chapter
- Public Speaking
- Public Service Announcement - Teacher Recruitment
- Researching Learning Challenges

Contests (open to all divisions)

- Interactive Bulletin Board-Elementary Classroom
- Interactive Bulletin Board-Middle/High School Classroom
- Project Visualize – Service Project
- Teacher Created Materials



Leadership Opportunities

One way Educators Rising helps students develop the strong leadership traits found in high-quality educators is by offering opportunities for student leadership, including the Educators Rising National Student Leaders. Among other responsibilities, these students add their perspectives to education conversations at the national level; serve as Educators Rising representatives at local, state, and national functions; and collaborate with constituents to ensure that Educators Rising students have a voice in our program and event development.

Chapter and state student officers

Serving as a chapter officer in Educators Rising offers students a powerful leadership opportunity to develop skills that will benefit them in education and beyond. Officers play a vital role in guiding their peers, organizing meetings and events, and representing their chapter at the state and national levels. In this role, students learn how to collaborate, communicate effectively, and make decisions that impact their organization and community. They gain hands-on experience in planning, problem-solving, and leading with purpose, all while modeling professionalism and service. Chapter officer positions may include President, who oversees the chapter and leads meetings; Vice President, who assists with leadership duties and coordinates programs; Secretary/Communications Officer, who keeps records and manages communications; Treasurer, who oversees finances and fundraising; and Activity and Programs Officer, who documents activities and promotes the chapter's work. Being a chapter officer allows students to grow as leaders who inspire others, strengthen their schools, and prepare themselves to be future educators and advocates for excellence in education.



National student officers

The primary responsibility of the national student officers of Educators Rising is to be ambassadors for the organization and the future of the teacher profession. Effective national officers are articulate, self-motivated, outgoing, conscientious students with a passion for Educators Rising's mission and vision and will promote the organization as essential to the cultivation of tomorrow's great educators. Officers must be comfortable with public speaking and connecting with education stakeholders (students, teachers, administrators, policymakers, etc.) both virtually and in person.

Specific roles (i.e. President, Vice President) will be selected during the officer training in the first officer meeting. Each role may contain specific duties unique to it, but all national student officers of Educators Rising will:

- Travel several times throughout their term to Educators Rising events, including but not limited to:
  - National education events;
  - State and/or regional Educators Rising conference(s);
  - Educators Rising National Conference year elected and year following election.

- Help plan and attend the Educators Rising National Conference at which they will:
  - Collaborate to lead the conference.
  - Lead a workshop for students interested in Educators Rising leadership roles.
- Participate in regular conference calls with other national student officers and Educators Rising staff.
- Write for Educators Rising and PDK publications, as well as for other organizations' publications.
- Participate in Educators Rising social media campaigns, including posting regularly to Educators Rising sites and other education organizations' sites.
- Perform other duties as assigned as a positive, professional role model.

Students are elected annually in April for a one-year term. Officers receive training both virtually and in person throughout their term. For specific details on eligibility, responsibilities, and application, download the officer handbook from the EdRising Membership Portal.

National Influencers

Educators Rising believes in the importance of student voice, and we are excited to offer another opportunity for our members to stand out and get more involved. The Educators Rising Influencer Program allows students to add leadership experience to their college applications or résumés, have their voice heard on a national level, and network virtually with other rising educators and teachers from across the country.

During the year, influencers will have the chance to engage further with us. Here are some ways to get even more involved:

- They will be paired with our national officers to encourage outreach on a regional level, working with student leaders in their region's state, to help amplify Educators Rising activities to the national stage.
- They, along with our national officers, will contribute to preparing for the National Conference, by developing visual designs for the promotion of the conference.
- They will help document the National Conference by creating media and pushing it onto the website and via socials.

Benefits

- Development of communication skills upon a set of real-world platforms,
- Free conference registration with a travel scholarship,
- Publication of original content on the Educators Rising national website and social accounts,
- Opportunites to shape the National Conference by serving upon the committee that chooses conference break=out sessions and activities

Students are elected annually in October for a one-year term. Influencers receive training virtually throughout their term. Visit the Educators Rising Membership Portal for specific details on eligibility, responsibilities, and application.

