

## 33rd Annual Model Schools Conference

Gaylord National, DC | June 22-25, 2025

This year we will showcase: Model Schools, Innovative Districts, Aspiring Models and Epic Educators

Model Schools	Innovative Districts	Epic Educators	Aspiring Models
Overall student growth is strong within the school.	Overall student growth is strong with the entire system	Student growth within the classroom/class is strong.	Schools or districts seeing preliminary gains in student growth.
Leadership Team is passionate and highly motivated to create a culture of learning throughout the building.	District leadership team is passionate and highly motivated to create a culture of learning throughout the district.	Educator is passionate and highly motivated to create a culture of learning within their class.	Educator or team is excited about the strategies showing promise to make a significant impact on learning.

We will highlight best practices and strategies in the following areas:

- Strategy and Vision
- Culture
- Teaching and Learning
- Innovative Learning Environments to Meet the Needs of ALL Students
- Well-being
- Organizational Structures
- Leadership Strategies
- Equity and Inclusivity
- PLCs focused on data driven decision making
- Effective Instructional and Engagement Strategies

### The Conference Application ([apply.modelschoolsconference.com](https://apply.modelschoolsconference.com))

Due by December 31, 2024.

- Identifies how the best practice/strategy has impacted student growth.
- Perseverance and resilience during challenging times.
- Explains the quantitative impact the strategy has had on improving student growth/performance (e.g., increase (%) of students who have raised their proficiency levels, increase (%) of student attendance, etc.). If possible, provide any post-implementation data that demonstrates the positive impact.

- Describes replicable strategies and procedures for implementing the practice or program, including implementation timeline and professional development needed to for implementation.
- May show cost savings associated with implementation or, if costs have stayed the same but an increase in student performance has occurred, explain.
- Explain strategies for how you will deliver an effective and engaging presentation.
- Must be submitted no later than December 31, 2024.

As a speaker at the 2025 Model Schools Conference, you will have the opportunity to:

- Share your best practices and successful programs
- Motivate your colleagues to reach new heights in ensuring a rigorous and relevant education for ALL students
- Network with other education professionals
- Engage in building your own professional learning network
- Celebrate your successes in overcoming obstacles
- Be nationally recognized as part of the annual Model Schools Conference class

Below you will find detailed information about the Model Schools Conference and the criteria for applications.

### **CATEGORIES OF PRESENTATIONS**

On the application you will be asked to select a category for your presentation. Please use the descriptions below to guide your selection.

- **Innovative District**  
Innovative District Sessions highlight creative thinking and best practices that drive systemic change across a school district.
- **Model School**  
Model Schools Sessions feature highly successful practices of a specific school. Model schools are high performing or have made improvements over the past year. These practices are innovative and exemplary and should be shared with other educators.
- **Epic Educators**  
Epic Educator Sessions are designed to highlight specific examples of highly successful practices that can be adapted and replicated in other classrooms or schools.

### **GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS**

Applications are due no later than December 31, 2024. Applicants will be informed of their acceptance by February 28, 2025. This will allow schools ample time to prepare for the conference in June. You must submit a completed application to be considered. Additional information may be requested by the selection committee.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Program Selection Committee includes K-12 practitioners and Center for Model Schools staff. We aim to offer a balanced program by selecting presentations that best fit within the framework of the Conference. In reviewing applications, the Committee applies the following considerations to all completed entries:

- Alignment with the mission of the Center for Model Schools
- Strong data in at least one area related to student achievement or growth
- Relevance to the priorities of school transformation:
  - Creating a culture of change to drive school improvement
  - Instructional improvement
  - Systemwide coherence
  - Research-based curriculum and program development
  - Support for underperforming learners
  - Data-driven decisions
  - Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Timeliness and focus of the presentation
- Potential to offer solid, practical “how-to” information to benefit the audience, with a clarity of content that will motivate attendees to act
- Extent to which strategy/best practice is innovative

Conference Process At-a-Glance – subject to change All times are EST		
Now – December 31		Applications Due
January 2 – February 28		Applications reviewed, MS Teams interviews held
February 28 – March 10		Applicants are notified of acceptance or regrets
May 15		Presenters submit conference materials
Sunday, June 22	7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Opening Keynote Session

Monday, June 23	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Keynote Address and Concurrent Sessions
Tuesday, June 24	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions
Wednesday, June 25	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions and Closing Keynote

### Who attends?

Typically, 35% are administrators (superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, and directors); 60% are educators (two-thirds at the secondary level); and 5% are education commissioners, state and federal education department staff, legislators, parents, and school board members.

All correspondence will be sent to the individual listed as the Presenter unless another person is designated as the contact. The Center for Model Schools reserves the right to edit both titles and program description for clarity and length.

### INFORMATION FOR PRESENTATIONS

For in-person presentations, each presentation room will be equipped with an LCD projector, screen, speakers, and microphones. Not all your sessions will be delivered in the same room.

Your presentation should emphasize practical information that can be applied to classroom, school, or district settings. All presentations should include descriptions of the results attained using shared strategies, best practices, and interventions.

You are encouraged to make your sessions as engaging and interactive as possible, given the constraints of audience size. You may bring a team to present!

**The Center for Model Schools will cover registration for ONE PRESENTER ONLY (no additional expenses will be covered). If your proposal includes multiple presenters, please note that additional presenters WILL NOT be covered by the Center for Model Schools.**

You can determine whether or not a handout or other resources are necessary. If you feel that a handout is necessary, please note that you are responsible for printing, shipping, and delivery to the presentation room.

By submitting an application proposal (by December 31, 2024), you are agreeing to provide a copy of all presentations and supplemental materials to the Center for Model Schools. These documents will be posted on a special website for Conference participants, thereby extending the impact of the Conference and providing a resource for attendees.

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