



Conference Strands

Rooted in the work you're doing every day

Designed to support your leadership in practice, sessions at NPC27 are organized into five strands focused on the most important areas of school leadership today. Each strand offers strategies and insights spanning the PreK–12 continuum.



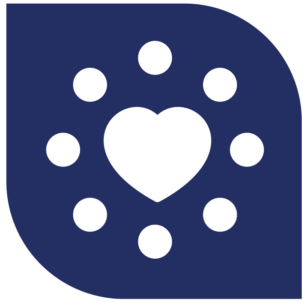
Leading Powerful Teaching and Learning

Reimagining Instruction Through Culture, Systems, and Evidence

Today's school leaders are instructional architects—designing cultures, systems, and conditions where excellent teaching thrives, and every student succeeds. This strand elevates the roles of principals and assistant principals as instructional leaders who align curriculum, assessment, data, and workforce pathways to ensure high-quality learning experiences for all students.

Focus Areas

- Instructional leadership and learning culture
 - Curriculum coherence and assessment literacy
 - Data-informed decision-making
 - Career and Technical Education (CTE) and pathways
 - Equity-centered instructional systems
 - Policy impacts on teaching and learning
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Belonging, Well-Being, and Whole-Child Success

Creating Safe, Inclusive Schools Where Students and Adults Thrive

Student success is inseparable from well-being and belonging. This strand centers on building school cultures where students—and the adults who serve them—feel safe, supported, and valued. Leaders will explore how systems, policies, and daily practices can promote mental health, inclusion, and physical and psychological safety while addressing inequities.

Focus Areas

- Student and school-leader well-being
 - Social-emotional learning (SEL)
 - Equity, inclusion, and identity-affirming practices
 - Trauma-informed and restorative approaches
 - School safety, crisis response, and prevention systems
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Leadership That Moves Systems

Adaptive, Ethical, and Future-Ready Leadership



The work of school leadership has never been more complex—or more critical. This strand equips principals and assistant principals to lead adaptively, develop talent, and build resilient systems that endure beyond individual leaders. Sessions emphasize strategic thinking, leadership pipelines, and the role of school leaders as advocates and change agents.

Focus Areas

- Adaptive leadership and change management
 - Talent development, coaching, and succession planning
 - Hiring, retention, and leadership sustainability
 - Systems and structures that enable scale and impact
 - Governance, ethics, and compliance
 - Advocacy as a leadership responsibility
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Community, Voice, and Shared Responsibility

Building Powerful Partnerships Beyond the School Walls

Schools thrive when they are deeply connected to families, communities, and students' voices. This strand explores how leaders cultivate trust, elevate student and community voice, and build partnerships that expand opportunities and strengthen advocacy for public education.

Focus Areas

- Family and community engagement models
 - Student voice and leadership
 - Cross-sector and community partnerships
 - Communication, trust-building, and transparency
 - Advocacy rooted in local and national contexts
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Innovation, Technology, and AI

Designing Ethical, Human-Centered Futures for Learning

Technology and AI are reshaping education—but leadership determines their impact. This strand focuses on how principals and assistant principals can strategically integrate technology and AI to enhance learning, streamline operations, and protect equity, ethics, and human connection.

Focus Areas

- AI in instruction and school operations
- Digital equity and access
- Cybersecurity and data privacy
- Ethical and responsible technology use

- Policy considerations and future workforce readiness

Questions?

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