



# RAPSA FORUM

## ***Call for Presenters Guidelines Page and Strand Descriptions***

### **Important Dates:**

Call for proposals: May 13, 2026 - July 6, 2026  
Session Selections Announced: July 15, 2026  
Session Materials Due: October 24, 2026  
Session Location Assignment: October 24, 2026

**Welcome to the RAPSA Forum Call for Presenters submission process. Please read the guidelines and complete the form using Whova.**

***When:*** November 4-6, 2026

***Where:*** [San Diego Mission Bay Resort](#)

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## **Submission Guidelines**

RAPSA is seeking submissions that would be **60- 90 minutes long** from educators, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners who are actively engaged in addressing the educational needs of At-Promise students and Opportunity Youth in alternative school settings.

To be considered as a speaker, please be prepared to submit the following via our online portal:

1. Align with one of the four conference themes.
2. Brief biography highlighting your relevant experience
3. Brief summary of your proposed presentation and how the session will encourage interaction with attendees.
4. Any supporting materials (e.g., previous speaking engagements, publications, how policies and/ or practices are being implemented.)

## **Benefits of Participation**

- Access to cutting-edge research, best practices, and innovative strategies.
- Networking opportunities with fellow professionals and stakeholders in the field.
- Opportunity to share expertise and contribute to the advancement of alternative education practices.
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## **Conference Strands**

The conference seeks to explore innovative leadership practices, effective strategies, and successful interventions employed within educational settings that serve At-Promise students. **Submissions should clearly align with the conference theme and address one or more of the topics of interest outlined below.**

# Amplifying the Signal: Leadership as the Voice for Change

Non-traditional secondary schools play a pivotal role in providing alternative pathways to educational achievement and career-readiness, often offering innovative approaches to learning that cater to the unique needs of At-Promise students. At the heart of this endeavor lies leadership - teacher-leaders, principals, and system-level leaders who champion equity, inclusion, and student success through high quality-programs and services. This strand aims to connect policymakers, educators, researchers and practitioners to share insights, experiences, and innovations that promote improved outcomes for At-Promise students.

We invite proposals that address the following themes:

- Effective leadership models and practices in alternative education settings
- Strategies for fostering a positive school culture and supportive learning environments.
- Best practices in marketing to opportunity youth
- Innovative curriculum design and instructional approaches tailored to the needs of At-Promise students.
- Leveraging technology for personalized learning and skill development
- Collaborative partnerships with community organizations, employers, and stakeholders.
- Addressing social-emotional learning and mental health needs of At Promise Students.
- Engaging families and communities in the educational journey of At-Promise Students.
- Data-driven decision-making for continuous improvement and accountability.
- Success stories and best practices from alternative education programs.

## **Accountability, Unboxed: Breaking Free from Traditional Models**

Traditional measures of accountability often fail to accurately measure the performance of alternative schools. This strand aims to promote and advance our collective understanding of high-quality accountability systems in alternative education by exploring innovative approaches and alternative frameworks that create meaningful performance metrics for schools serving At-Promise students.

We invite proposals that address the following themes:

- Effective evaluation frameworks for alternative education programs.
- Assessing student outcomes and success metrics.
- Strategies for data collection and analysis.
- Best practices in accountability and quality assurance.
- Engaging stakeholders in accountability processes.
- Addressing equity and access in alternative education.
- Innovative approaches to measuring program effectiveness.
- Building partnerships with employers and community organizations.
- Policy implications and advocacy efforts.

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## **Framing the Future: The Power of Narrative in Policy Advocacy**

Alternative schools play an important role in providing educational opportunities for At-Promise students. This strand aims to bring together educators, researchers, policymakers, to better understand the complexities of state, local,

and federal education policies that impact schools serving At-Promise students, and to share insights and effective strategy for advancing education policy, that ensures equity, access college and career pathways for At-Promise students in alternative school settings.

We invite proposals that address the following themes:

- Policy frameworks that share approaches at local, state, and federal levels supporting equity and access for At-Promise students.
- Research findings and best practices in supporting opportunity youth through CTE initiatives, including mentorship, apprenticeships, and industry certifications.
- Policy frameworks and legislative initiatives aimed at removing barriers and enhancing access to viable college and career pathways for At-Promise students.
- Innovative approaches to successfully engaging opportunity youth in workforce development programs.
- Equity-centered approaches to expanding access to high-quality CTE programs for At-Promise students.
- Effective partnerships that demonstrate successful collaboration between schools and community-based organizations.
- Advocacy that affects policy changes and systemic change at local, regional, and national levels, in service of more equitable distribution of resources.

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## **Future- Ready Pathways: Aligning Education, Industry, and Opportunity**

At-Promise students/Opportunity youth, defined as young people aged 16-24 who are neither enrolled in school nor participating in the labor market, face significant barriers to accessing workforce development programs. These barriers often stem from systemic inequalities, including socioeconomic status, racial disparities, inadequate educational opportunities, and geographic location. Despite the critical role of workforce development programs in providing pathways to economic stability and social mobility, many At-Promise students/Opportunity Youth are unable to

benefit from these programs due to various structural and policy-related challenges. This strand aims to convene policymakers, researchers, educators, advocates, and practitioners to explore innovative education policies that promote equitable access to workforce development programs for At-Promise students.

We invite proposals that address the following themes:

- College & Career as Prevention: Early exposure to postsecondary and workforce pathways as protective factors.
- Removing barriers to access and participation in workforce development programs for At-Promise students.
- Exploring the intersectionality of factors contributing to inequities in access to workforce development opportunities.
- Showcasing successful policy initiatives and interventions aimed at addressing these inequities.
- Examining the role of education policy in creating inclusive and supportive environments for opportunity youth.
- Fostering collaboration and networking among stakeholders committed to advancing equitable access to workforce development programs.
- Creating High-Quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs for At-Promise students in alternative settings.

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## **Other Conference Details**

- Please note that those who are selected as part of this “call for presenters” are considered volunteers and are not compensated.
- Each presenter must register for the conference and pay a discounted presenter fee. There is currently no one day pass to the forum available. Please reach out to Charneece Fraticelli at [charneece@rapssa.org](mailto:charneece@rapssa.org) for more information.
- Presenters will be asked to create a profile in the RAPSA Forum App (Whova)

- Discounted RAPSA Room block is at a first come first serve basis at the [San Diego Mission Bay Resort](#). Hold your room today!
- Pre- Conference sessions will be held Wednesday Nov. 4, 2026; along with a Welcome Reception early evening. (additional fee to attend)
- Breakout sessions will be held on Thursday Nov. 5 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Friday Nov 6, 2026 from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm, with coffee and lunch breaks in between.
- Each presenter will be able to present a slideshow and the room is equipped with a remote to advance slides. Rooms are divided into round tables with 8 chairs each.
- Presenters are expected to bring their own materials such as printed handouts.

**Session slots are limited, so submit your proposal today!**

Thank you for your interest in sharing your knowledge and expertise with the wider Reaching At- Promise Association Community

For questions or to request more information, please contact [info@rapsa.org](mailto:info@rapsa.org) or [charneece@rapsa.org](mailto:charneece@rapsa.org)

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