Delegates

Students also have the opportunity to represent their state in additional leadership roles by serving as either a delegate or senator. These positions are designated by the state coordinator. The purpose of the voting delegates is to transact business items of the organization during the delegate meeting at the National Conference. Delegates vote on matters that pertain to the wellness of the organization and work to enhance the experiences of members. Each chartered State Affiliate with active members shall have one voting delegate, an additional voting delegate following the affiliation of the first 100 members, and one additional voting delegate following the affiliation of each 100 members, thereafter. The privilege of making motions, debating, and voting shall be limited to the designated voting delegates. A majority of the voting delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Delegates are selected annually in April by each state coordinator. Delegates will vote virtually for the incoming national officers and will meet at the national conference to vote on national issues.

Senators

The National Senate shall consist of the State President of each chartered State Affiliate that will meet at least two times per year. They shall be responsible for reviewing any and all business to be brought before the voting delegates at the National Conference. A majority of the members of the National Senate shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Senators are identified annually by November 1. There are two virtual meetings of the senators which are held in the fall and spring each year.

Rapid response survey team

Students can have their voice heard on the most significant issues in education by becoming a Rapid Response Survey team member. Each survey takes just a few minutes, but their responses can make a real impact on educational policy. Visit the Educators Rising Membership Portal to sign up.

Presenter

Students also have the opportunity to share their passion for education by presenting a session at the Educators Rising National Conference. This provides them with a national state to showcase their innovative ideas, and inspiring projects, or share valuable insights with fellow rising educators from across the country. Additionally, students gain invaluable experience as a presenter, network with education professionals, and leave a lasting impact on the future of teaching.

Students are welcome to submit the session proposal through the annual Call for Proposals in November prior to the National Conference the following June.



Scholarships

Educators Rising Student members are eligible to apply for more than 30 Prospective Educator Scholarships.

Scholarship applications are available in December each year through student's Educators Rising profile page. The deadline to apply is early March. Be sure to share this information with student members who are applying to college and planning to major in education.

Educators Rising Honor Society

The Educators Rising Honor Society is a distinction that recognizes the academic accomplishments of our student members. This honor serves to elevate the image of teaching by highlighting these high-achieving students who are dedicated to a career path in education.

To qualify, students must:

- Be a high school junior or senior
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, including grades from the first semester of the current academic year
- Be an Active-level (dues-paying) member of Educators Rising
- Pay the stated application fee

Those students who are accepted into the Educators Rising Honor Society will receive a personalized certificate of recognition. Those individuals whose schools will allow them to walk with honor cords at graduation may purchase a bulk package which includes the application fee/certificate of recognition and honor cords to wear at graduation. Students who join the Honor Society before April 30 will be listed in the Educators Rising National Conference program book.

This honor is a résumé-building opportunity for students and a great way for them to receive the recognition they deserve for their academic achievements. Visit our website for more information and look for email updates to come from the national office throughout the year.

National Signing Event

Each year, Educators Rising celebrates upcoming high school graduates who have committed to pursuing a postsecondary degree in education by encouraging them to participate in an Educators Rising National Signing Day at the local level. The 2027 Educators Rising National Signing Day is on **May 4, 2027**!

Teacher leaders can print out customizable template certificates (found in the Teacher Leader Resources section of the Member Portal) for each student. Then, students will gather and sign the certificate to celebrate their commitment to the education profession. Take pictures, share them on social media, tag @educatorsrising and use #FutureEducator and #EdRising.

Kappan Student Editions

Produced quarterly, the student editions are an exclusive version of Phi Delta Kappa's *Kappan* magazine. This special edition is curated to highlight student voices and stories of particular interest to future educators. Included in each edition are guided discussion questions for articles from *Kappan* magazine, designed to help students discuss and reflect on the most pressing topics facing educators today.

National Board Videos

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) created an extraordinary platform called ATLAS, which stands for Accomplished Teaching, Learning, and Schools. Their unique, online library is filled with authentic videos of National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) at work in their classrooms, paired with highly detailed reflective commentaries and instructional materials created by the featured teachers. While the videos (which are typically 15 minutes long) show accomplished teaching in action, the written reflections of NBCTs provide an extraordinary opportunity to get inside the minds of expert teachers.

In the Student Resources section of the EdRising Membership Portal, members can access 64 cases (National Board videos and reflective commentaries) straight from ATLAS. Sorted by subject and grade level, these cases are an extraordinary way to introduce aspiring educators to the profession.

