



## Welcome

We're glad you're here at the Advocacy in Action Conference! This event is designed to equip you with the in-depth knowledge and tools you need to effectively advocate for education at both the national and state levels. Join the conversation and amplify your voice by using **#AESAdvocacy** on social media! Share your insights, experiences, and advocacy efforts to connect with others and highlight the important work of educational service agencies. Let's work together to raise awareness and drive positive change!



## Download the AESA Advocacy Toolkit

This comprehensive resource is designed to equip you with the strategies and insights needed to navigate the complexities of education policy and funding. From crafting compelling messages to engaging with key stakeholders, the toolkit provides practical tools to enhance your advocacy efforts.

## Wednesday, September 25

12-4 pm

Registration

Congressional CD  
Foyer-Lobby Level

5-6:30 pm

Welcome Reception sponsored by Guardian School Security Systems

Thornton (11<sup>th</sup> Floor)



**7:00 am**    **Registration Opens**

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**7:30 am**    **Legislative Breakfast**

**Toni Benson**    CISA Chief of Academic & Educ Engagement  
**Adaku Onyeka-Crawford**    OCR Senior Counsel  
**Pat Yongpradit**    TeachAI Lead  
**Radha Sekar**    USAC CEO



**Congressional Award Presentation**

**Joan Wade**    AESA Executive Director

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**8:30 am**    **Welcome and Introductions**

**Jeremy Kovash**  
AESA Executive Council  
President

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**8:45 am**    **Ed Tech Part I – The Future of E-rate**

Discussion of the 5th Circuit Court decision and what it means for the billions of dollars that schools rely on for connectivity; the Learn Without Limits Initiative and cybersecurity.

**John Bernstein**  
Bernstein Strategy Group  
**Megan Janicki**  
American Library Assoc.  
**Noelle Ellerson Ng**  
AESA Gov't Relations

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**9:40 am**    **Ed Tech Part II – Student Privacy and Congress**

For years now, Capitol Hill has talked about student privacy and online safety and now there's finally (some) action. This session will cover everything you need to know about proposals moving through Congress and how they will impact education.

**Amelia Vance**  
Public Interest Privacy  
Center  
**Marty Creel**  
Code.org

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**10:35 am**    **Charting the Future: Potential Policy Pathways for Early Childhood Education**

This session will feature a conversation on policy proposals, opportunities for Federal involvement, and potential for action on early learning in the next Congress and Administration.

**Amanda Guarino**  
First Five Years Fund  
**Cara Sklar**  
New America  
**Mary Nugent**  
Save the Children

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**11:25 am**    **Federal Update and Meeting Prep**

Learn everything you need to know to prepare for your meetings on Capitol Hill.

**Noelle Ellerson Ng**  
AESA Gov't Relations  
**Tara Thomas**  
AESA Policy Analyst

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**12:00 pm**    **Enjoy a box lunch before heading to your afternoon Capitol Hill visits.**

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**1-5:00 pm**    **Capitol Visits**

You have AESA's Legislative Priorities for your meetings. Enjoy your pre-arranged sessions with Congress members and staff.

**Questions?**  
**Noelle Ellerson Ng**  
703-774-6935  
**Tara Thomas**  
703-303-2551  
**Joan Wade**  
920-420-8822

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## Friday, September 27

## Capitol A/B-Lobby Level

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7:30 am	<b>Networking Breakfast Buffet</b> <b>Executives in Residence Breakfast in Yosemite (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)</b>	
8:30 am	<b>Welcome</b>  <b>Recap/Debrief Capitol Visits</b>	<b>Joan Wade</b> AESAs Executive Director <b>Noelle Ellerson Ng</b> AESAs Gov't Relations <b>Tara Thomas</b> AESAs Policy Analyst
9:10 am	<b>Directly from ED: What's new with OSERS?</b> You will receive a comprehensive update on everything you should know from the department on Medicaid, mental health, and more.	<b>Meghan Whittaker</b> Office of Special Education & Rehabilitation Services (OSERS)
10:05 am	<b>Educator's Guide to Federal Regulation Changes: What's New and What Matters</b> This past year brought an onslaught of regulatory changes. Maree Sneed, Attorney, Education Lawyer, LLC is here to break it all down and share what's happened and how it impacts schools.	<b>Marie Sneed</b> Education Lawyer, LLC
10:50 am	<b>How Education Issues are Shaping the 2024 Elections</b> A conversation with education reporters to discuss the role education is playing in the 2024 elections – from local to national races.	<b>Margaret Barthel</b> WAMU 88.5 American University Radio <b>Juan Perez</b> Politico
11:30 am	<b>Closing Comments</b>	<b>Joan Wade</b> AESAs Executive Director <b>Noelle Ellerson Ng</b> AESAs Gov't Relations

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## Save the Dates

**Federal Advocacy Committee Meeting**  
**January 22-23, 2025**  
**1-4 pm Eastern**

**2025 Advocacy in Action Meeting**  
**September 17-19, 2025**  
**Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC**



**Join the**  
**Conversation:**  
**#AESAAadvocacy**

# Thank You to Our Business Partners!



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2024 AESA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# BE A CHAMPION

Leadership • AI & Innovation • Collaboration • Engagement • Governance

DECEMBER 4-6, 2024

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

The banner features a hand holding a gold medal with the AESA logo. The background is a gradient of orange and red. The text is in white and black, with the main title "BE A CHAMPION" in a large, bold, white font.