MISSISSIPPI EDUCATORS RISING

LEADERSHIP. SERVICE. ADVOCACY. INSPIRATION.

STATE OFFICER *Candidate*

Information & Application



TOGETHER, WE RISE.

Welcome to Mississippi Educators Rising Leadership

ƒLeadership.is.not.about.a.title.or.position¡.It¾s.about.making.a.positive.impact?serving.others?.and.inspiring.those.around.you„

Congratulations!

Congratulations on taking the first step toward becoming a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer!

Your willingness to serve speaks volumes about your character, leadership potential, and commitment to the teaching profession. Whether this is your first time applying or you have served in leadership roles before, your desire to represent Mississippi Educators Rising demonstrates a passion for making a difference in the lives of others.

Serving as a State Officer is one of the highest honors a Mississippi Educators Rising member can achieve. It is much more than wearing a title—it is an opportunity to grow personally and professionally while representing future educators across the state of Mississippi.

Throughout your term, you will develop lifelong friendships, strengthen your leadership skills, collaborate with educational leaders, and help shape the future of Mississippi Educators Rising. You will serve as a role model, ambassador, and advocate for the teaching profession while inspiring hundreds of students across our state.

If selected, your leadership journey begins immediately following your election and continues throughout your entire term of office. While the commitment requires time, dedication, and hard work, the experiences, memories, and relationships you build will last a lifetime.

Thank you for your interest in serving Mississippi Educators Rising. We are excited to see the unique talents, ideas, and enthusiasm you will bring to this year's election process.

Welcome to the journey!



Mississippi Educators Rising State Advisor

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CANDIDATE *Information*

Mississippi Educators Rising
State Officer Application Guide
2027–2028 State Officer Team
Leadership. Service. Advocacy. Inspiration.

The Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer Team serves as the student leadership voice for Educators Rising members across the state. State Officers represent Mississippi Educators Rising at conferences, meetings, workshops, and special events while promoting the teaching profession and supporting future educators. Newly elected officers shall assume their respective office at the state conference and serve for one year *(until closing next state conference)*. If eligible, all chapter officers may serve successive terms.

NOTE: Schools may submit no more than two applications per chapter.

Program Goals

The Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer Program exists to:

- Develop student leadership skills
- Support chapter growth and membership development
- Encourage student involvement in Educators Rising activities
- Foster communication among chapters across Mississippi
- Represent Mississippi Educators Rising with professionalism and integrity

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Why Become a State Officer?

Serving as a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer is an opportunity to make a lasting impact—not only on your fellow members, but also on your own personal and professional growth.

As a State Officer, you will have the opportunity to:

- ⭐ Represent Mississippi Educators Rising at state and national events.
- ⭐ Develop leadership, communication, and teamwork skills.
- ⭐ Plan and facilitate statewide conferences and leadership activities.
- ⭐ Build confidence through public speaking and presentations.
- ⭐ Gain valuable leadership experience for college, scholarships, and future careers.
- ⭐ Create lifelong friendships and unforgettable memories.

What Does a State Officer Do?

Mississippi Educators Rising State Officers serve as the official student leaders of the organization. Officers work alongside the State Director, Executive Board, advisors, and fellow officers to promote Educators Rising and provide meaningful experiences for members throughout the year.

State Officers may:

- Assist with planning statewide conferences and events.
- Welcome members and guests at conferences.
- Lead workshops and breakout sessions.
- Facilitate Opening and Awards Sessions.
- Promote Educators Rising through social media and special projects.
- Participate in officer planning meetings and leadership training.

The Commitment

Serving as a State Officer is both an honor and a responsibility. Officers are expected to lead by example and demonstrate professionalism in everything they do.

As a State Officer, you should be prepared to:

- ✓ Attend required meetings, training sessions, and conferences.
- ✓ Meet deadlines and complete assigned projects.
- ✓ Maintain regular communication with the State Director and fellow officers.
- ✓ Uphold the Mississippi Educators Rising Code of Conduct.
- ✓ Demonstrate professionalism both in person and on social media.
- ✓ Represent Mississippi Educators Rising with integrity, respect, and enthusiasm.

Leadership Begins With You

Great leaders are not defined by popularity or position. They are defined by their willingness to serve others, embrace challenges, and lead with integrity.

Mississippi Educators Rising State Officers are expected to:

- Lead with character.
- Serve with humility.
- Communicate with professionalism.
- Encourage and support others.
- Inspire future educators.
- Represent Mississippi with pride.

The impact you make as a leader will extend far beyond your year of service. Your actions, attitude, and example will influence future members for years to come.

State Officer Positions

The duty of a state officer requires **teamwork** and **dedication**. While all state officers share in the work of the Educators Rising Mississippi, each office does have certain obligations.