Teaching Channel Videos

Teaching Channel is a gateway to the world of education! Students aspiring to be teachers can find a wealth of resources to kickstart their journey. Access 2,000+ authentic classroom videos from diverse schools across the country, easily searchable by grade, subject, and topic, and watch exclusive Educators Rising conference videos highlighting aspiring educators who share their passion for teaching. With Teaching Channel, they're not just preparing for a career; they're joining a community dedicated to fostering effective teaching practices and enhancing student success.

Aspiring Educators Collegiate Program

Educators Rising has a partnership with the National Education Association's Aspiring Educators to provide a broader, more consistent level of support at the collegiate level.

Educators Rising has not disappeared at the collegiate level. It provides programming and networking opportunities for Aspiring Educators members through scholarships, competitions, Kappan-guided discussion questions, and more. Current Educators Rising members will also benefit from Aspiring Educators events, resources, and advocacy.

When college students join Aspiring Educators, they will receive a code that enables them to sign up for a free Educators Rising Collegiate membership. With this membership, they can access all Educators Rising resources and participate in all activities including competitions at the state and national levels.

For collegiate students to join Aspiring Educators: If an Aspiring Educators chapter already exists on their campus, they are all set to join that chapter. After joining, all new members will receive a promotion code to allow them to also register for the Educators Rising Collegiate program at no charge. This way, they will have access to resources in both organizations for only one fee!

If the campus does not have an Aspiring Educators chapter, they will be given the opportunity to start one! Students can learn more about Aspiring Educators and join today.

The NEA has committed to a full endorsement of Educators Rising programs in middle and high school while Educators Rising endorses the NEA's Aspiring Educators for their postsecondary experience.

Educators Rising Curriculum

Rooted in the Educators Rising Standards, the EdRising Curriculum emphasizes fundamental teaching practices that are critical for high school students as they take their first steps on the path to becoming accomplished professionals. This flexible curriculum includes more than 50 lesson topics with lesson plans of varying lengths, which allows teacher leaders to customize to fit their needs.

Learn more about this optional resource online, and contact our engagement team for pricing.

Educators Rising Micro-credentials

Developed in partnership with Digital Promise, Educators Rising offers five "Beginning to Teach" micro-credentials. Mapped to the Educators Rising Standards, the Educators Rising micro-credentials (or digital badges) are performance-based assessments that provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their competencies on the road to great teaching. To earn micro-credentials, students upload their portfolios and have them scored by expert educators. Passing scores help rising educators boost their résumés and showcase their skills.

- Lesson Design
- Collaboration
- Effective Classroom Leadership
- Formative Assessment
- Learner Engagement

The full stack is available for purchase either alongside your curriculum purchase with Educators Rising, or directly from Digital Promise. This is an optional resource and each micro-credential at the time of this writing is sold for $75 each.



Show Your Pride - Shop the Online Store

Have you checked out the Educators Rising store? In addition to tees and hoodies, we also have official Educators Rising polos that your students can wear in their student teaching internships, as well as participation cords to distinguish them at graduation. Shopping is quick, easy, and affordable. Browse the store online.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Membership and Chapters

Who can become a member of Educators Rising?
Educators Rising is open to middle school, high school, and college students who are interested in pursuing a career in education, as well as educators who want to mentor and support them.

How many Educators chapters and members are there?
Educators Rising has more than 1,000 chapters and over 20,000 members across the United States.

How does Educators Rising benefit students?
Students gain early teaching experience, participate in competitions, attend conferences, develop leadership skills, and connect with a national network of peers and educators.

How does Educators Rising benefit schools and communities?
By building a "grow-your-own" teacher pipeline, Educators Rising helps address teacher shortages, strengthens school culture, and empowers students to give back to their communities.

How do I start an Educators Rising chapter at my school?
To start a chapter, you'll need a teacher or administrator to serve as the chapter leader, register your chapter through Educators Rising, and recruit students who are interested in exploring education as a career. You can start a chapter with as few as one student and one teacher leader.

Getting Help
What questions do you have? Let us know! We can't wait to talk to you. Send us an email: info@educatorsrising.org. Give us a call at 812-339-1156.

Is there a cost to join?
Yes, there is a small annual membership fee of $15 per student, which provides access to competitions, leadership opportunities, classroom resources, and national events. Some states also charge a small additional fee to support their state programs.

Do I have to purchase the curriculum to start a chapter?
No, purchasing the Educators Rising curriculum is not required to form a chapter. While the curriculum can be a valuable resource for developing future educators, chapters can be established and operated without it. Educators Rising supports chapters in a variety of ways, and curriculum access is optional.

