

What is LESN?

The Legislative Education Staff Network is a coordinated network of professional and knowledgeable legislative staff from across the country who work on education policy. Since 1986, the LESN provides opportunities through meetings and online resources for education policy staff to:

- Network with other legislative staff and with other local, state and federal education professionals;
- Obtain professional development and training;
- Access timely, focused, and comprehensive information, research, and professional development on targeted education policy issues;
- Collaborate with education policy and finance experts and researchers.

What does LESN do for me?

- Sponsors in-person seminars and webinars on important education policy topics, enabling you to better serve your legislature.
- Conducts several sessions specific to legislative staff at ECS and NCSL meetings.
- Maintains a listserv to provide instant assistance from colleagues across the country.
- Maintains a website devoted to keeping you up to date on education policy, including listserv archives, professional development opportunities, publications, online education staff contact list and more.
- Access to technical support and resources from ECS and NCSL.



**Knowledge
Networking
Professional Development**

Who belongs to LESN?

All legislative staff who work on education policy. Members include bill drafters, fiscal staff, program evaluators, policy analysts and advisors and includes both partisan and nonpartisan staff. A steering committee governs the network. All members of LESN **may participate in all of the network's activities.**

How do I join LESN?

There is no formal application process. Simply contact NCSL liaisons to LESN Suzanne Hultin (suzanne.hultin@ncsl.org) and Dustin Weeden (dustin.weeden@ncsl.org), or ECS liaison to LESN Stephanie Aragon (saragon@ecs.org).

2015-2016 LESN Steering Committee Members

Phillip McCarthy, LESN Co-Chair, *Maine*
Mary Kenfield, LESN Co-Chair, *Washington*
Tammy Barry, *Nebraska*
Sarah Herzog, *Virginia*
Pad McCracken, *Montana*
Aaron Wonders, *Arizona*

Legislative Education Staff Network

*A Partnership between the
Education Commission of the States
and the National Conference of
State Legislatures*

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STAFF NETWORK

Upcoming Training Opportunities

December 5-6, 2016
Washington, D.C.

June 2017
San Diego, CA

August 2017
Boston, MA

Mission Statement

Legislative Education Staff Network exists to strengthen the capabilities of legislative education staff to support legislatures and individual legislators in developing P-20 education and workforce development state laws and policies, both fiscal and programmatic, which support student success.

- Professional Development
- Knowledge
- Networking
- Technical Assistance



How can I become involved?

It's easy. Fresh faces and new ideas are always welcome. There are many ways to participate:

WORKING GROUPS: Volunteer to serve on one of the **network's working** groups and help increase outreach or plan professional development opportunities. Travel is not required as most committee and staff section business is handled by teleconference or e-mail. Interested? Contact NCSL liaisons to LESN Suzanne Hultin (suzanne.hultin@ncsl.org) and Dustin Weeden (dustin.weeden@ncsl.org), or ECS liaison to LESN Sara Shelton, (sshelton@ecs.org) and Stephanie Aragon (saragon@ecs.org).

WEBSITE: Get online to stay informed and find important information, meeting dates, and research tools. www.ncsl.org/legislative-staff/legislative-staff/education-network.aspx

LISTSERV: The LESN is a great opportunity to ask for and share information about education policy in other states. Whether you participate by asking, reading, or answering inquiries, you'll learn about the issues currently of concern to your colleagues.

MEETINGS: Attend ECS' National Forum, NCSL's Legislative Summit or the network's fall professional development seminar to meet colleagues, refine your skills, and make connections.

Online Learning

LESN free webinars on the most pressing issues in education policy. All e-learning programs are archived and available through the LESN website at <http://www.ncsl.org/legislators-staff/legislative-staff/education-network.aspx>.