

Building Together

Our Work, Our Rights, Our Future



2026 MEA ESP Statewide Conference

July 17-18, 2026

MEA Headquarters | East Lansing, MI



As ME A ESP Caucus President, it is my pleasure to invite you to attend our ESP Conference on June 17-18, at ME A Headquarters in East Lansing. Education Support Professionals are always going the extra mile to insure we provide a safe and clean environment to learn.



General Opening Session (Saturday at 9 a.m.) — As we kick off our 2026 conference, we will begin by welcoming conference attendees; introducing everyone to your ME A ESP Caucus Executive Board, ME A Leadership and Staff; touching on key issues ahead of us as union members in 2026.

Friday Night is our **ESP Banquet and Leon A. Brunner Award Ceremony**. This is the highlight of our conference where we come together with our ESP colleagues, family, friends and ME A Staff to honor the 2026 recipient of the ESP Caucus' highest honor.

Saturday at our luncheon, we will close with our **PAC prize drawing**.

Never forget ... as EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS we are never "JUST A..." We are professionals on a mission to enrich the lives of every student in our school communities. As we continue on our chosen career path, we will accomplish this with great success.

Along with my fellow ESP officers and our ESP Caucus Executive Board, I am looking forward to seeing you in East Lansing as we celebrate and honor our professions as ME A Education Support Professionals.



Roy Freeman
ME A ESP Caucus President



This conference is underwritten in part by MESSA and ME A Financial Services.

ESP CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY JULY 17 @ OKEMOS EVENT CENTER

4-5:30 p.m. Registration, Okemos Event Center, 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos

6 p.m. **Dinner**, Okemos Event Center (attached to the Comfort Inn)

Welcome, Roy Freeman, MEA ESP Caucus President

Leon Brunner Award, Jim Sparapani, Chair



SATURDAY JULY 18 @ MEA HQ

Breakfast available at Comfort Inn for those staying at the hotel.

8–9 a.m. Registration, MEA 1350 building, 2nd floor atrium

9–11 a.m. **General Session**, Steven Cook Board Room

11:15 a.m.–12 p.m. **100 Sessions / Classification Forums**

12–12:45 p.m. Lunch

12:50–2:05 p.m. **200 Conference Sessions**

2:15–3:30 p.m. **300 Conference Sessions**

3:40–4:55 p.m. **400 Conference Sessions**

MAIL OR FAX YOUR REGISTRATION

The conference is available to all MEA members in good standing.

- Select your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice for each session series. If a session fills before your registration is processed, you'll be placed in an alternate. Note: Some sessions span two time blocks (e.g., 204-304) — check for conflicts.
- If skipping a time slot, write "Not Attending." **Do not leave anything blank.**
- Payment in full must accompany the registration form.
- **Early deadline:** June 26, 2026. Registrations postmarked by this date receive the reduced rate. After June 26, registration is on-site only.
- Cancellations must be in writing. No refunds for cancellations postmarked after June 26, 2026.

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED — FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Register online at netforum.mymea.org/members
- Find the conference registration information under **Upcoming Events**.
- Online registrations must be paid with a credit card.
- **Registration deadline is June 26, 2026 — online registration will not be available after midnight on June 26, 2026**

EARLY REGISTRATION — BY JUNE 26		LATE/SITE REGISTRATION — AFTER JUNE 26	
Full conference <i>(includes Friday banquet, Saturday conference, Saturday lunch)</i>	\$25	Full conference <i>(includes Friday banquet, Saturday conference, Saturday lunch)</i>	\$40
Saturday only <i>(includes Saturday conference, Saturday lunch)</i>	\$15	Saturday only <i>(includes Saturday conference, Saturday lunch)</i>	\$25

Individual meal tickets will be sold at on-site registration.

ESP CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

July 17-18, 2026 | MEA Headquarters, East Lansing

Registration must be postmarked by June 26, 2026

Please complete the ENTIRE registration form. All information is required to process the registration. All payment information must accompany this registration form. PRINT CLEARLY.

