



ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP NETWORK

2020 Advocacy Leadership Network Application Guidelines

The Advocacy Leadership Network (ALN) is an Educational Theatre Association advocacy initiative designed to train and empower state adult members in grassroots advocacy efforts on behalf of theatre and other arts education. With the passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015, a new era of public education began. ESSA signaled the renewed responsibility of state and district decision makers to determine how and what education is delivered to their K-12 students. This new state ownership of education demands coordinated and ongoing advocacy by theatre and other arts educators to ensure that their disciplines are appropriately represented in school, district, and state decision-making regarding curriculum, professional development, funding, staffing and other critical issues.

The goal of the ALN is to create an effective and self-sustaining network of EdTA chapters that includes designated representatives who monitor and share local, district, state-based arts education policies, legislation, and advocacy successes that can be modeled by others.

The national office annually accepts application for new ALN representatives (one per chapter). The application process is managed by the director of educational policy. For new, first-year members, the EdTA national office will:

- Cover the travel and room/board cost of attendance for at the ALN in-person meeting April 17-19, 2020.
- Offer additional incentive-based financial support for members depending on meeting attendance, committee membership, and other advocacy-related activities at the national, state, or district level.

Applicant guidelines

- Applicants must be EdTA adult members.
- Representatives will be selected through a rigorous review process, based on their written applications and an interview.
- Only one representative per chapter will be selected. *Interested individuals must reach out to their state chapter leadership and secure written support for their application. No applications will be considered without a letter of support from the chapter director. Applying chapter directors should reach out to their board for formal support.*
- Selected applicants must:
 - Make a three-year commitment to represent their state or aid in the selection of an alternate state representative if they choose to end their involvement at an earlier date.

- Attend in-person at least 4 of the 9 scheduled monthly webinar meetings and commit to reviewing the archived recordings and/or power point presentations of those meetings they cannot attend in person.
- Attend the in-person meeting in Cincinnati April 17-19, 2020.
- Submit a letter of support from their chapter director, along with their general application.
- Create and submit two reports per year of their advocacy related work with the network—either self-directed activities or those of the group—to their state boards and EdTA leadership, using a supplied form.
- Document their use of the \$500 base funding all ALN members receive. *See the ALN Incentive Funding Model for detailed information on funding support for all ALN throughout their three years of service.*
- Nominate a state representative replacement, if they choose not to fulfill their three-year term.
- Join a standing ALN committee. Committee members are expected to:
 - Participate and contribute to committee work in a meaningful and productive way.
 - Attend committee meetings as scheduled.
 - Provide reports to EdTA staff leadership on their committee involvement.
- First- and second-year ALN chapter representatives are expected to continue membership in 2020 and beyond, with either the same or a newly designated representative. Second- and third- year chapter members can use their base funding amount and incentive funding to support their attendance at the annual in-person meeting. Any remaining expense must be covered by representative or their chapter. Those who cannot attend the in-person meeting can do so virtually, either by Skype or webinar interface.

See the [2020 ALN Funding, Committee and Meeting Schedule document](#) for more details.

2020 ALN application opens on November 1 and closes December 1. You can apply here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ALN2020>. Interviews will be conducted no later than December 6. Final selections will be announced December 9. An orientation webinar will be scheduled the week of January 7-11.

Please direct any application questions to jpalmarini@schooltheatre.org.