Events and Competitions

What kinds of competitions are available?
Educators Rising offers competitive events in areas such as lesson planning, public speaking, children's literature, ethical dilemmas, and exploring education professions. These competitions allow students to showcase their skills and receive feedback from education professionals.

What is the Educators Rising National Conference?
The National Conference is an annual event that brings together students, educators, and education leaders from across the country for competitions,

workshops, networking, and inspiration.

Are there state or regional events too?
Yes, many states host their own Educators Rising conferences and competitions in addition to the national conference.

Educator & Mentor Support

What role do teacher leaders play in Educators Rising?
Teacher leaders serve as mentors, advisors, and role models for students. They guide chapters, help students prepare for competitions, and support future educators in their journey.

What resources are available for teacher leaders?
Educators Rising offers curriculum, lesson plans, programs of work, online chapter resources, and a national network of peers to help teacher leaders support their students. Additionally, the national office offers a variety of webinars throughout the year, providing teacher leaders with opportunities to deepen their understanding of our programs while also earning professional development clock hours.

What role do administrators play in Educators Rising?
Administrators are responsible for implementing and nurturing the program within their local school or district. They help establish Educators Rising chapters in schools, support teacher leaders, and coordinate program expansion through information sessions and outreach.

What role do State/Regional Coordinators play in Educators Rising?
State/Regional Coordinators administer Educators Rising in their respective states, acting as the key contact between the national office and local teacher leaders. They also manage membership data (including demographics) to ensure students are properly registered at both state and national levels in order to prepare annual reports and possibly manage grant deliverables and evaluations.

Future Pathways

Does Educators Rising connect students to colleges or scholarships?
Yes. Members have access to exclusive scholarship opportunities, and many programs connect with universities and colleges that offer dual credit for Educators Rising participation.

Can being part of Educators Rising help me become a teacher?
Absolutely. Educators Rising helps students explore the profession, build skills early, and enter teacher preparation programs with confidence and experience.

Why should a school establish an Educators Rising chapter?

- **Inspire and Prepare Future Educators** – Introduce students to the teaching profession, provide early preparation and hands-on experiences, and encourage persistence in the field.
- **Encourage Students and Serve as Role Models in Education** – Encourage students from all backgrounds to pursue teaching and empower them to serve as positive role models in their schools and communities.
- **Highlight Teaching as a Valued Profession –** Showcase teaching as a challenging, rewarding, and respected career, while building morale and recognizing excellence among students and educators.
- **Strengthen Connections Between Schools and Communities** – Foster service, partnerships, and linkages that connect the teaching profession to local communities and promote shared responsibility for addressing teacher shortages.
- **Build a Supportive National Network –** Establish pathways, resources, and networks at the local, state, and national levels to grow and sustain the education profession.

Appendix A

Recruitment Resources

These are some of the resources available in our membership portal to support chapter recruitment efforts in your school.

- Recruitment Posters
- Recruitment Postcards
- Educators Rising Overview Slide Deck
- Educators Rising Overview Flyer (PDF)
- Chapter Recruitment Tips (PDF)
- Press Release Template



EDUCATORS RISING

WANT TO TEACH?

Start your future now!