LAST NAME OF MEMBER		FIRST NAME OF MEMBER
XXX-XX- _ _ _ _	PREVIOUS/MAIDEN NAME	FULL NAME PREFERRED ON NAME TAG
LAST FOUR DIGITS OF SSN		
SCHOOL DISTRICT	FULL HOME STREET ADDRESS (INCL. APT/STE IF APPLICABLE)	
LOCAL/UNIT	HOME CITY, STATE AND ZIP	
WITH AREA CODE	WITH AREA CODE	
SCHOOL PHONE	HOME PHONE	
CHECK ONE: <input type="checkbox"/> MEA member <input type="checkbox"/> MEA-Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Student MEA <input type="checkbox"/> MEA Staff		
CHECK ONE: <input type="checkbox"/> EA Instructional <input type="checkbox"/> EA Non-Instructional <input type="checkbox"/> ESP Instructional <input type="checkbox"/> ESP Non-Instructional <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Ed		
CURRENT OCCUPATION (REFER TO CODES ON NEXT PAGE AND ENTER AS MANY AS APPLICABLE)		
EMAIL FOR YOUR REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION	DATE REGISTRATION FORMS AND PAYMENT MAILED	

Registrations must be postmarked by June 26, 2026 to receive the reduced rate.

- Full conference – \$25
- Saturday only – \$15

After June 26, 2026 registration must be done on site.

- Full conference – \$40 on site
- Saturday only – \$25 on site

Number of registrations included with payment: _____

Total payment: \$ _____

Payment method: Check Credit Card

Check or credit card payment must accompany registration form.

Mail complete forms and payment to:

Heather Traxler
Michigan Education Association
1216 Kendale Blvd., PO Box 2573
East Lansing, MI 48826-2573

Conference Coordinator:
Heather Traxler, 800-292-1934,
ext. 5580, htraxler@mea.org

CHECK

Make check payable to MEA – Check # _____

Received from: _____

CREDIT CARD

Credit card # _____

VISA MasterCard Discover Am Ex

Expiration date: _____

Authorized signature: _____

Print name of signer: _____

COMPLETE NEXT PAGE AND INCLUDE WITH PAYMENT.



ESP CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

LAST NAME OF MEMBER	FIRST NAME OF MEMBER

SESSION REGISTRATION

Write in the **NUMBER** of the session you would like to attend in each series. (Some sessions continue for multiple time slots – sign up for the entire series.) Please fill in alternate choices as some sessions fill up quickly.

SATURDAY, JULY 18	SERIES 100 11:15 a.m.–12 p.m.	SERIES 200 12:50–2:05 p.m.	SERIES 300 2:15–3:30 p.m.	SERIES 400 3:40–4:55 p.m.
FIRST CHOICE				
SECOND CHOICE				
THIRD CHOICE				

MEAL ATTENDANCE

SELECT ONE OPTION FOR EACH MEAL			
FRIDAY DINNER	6 p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, ATTENDING	<input type="checkbox"/> NO, NOT ATTENDING
SATURDAY LUNCH	12–12:45 p.m.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, ATTENDING	<input type="checkbox"/> NO, NOT ATTENDING

OCCUPATION CODES FOR REGISTRATION FORM, PREVIOUS PAGE

CUSTODIAL

C909 Custodian
C918 Freight, Stock & Materials Handler
C021 Groundskeeper
C923 Laborer
C927 Maintenance Repairer/General Utility

FOOD SERVICE

F907 Cook/Food Preparer
F908 Cook Manager
F911 Dietitian
F917 Food Service Director/Supervisor
F944 Food Service Worker

HEALTH & STUDENT SERVICES

H2007 Dormitory Personnel
H384 Nurse – Registered
H388 Physician
H801 Athletic Coach
H804 Behavioral Management Specialist
H809 Curriculum Specialist
H810 Grant Developer
H813 Non-Instructional Program Coordinator

H814 Personnel Officer/Specialist
H816 Public Relations/Informational Officer
H817 Rehabilitation Counselor
H818 Research & Development Specialist
H900 Athletic Trainer
H915 Family/Community Support Coordinator
H946 Student Support/Health Services
H949 Student Activity Advisor/Non-Athletic Coach
H959 Volunteer Coordinator

