

Frequently Asked Questions

Become a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer

Interested in becoming a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer? Below are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the application and election process.

Who is eligible to run for State Office?

Applicants must:

- Be a current affiliated Mississippi Educators Rising member in good standing.
 - Be registered for the Mississippi Educators Rising State Leadership Conference.
 - Meet all eligibility requirements outlined in the State Officer Guidelines.
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Can I hold another State Officer position?

No. Students may not simultaneously serve as a state officer for another Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) or student organization while serving as a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer.

What officer positions are available?

Mississippi Educators Rising elects the following State Officers:

- President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Reporter
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How do I apply?

Complete the State Officer Application, then submit the completed application and all required materials through the online submission form by the published deadline.

Applications must include all required forms, supporting documentation, and advisor approval. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

When is the application deadline?

December 9, 2026

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

What happens after I apply?

Eligible applicants will participate in the State Officer Candidate Process during the Mississippi Educators Rising State Leadership Conference.

Will I have to give a speech?

Yes. Each candidate will deliver a one-minute campaign speech during the State Leadership Conference.

Additional campaign activities or interviews may be required.

Who votes for the State Officers?

Voting delegates representing affiliated Mississippi Educators Rising chapters will elect the State Officer Team.

What qualities are you looking for in a State Officer?

We are looking for students who demonstrate:

- Leadership
 - Professionalism
 - Dependability
 - Strong communication skills
 - Positive character
 - Enthusiasm for education
 - A willingness to serve others
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What are the responsibilities of a State Officer?

State Officers are expected to:

- Attend the State Officer Leadership Retreat.
 - Participate in Executive Board and planning meetings.
 - Assist with the Fall Leadership Conference.
 - Help plan and facilitate the State Leadership Conference.
 - Represent Mississippi Educators Rising at conferences, workshops, and special events.
 - Promote Mississippi Educators Rising throughout the state.
 - Serve as positive role models for members.
 - Complete assigned officer duties and committee work throughout the year.
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How often do State Officers meet?

State Officers participate in scheduled **30-minute to one-hour bi-weekly planning meetings**, conference planning sessions, officer training, leadership retreats, and other official Mississippi Educators Rising events throughout the year.

Is travel required?

Yes. State Officers are expected to attend required meetings, conferences, leadership retreats, and other official Mississippi Educators Rising events as outlined by the Executive Board.

What are the benefits of serving as a State Officer?

Serving as a State Officer provides opportunities to:

- Develop leadership and public speaking skills.
 - Gain professional experience.
 - Build lifelong friendships.
 - Network with educators and educational leaders.
 - Represent Mississippi at state and national events.
 - Strengthen college, scholarship, and career applications.
 - Make a lasting impact on future educators across Mississippi.
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How long is the term of office?

State Officers serve a one-year term beginning at the conclusion of the State Leadership Conference and ending at the conclusion of the following year's State Leadership Conference.

Can I campaign before the conference?

No. Campaigning before the Opening Session of the State Leadership Conference is not permitted.

What if I have questions about the application process?

Contact your chapter advisor or **Kimberly Usry, Mississippi Educators Rising State Advisor**, before the application deadline.

Do I have to be a chapter officer to run for State Office?

No. While leadership experience is beneficial, it is not required. Any eligible member who demonstrates leadership potential, professionalism, and a passion for Educators Rising is encouraged to apply.

What grade do I have to be in to run?

Students in **grades 9–11** may apply, provided they meet all State Officer eligibility requirements and will remain enrolled during their term of office.

What should I include in my campaign speech?

Your speech should introduce yourself, explain why you are seeking office, highlight your leadership experiences, share your goals for Mississippi Educators Rising, and explain why you would be an effective State Officer.

Will I receive leadership training?

Yes! Newly elected officers participate in the State Officer Leadership Retreat, where they receive training in leadership, teamwork, communication, professionalism, event planning, and their individual officer responsibilities.

Will serving as a State Officer help with college applications?

Absolutely! Serving as a State Officer demonstrates leadership, public speaking, teamwork, organization, and service—qualities that are highly valued by colleges, universities, employers, and scholarship committees.

Am I required to attend the National Conference?

No. State Officers are not required to attend the National Conference; however, attendance is strongly encouraged. The National Conference provides outstanding leadership training, networking opportunities with State Officers from across the nation, and professional development that enhances the officer experience.

Can I participate in competitive events while serving as a State Officer?

Yes. State Officers are encouraged to continue participating in competitive events, provided their officer responsibilities remain their top priority.

Will I have expenses as a State Officer?

Most travel expenses are covered by Mississippi Educators Rising; however, officers may incur some personal expenses depending on the event or activity.

What happens if I am elected but can no longer serve?

If an officer resigns or is unable to fulfill their responsibilities, the Mississippi Educators Rising Executive Board will follow the procedures outlined in the State Officer Policies and Procedures to fill the vacancy.

Can I campaign with posters, giveaways, or social media?

Yes! Candidates are encouraged to think creatively when promoting their campaign. Posters, signs, giveaways, campaign materials, and digital presentations are encouraged, provided they comply with the State Officer Campaign Guidelines.

Can my advisor or classmates help me campaign?

Yes. Candidates may have up to **10 Mississippi Educators Rising members** assist them during the designated campaign period.

What is the most rewarding part of serving as a State Officer?

Many former officers say the most rewarding part is building lifelong friendships, growing as a leader, inspiring future educators, and making a lasting impact on students across Mississippi.

Why should I run for State Office?

Serving as a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer is more than just holding a title—it's an opportunity to grow as a leader, represent future educators across the state, and make a meaningful impact on your peers. If you're passionate about education and ready to challenge yourself, we encourage you to apply and take the next step in your leadership journey.

Ready to Lead?

If you're passionate about education, committed to serving others, and ready to represent future educators across Mississippi, we encourage you to apply!

Together We Rise.