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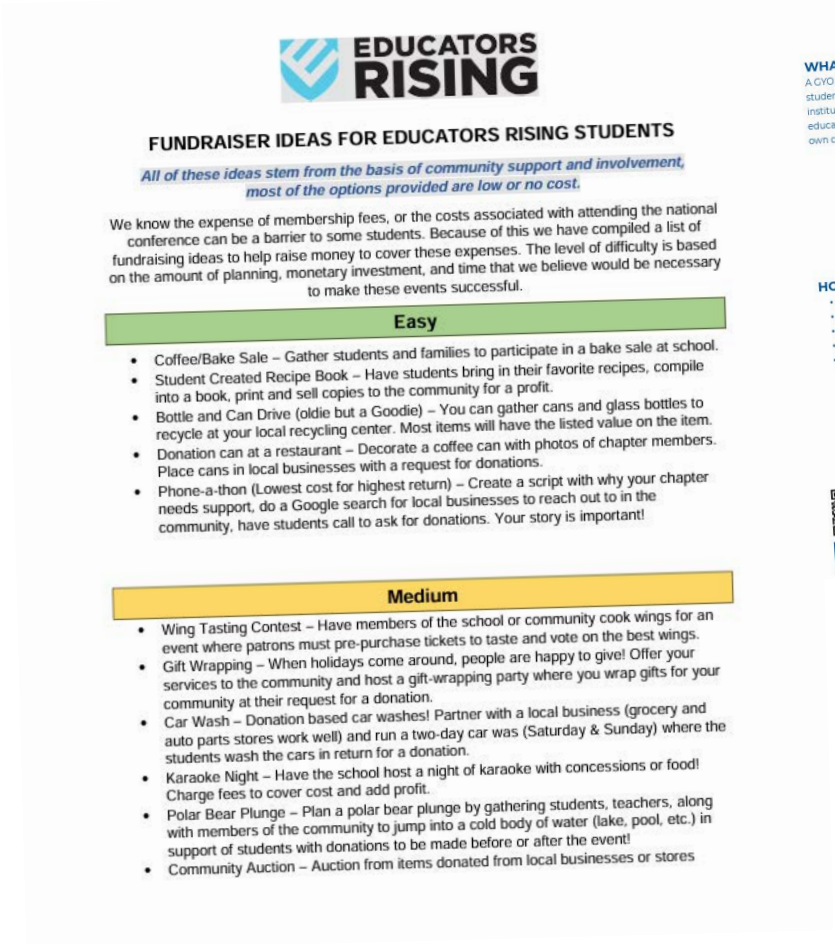
See _____ to get started.

Appendix B

Funding Your Program

These are some of the resources available in our membership portal to support a Grow Your Own program through a CTE pathway for education and training, in addition to supporting chapter activities with fundraising.

- Sustainable Funding for Educator Pathways
- Fundraising Ideas
- Funding Webinar Recording



EDUCATORS RISING

FUNDRAISER IDEAS FOR EDUCATORS RISING STUDENTS

All of these ideas stem from the basis of community support and involvement, most of the options provided are low or no cost.

We know the expense of membership fees, or the costs associated with attending the national conference can be a barrier to some students. Because of this we have compiled a list of fundraising ideas to help raise money to cover these expenses. The level of difficulty is based on the amount of planning, monetary investment, and time that we believe would be necessary to make these events successful.

Easy

- Coffee/Bake Sale – Gather students and families to participate in a bake sale at school.
- Student Created Recipe Book – Have students bring in their favorite recipes, compile into a book, print and sell copies to the community for a profit.
- Bottle and Can Drive (oldie but a Goodie) – You can gather cans and glass bottles to recycle at your local recycling center. Most items will have the listed value on the item.
- Donation can at a restaurant – Decorate a coffee can with photos of chapter members. Place cans in local businesses with a request for donations.
- Phone-a-thon (Lowest cost for highest return) – Create a script with why your chapter needs support, do a Google search for local businesses to reach out to in the community, have students call to ask for donations. Your story is important!

Medium

- Wing Tasting Contest – Have members of the school or community cook wings for an event where patrons must pre-purchase tickets to taste and vote on the best wings.
- Gift Wrapping – When holidays come around, people are happy to give! Offer your services to the community and host a gift-wrapping party where you wrap gifts for your community at their request for a donation.
- Car Wash – Donation based car washes! Partner with a local business (grocery and auto parts stores work well) and run a two-day car was (Saturday & Sunday) where the students wash the cars in return for a donation.
- Karaoke Night – Have the school host a night of karaoke with concessions or food! Charge fees to cover cost and add profit.
- Polar Bear Plunge – Plan a polar bear plunge by gathering students, teachers, along with members of the community to jump into a cold body of water (lake, pool, etc.) in support of students with donations to be made before or after the event!
- Community Auction – Auction from items donated from local businesses or stores



EDUCATORS RISING | GROW YOUR OWN: Sustainable Funding For Educator Pathways

WHAT CAN EDUCATORS RISING DO TO HELP YOU?

Educators Rising can help you start a Grow Your Own (GYO) program wherever you are, even if you are just getting started. Through Educators Rising, you can inspire students to become future educators!

WHAT DEFINES A GYO-ELIGIBLE PROGRAM?

A GYO program has a developed sequence of support and coursework that students can complete while in high school and transition into post-secondary institutions. GYO programs focus on encouraging students to explore education professions with the hope that they will come back to serve their own community.

WHAT COULD I BE DOING NOW?