MAINTENANCE

M912 Electrician
M914 Facilities Maintenance Worker
M920 Graphic Artist
M935 Painter & Paperhanger
M938 Plumber
M939 Printer
M945 Skilled Craft

MEDIA & TECHNICAL SERVICES

L805 Computer Operator
L806 Computer Programmer

L807 Computer Technician
L811 Librarian/Media Consultant
L812 Network Administrator
L819 Statistician
L820 Technology Coordinator
L910 Data Entry Clerk
L929 Media Technologist
L937 Photographer

OFFICE PERSONNEL

O800 Accreditation
O802 Attendance Officer
O803 Auditor – School
O902 Bookkeeper/Accountant
O906 Clerical/Secretarial
O916 File Clerk
O919 General Office Clerk
O926 Mail Clerk
O931 Office/Clerical/Administrative Support
O941 Purchasing Agent
O942 Receptionist
O943 Records Clerk
O947 Secretary
O951 Switchboard/PBX Operator

PARAPROFESSIONAL & AIDES

P403 Instructional Aide – Special Ed

P404 Aide – Special Ed
P901 Bilingual Aide
P904 Bus Monitor/Crossing Guard
P905 Instructional Aide – Chapter 1
P913 Extra-Curricular Activity Aide
P922 Instructional Aide – not Special Ed or Chapter 1
P924 Library Aide
P925 Library Media Aide
P928 Media Center Aide
P933 Cashier
P936 Paraprofessionals
P952 Teaching Assistant
P953 Teaching Intern
P954 Teaching/Classroom Aide
P957 Tutor

SECURITY/GUARD

G815 Police Officer
G948 Security Guard

TRANSPORTATION

T934 Other Vehicle Operator
T956 Transportation/Bus Driver
T958 Vehicle Mechanic

PLEASE REVIEW BOTH PAGES OF FORM FOR COMPLETENESS PRIOR TO MAILING

ESP CONFERENCE HOUSING & PARKING

Conference attendees are invited to reserve accommodations directly with the conference hotel, the Comfort Inn.

Comfort Inn
2187 University Park Drive
Okemos, MI 48864

Group Name: MEA **MEA Group Rate:** \$98 + taxes

Breakfast is included with the room rate.

In order to receive the MEA group rate, individuals must identify themselves as a member of the group. Currently, a 6% state tax and 6% local tax is applicable (subject to change without notice).

The Comfort Inn must receive reservations **by June 26, 2026**. Reservation requests received after the cut-off date will be offered at the group rate based on availability, otherwise the best available rate will be offered.

Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 517-347-6690.

Friday Banquet Location

Okemos Event Center
2187 University Park Drive
Okemos, MI 48864

Saturday Conference Location

MEA Headquarters, 1350 Building
1350 Kendale Blvd.
East Lansing, MI 48823

Parking

Please park behind the MEA 1216 building. Overflow parking is located behind the 1216 building in the church lot, or in the 1475 MESSA building lot.
DO NOT park in the First National Bank lot across the street from MEA Headquarters. Your vehicle will be towed.

MEAL DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY DINNER BUFFET

Held at the Okemos Event Center, attached to the Comfort Inn

Lemon Caper Chicken (gf) — Grilled chicken thighs, braised in lemon caper wine sauce, fresh thyme

Apple Harvest Pork (gf, df) — Roasted pork loin with apple cider and caramelized onion glaze

Ratatouille (vegan, gf) — French Provencal stewed vegetables such as eggplant, zucchini, peppers, squash and white beans in an herbed tomato sauce.

Roasted Potatoes (vegan, gf) — signature seasoning blend, olive oil

Chef's seasonal vegetable medley (v, gf)

Green garden salad (vegan, gf) — romaine, field greens, radish, tomato, cucumber, carrot

Assorted Desserts

SATURDAY BREAKFAST

Available at the Comfort Inn if you are staying there.

SATURDAY LUNCH — BOXED LUNCH

Assorted sandwiches, chips and dessert

Assorted salads and dessert



Michigan ESP Center for Professional Learning ESP Certificate Program

PROCEDURES FOR RECEIVING MECPL CREDIT

If you would like to receive MECPL credit for attending approved sessions at the 2026 MEA ESP Statewide Conference, here are a few things you will need to do.

TIMING IS CRITICAL — The MECPL program requires that you attend each approved session for the full amount of time allotted (be on time and do not leave the session early).

SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED — You will receive an ESP Conference Session Attendance form in the registration packet you pick up at the MEA registration desk. Ask the presenter or facilitator to sign your form at the end of each approved session that you attend. These signatures must be obtained BEFORE LEAVING the session.

Return your completed form to the registration area at the end of the conference or before you leave the conference. The forms will no longer be accepted via U.S. Mail after the conference.

ESP CERTIFICATE PROGRAM ELIGIBLE SESSIONS

The sessions listed below have been certified as part of the ESP Certificate Program.

CORE — COMMUNICATIONS

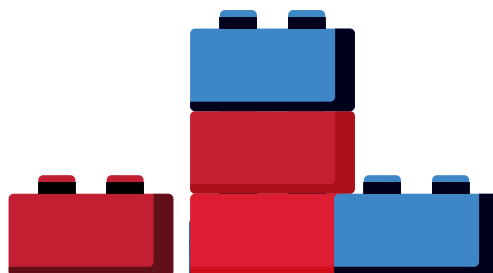
- Session 203 Using Communications to Bolster Local Activities
- Session 301 Building Strong ESP Unions: Tools for Communication and Engagement
- Session 404 Building Better Relationships at the Bargaining Table...and Beyond!

ELECTIVE — OTHER (JOB CLASSIFICATION SPECIFIC)

- Sessions 101-107 All 100 ESP Classification Sessions

If you have any questions about the MECPL program or what is required of you, please email Paul Helder at phelder@mea.org.

**ALL ESP CERTIFICATION FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN
BEFORE LEAVING THE CONFERENCE.**



2026 ESP STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

SERIES 100 11:15 a.m.–12 p.m.	SERIES 200 12:50–2:05 p.m.	SERIES 300 2:15–3:30 p.m.	SERIES 400 3:40–4:55 p.m.
<p>101 Paraprofessional/Aides Forum</p>	<p>201 Building Strong ESP Locals</p>	<p>301 Building Strong ESP Unions: Tools for Communication and Engagement</p>	<p>401 Constitution & Bylaws: Revising and Updating Local Documents</p>
<p>102 Media/Technical Services Forum</p>			
<p>103 Transportation Forum</p>	<p>202 Saving Makes Sense with MEA and NEA</p>	<p>302 I Never Thought I'd Be an ESP Leader</p>	<p>402 Getting Your Local PACtive: Engaging is Legislative and Political Action</p>
<p>104 Secretarial/Clerical Forum</p>			
<p>105 Food Service Forum</p>	<p>203 Using Communications to Bolster Local Activities</p>	<p>303–403 Don't Let Your Local Become Extinct! DOUBLE SESSION <i>(SELECT BOTH 303 AND 403)</i></p>	
<p>106 Higher Education Forum</p>			
<p>107 Custodial/Maintenance Forum</p>	<p>204–304 Bargaining Basics DOUBLE SESSION <i>(SELECT BOTH 204 AND 304)</i></p>		<p>404 Building Better Relationships at the Bargaining Table... and Beyond!</p>

ESP CONFERENCE SESSIONS

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

GENERAL SESSION — 9–11 A.M.

Meet the MEA leadership and get an update on the state of the organization. Be introduced to your ESP Caucus board and hear their plans for the future for Education Support Professionals.