- Conduct a needs assessment
- Know the strengths of your district/school
- Understand your organization's priorities and goals
- Align needs and strengths to your goals
- Learn how with our "Growing the Teaching Profession: A Blueprint to Establishing a Place-Based Grow Your Own Program"

HOW DO I CREATE A STRONG GYO PROGRAM?

- Align the program's purpose to your school/district goals
- Provide teachers with resources and materials
- Deliver what you promise
- Build upon efforts
- Leverage other funding sources

CAN I USE MULTIPLE FUNDING SOURCES?

Yes! You can easily braid multiple funding sources together and use them all at once. Keep in mind the limitations of each funding stream.

- View our latest webinar: Grow Your Own: Sustainable Funding for Educator Pathways.
- To view all of our past webinars, click here.
- How can I sustain funding a GYO program? Here is guidance from the U.S. The Department of Education

We are a GYO program and a Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSO). Who determines whether a program is a CTSO? CTSO status is a state-level decision. The federal government does not dictate what defines a CTSO.

@educatorsrising

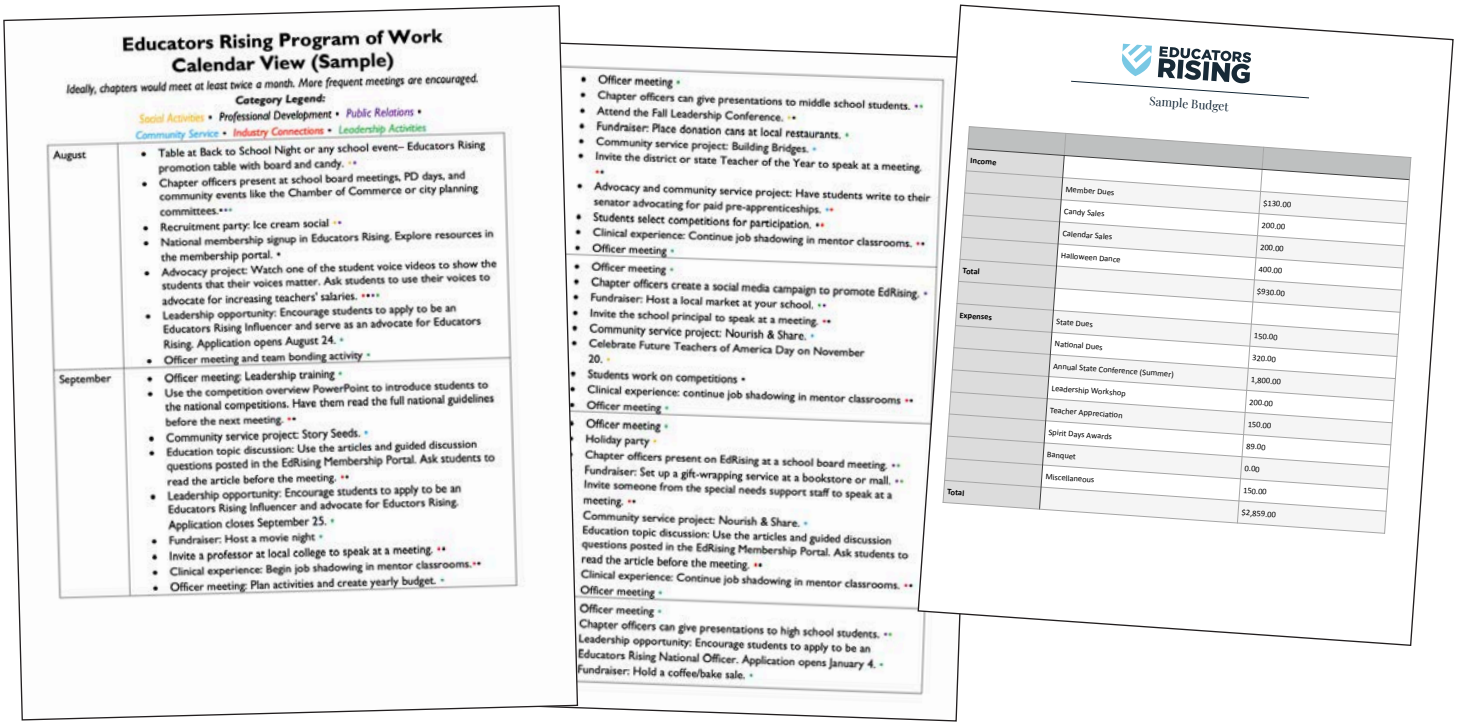
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Appendix C

Chapter Forms

The following forms are available for use by you and your students to support your local Educators Rising chapter.