100 SESSIONS — SATURDAY 11:15 A.M.

ESP CLASSIFICATION FORUMS

Each classification will have at least one ESP Caucus Director in attendance to facilitate an open forum discussion around any topic related to the duties, responsibilities and any other items presented for discussion. Please select the classification you want to attend from below:

Session 101 — Paraprofessional/Aides 

Session 102 — Media/Technical Services 

Session 103 — Transportation 

Session 104 — Secretarial/Clerical 

Session 105 — Food Service 

Session 106 — Higher Education 

Session 107 — Custodial/Maintenance 

Session 201 – Building Strong ESP Locals

12:50–2:05 p.m.

Gain a deeper understanding of MEA and its governance structure. Participants will examine the roles and responsibilities of elected officers, explore the characteristics of a full-capacity local association, and develop a stronger understanding of how MEA operates. This session is ideal for members interested in expanding their involvement and leadership within their local association and MEA.

Presenters: Chandra Madafferi, MEA President
Roy Freeman, ESP Caucus President, Dowagiac Union CMT
Tracie Guilmet, Rochester P

Session 202 – Saving Makes Sense with MEA and NEA

12:50–2:05 p.m.

You have access to a vast array of savings and discounts as a MEA / NEA member. But what are they? How do you access them? Join this session to find out how you and your members can use these benefits to save more money than you pay in dues!

Presenters: Deb Larson, MEA UniServ Director
Hans Wienke, MEA UniServ Director
Kurt Murray, MEA UniServ Director
Lisa Robbins, MEA UniServ Director
Linda LaVictor, MEA Organization Development Specialist
Eric Kennedy, MEA UniServ Director
Jon Fielbrandt, MEA UniServ Director

 **Session 203 – Using Communications to Bolster Local Activities**

12:50–2:05 p.m.

Having a student centric message about the importance of improving economic and working conditions for ESPs is critical to making the public case for stronger contracts. Learn valuable and practical tips on how to develop and communicate a strong message that supports your efforts in local organizing, bargaining and beyond.

Presenters: Thomas Morgan, MEA Communications Consultant

Session 204-304 – Bargaining Basics (DOUBLE SESSION)

12:50–3:30 p.m.

The goal of this session is to give a bargainer from any educational employee group the tools, knowledge, and resources to be an effective bargainer for their group. This half-day session will encompass all bargaining basic information and resources regarding essential topics for a bargainer. These will include building a bargaining team and bargaining team member roles, strategies and styles, planning for bargaining, requesting and analyzing unit and district economic information, collecting non-economic information, legal aspects of bargaining, mediation, fact-finding, and impasse. A discussion of possible public relations & bargaining support activities (i.e., crisis) will also be included in this presentation. At the end of this training session, a bargainer will have a footprint for beginning and completing a successful bargain.

Presenters: Terese Fitzpatrick, MEA UniServ Director
Kim Abel, MEA UniServ Director
John Creasey, MEA UniServ Director

Session 301 – Building Strong ESP Unions: Tools for Communication and Engagement

2:15–3:30 p.m.

This session will give ESP leaders practical tools to better engage members, improve communication, and build stronger local unions. Participants will learn simple strategies for organizing conversations, increasing member involvement, and creating lasting membership growth. Attendees will leave with ideas and resources they can use right away in their locals, workplaces and communities.

Presenters: Allyson McCann, Grand Ledge P

Session 302 – I Never Thought I’d Be an ESP Leader

2:15–3:30 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what it was like to be an ESP leader? This session will give you an introduction to what it is like to be an ESP leader. Participants will receive information on how to become more active and what resources may be available for them as they learn to lead.

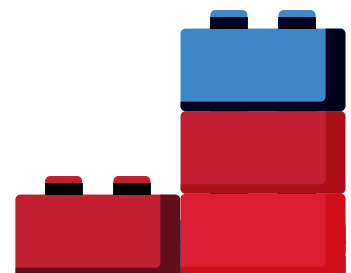
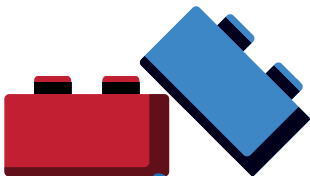
Presenters: Robert Gaines, III, Farmington OP

Session 303-403 – Don’t Let Your Local Become Extinct! (DOUBLE SESSION)

2:15–4:55 p.m.

Strong locals are built through intentional organizing, member engagement, and leadership development. Join fellow ESP leaders and activists for a practical session focused on strengthening membership and building lasting power in your local. Learn about new ESP organizing strategies, effective ESP New Hire Orientation ideas where you have several NHOs through the year, and consistent outreach practices to engage potential members year-round. Hear from local ESP leaders and members sharing successful onboarding tips, communication strategies, and digital engagement tools that are working in their locals. Leave with practical organizing plans you can begin using in late August and continue throughout the school year. Your local’s future depends on active, connected members – let’s build it together.

Presenters: Linda LaVictor, UniServ Organizational Development Specialist
Mary Aldecoa, UniServ Organizational Development Specialist
Andy Borrelli, MEA UniServ Director



Session 401 — Constitution & Bylaws: Revising and Updating Local Documents

3:40–4:55 p.m.

Time to refresh your local constitution & bylaws? Let's review the guidelines and process for updating documents. You are encouraged to bring your constitution and bylaws. This interactive session includes a step-by-step process for C&B review and submission. The purpose of this session is to guide local leaders through the process of submitting their C&B for MEA approval. Attendees will leave with the submission cover page, checklist, and prototype language for local C&Bs. Expect to have your questions answered, interact with Governance Review Committee members, and be guided through the process to update local documents.

Presenters: Marcia Mackey, Central Michigan University E, Governance Review Committee Chair
Jennifer Shelito, Tuscola ISD COPT President, Governance Review Committee

Session 402 — Getting Your Local PACtive: Engaging is Legislative and Political Action

3:40–4:55 p.m.

Education decisions are political decisions because they're made by elected leaders. Learn how your local can make a difference, from legislative councils to PAC drives to recommending candidates — and why it's critical to become PACtive!

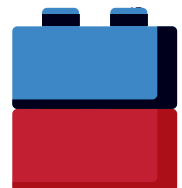
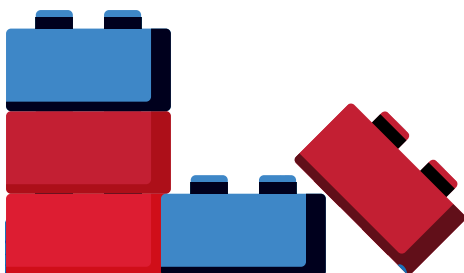
Presenters: David Michelson, MEA Lobbyist
Jessica Lumbreras, MEA Member & Political Organizer
Andy Neumann, MEA Lobbyist
Zach Crim, MEA Lobbyist/Political Action Organizer

Session 404 — Building Better Relationships at the Bargaining Table...and Beyond!

3:40–4:55 p.m.

Emotional intelligence and interpersonal communication are oftentimes just as important as knowing budgetary facts and figures. In this session, attendees will learn of different strategies and techniques for interacting with individuals on both sides of the bargaining table... and beyond!

Presenters: Eric Kennedy, MEA UniServ Director
Bill Milligan, MEA UniServ Director
Troy Beasley, MEA UniServ Director



ESP CONFERENCE PURPOSE

This statewide conference is designed to serve the expressed needs of the Education Support Professional members in good standing of the Michigan Education Association. Individual workshop sessions have been structured to meet both the generic and specific needs of the group.

ESP CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Jennifer Shelito, Chair

Sue Federico

Kecia Jackson Jones

Antonella Piccirilli

Deb Rickert

Crystal Willit

Jeff Wilson

MEA Director of ESP:

Gezelle Oliver

goliver@mea.org

Conference Coordinator:

Heather Traxler

htraxler@mea.org



Michigan Education Association

1216 KENDALE BLVD, PO BOX 2573, EAST LANSING, MI 48826-2573 ▪ 517-332-6551 OR 800-292-1934 ▪ MEA.ORG

CHANDRA MADAFFERI, PRESIDENT & CEO ▪ BRETT R. SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT
AARON ELING, SECRETARY-TREASURER ▪ ERIK EDOFF, SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The mission of the MEA is to protect, advocate and advance the rights of all education professionals to promote quality public education for all students.