- Educators Rising Permission Form
- Request for Release Time for Clinical Experiences
- Internship and Student Shadowing/Internship Form
- A Teacher Leader Intent Form
- Yearly Program of Work Planning Form
- Monthly Service Projects
- Sample Program of Work
- Sample Bylaws
- Sample Meeting Agenda
- Sample Meeting Minutes
- Budget for Activities Planning Guide
- Chapter Yearly Budget Form
- Sample Budget
- Sample Treasurer's Report
- Chapter Certificate



Educators Rising Program of Work Calendar View (Sample)

Ideally, chapters would meet at least twice a month. More frequent meetings are encouraged.

Category Legend:

Social Activities • Professional Development • Public Relations • Community Service • Industry Connections • Leadership Activities

August	• Table at Back to School Night or any school event– Educators Rising promotion table with board and candy. • • • Chapter officers present at school board meetings, PD days, and community events like the Chamber of Commerce or city planning committees. • • • • Recruitment party: Ice cream social • • • National membership signup in Educators Rising. Explore resources in the membership portal. • • Advocacy project: Watch one of the student voice videos to show the students that their voices matter. Ask students to use their voices to advocate for increasing teachers' salaries. • • • • • Leadership opportunity: Encourage students to apply to be an Educators Rising Influencer and serve as an advocate for Educators Rising. Application opens August 24. • • Officer meeting and team bonding activity •
September	• Officer meeting: Leadership training • • Use the competition overview PowerPoint to introduce students to the national competitions. Have them read the full national guidelines before the next meeting. • • • Community service project: Story Seeds. • • Education topic discussion: Use the articles and guided discussion questions posted in the EdRising Membership Portal. Ask students to read the article before the meeting. • • • Leadership opportunity: Encourage students to apply to be an Educators Rising Influencer and advocate for Eductors Rising. Application closes September 25. • • Fundraiser: Host a movie night • • Invite a professor at local college to speak at a meeting. • • • Clinical experience: Begin job shadowing in mentor classrooms. • • • Officer meeting: Plan activities and create yearly budget. •

• Officer meeting •
• Chapter officers can give presentations to middle school students. • •
• Attend the Fall Leadership Conference. • •
• Fundraiser: Place donation cans at local restaurants. •
• Community service project: Building Bridges. •
• Invite the district or state Teacher of the Year to speak at a meeting. • •
• Advocacy and community service project: Have students write to their senator advocating for paid pre-apprenticeships. • •
• Students select competitions for participation. • •
• Clinical experience: Continue job shadowing in mentor classrooms. • •
• Officer meeting •

• Officer meeting •
• Chapter officers create a social media campaign to promote EdRising. •
• Fundraiser: Host a local market at your school. • •
• Invite the school principal to speak at a meeting. • •
• Community service project: Nourish & Share. •
• Celebrate Future Teachers of America Day on November 20. •
• Students work on competitions •
• Clinical experience: continue job shadowing in mentor classrooms • •
• Officer meeting •

• Officer meeting •
• Holiday party •
• Chapter officers present on EdRising at a school board meeting. • •
• Fundraiser: Set up a gift-wrapping service at a bookstore or mall. • •
• Invite someone from the special needs support staff to speak at a meeting. • •
• Community service project: Nourish & Share. •
• Education topic discussion: Use the articles and guided discussion questions posted in the EdRising Membership Portal. Ask students to read the article before the meeting. • •
• Clinical experience: Continue job shadowing in mentor classrooms. • •
• Officer meeting •

• Officer meeting •
• Chapter officers can give presentations to high school students. • •
• Leadership opportunity: Encourage students to apply to be an Educators Rising National Officer. Application opens January 4. •
• Fundraiser: Hold a coffee/bake sale. •

EDUCATORS RISING

Sample Budget

Income		
	Member Dues	$130.00
	Candy Sales	200.00
	Calendar Sales	200.00
	Halloween Dance	400.00
Total		$930.00
Expenses	State Dues	150.00
	National Dues	320.00
	Annual State Conference (Summer)	1,800.00
	Leadership Workshop	200.00
	Teacher Appreciation	150.00
	Spirit Days Awards	89.00
	Banquet	0.00
	Miscellaneous	150.00
Total		$2,859.00



2026–2027 Teacher Leader Handbook

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