President

- Presides over meetings and conferences
- Serves as chief student spokesperson
- Coordinates officer activities
- Represents Mississippi Educators Rising at official functions

Vice President

- Assists the President
- Oversees officer projects and committees
- Assumes presidential duties when necessary
- Supports conference activities and planning

Secretary

- Maintains meeting records
- Assists with communication efforts
- Supports officer documentation and reporting

- Helps coordinate officer activities

Treasurer

- Promotes membership growth initiatives
- Assists with fundraising and community service initiatives
- Supports chapter engagement efforts
- Helps monitor officer project progress

Reporter

- Promotes Educators Rising through social media and communications
- Assists with publicity efforts
- Documents officer activities and events
- Helps create promotional content

Roles & Responsibilities

State Officers are expected to:

- Serve as positive role models for Educators Rising members
- Maintain active Educators Rising membership
- Attend required officer meetings and events
- Participate in officer training and leadership development activities
- Promote Educators Rising within their schools and communities
- Assist with conference planning and implementation
- Communicate regularly with State Staff and fellow officers
- Support statewide membership recruitment efforts
- Complete assigned officer tasks and projects
- Uphold all Mississippi Educators Rising policies and procedures

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Officer Expectations

State Officers must:

- Maintain good academic standing
- Demonstrate professionalism at all times
- Follow all school, district, state, and conference policies
- Work cooperatively with fellow officers and advisors
- Exhibit strong leadership, character, and integrity
- Attend required events and activities from start to finish
- Represent Mississippi Educators Rising in a positive manner

Failure to meet expectations may result in probation or removal from office.

Communication Expectations

Effective communication is essential to the success of the Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer Team. State Officers serve as representatives of members across the state and are expected to actively participate in officer communications and discussions.

State Officers are expected to:

- Regularly monitor and respond to communications through GroupMe and email.
- Participate in discussions by sharing responses, opinions, ideas, needs, and feedback when requested by Mrs. Usry, the Executive Board, or State Leadership Team.
- Respond to messages, polls, assignments, and requests **within 24 hours**.
- Communicate respectfully and professionally at all times.
- Contribute to officer discussions and decision-making processes by providing thoughtful input and suggestions.
- Notify State Leadership as soon as possible if they are unable to attend a meeting, event, or complete an assigned task.

As key leaders within Mississippi Educators Rising, State Officers are expected to actively engage in communication, share their perspectives respectfully, collaborate with fellow officers, and help strengthen the organization through positive and professional participation.

Failure to consistently communicate, respond to requests, or participate in officer discussions may impact an officer's standing and ability to serve on the State Officer Team.

Required Events

State Officers are expected to attend the following events:

Required

- State Officer Leadership Retreat
- Executive Board Meetings
- Bi-Weekly Virtual Planning Meetings
- Mississippi Educators Rising Fall Leadership Conference
- Mississippi Educators Rising State Leadership Conference
- Officer Rehearsal Sessions
- Assigned promotional and recruitment activities

Highly Encouraged

- National Educators Rising Conference
- Community service events
- Teacher recruitment initiatives
- State and regional education events

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be an active Educators Rising member
- Be entering grades 10–12 during the officer term
- Have advisor approval
- Maintain good academic and disciplinary standing
- Demonstrate leadership potential
- Commit to fulfilling all officer responsibilities

Rehearsal Attendance Requirement

State Officers are expected to attend all required rehearsals, trainings, and preparation sessions associated with conferences, ceremonies, and official Mississippi Educators Rising events.

Officers who are unable to attend a required rehearsal will still be required to attend the event; however, **they will not be eligible for on-stage roles**. Instead, they will be assigned alternative off-stage duties to support conference operations and event success.

Meeting Attendance Requirement

State Officers are expected to actively participate in all scheduled bi-weekly officer meetings. Regular attendance is essential to ensure officers remain informed, engaged, and prepared to fulfill their leadership responsibilities.

Each State Officer is permitted two (2) excused or unexcused absences from scheduled bi-weekly meetings during their term of office. Officers should notify the State Advisor in advance whenever possible if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Attendance Consequences

First Missed Meeting

- Attendance reminder issued.

Second Missed Meeting

- Formal attendance warning issued.

Third Missed Meeting

- Officer will be placed on attendance probation.
- Officer will be required to meet with the State Advisor regarding attendance.

Fourth Missed Meeting

- Officer position will be reviewed by the State Advisor and Executive Board.

Officers who are unable to attend a meeting due to illness, family emergencies, or other approved circumstances **should communicate with the State Advisor as soon as possible**.

Officers who miss a meeting are still responsible for obtaining meeting notes, reviewing all information shared, completing assignments, participating in votes when applicable, and meeting all deadlines discussed during the meeting. Absence from a meeting does not excuse an officer from responsibilities, assignments, or expectations communicated during that meeting.

State Officers are elected to serve and represent Mississippi Educators Rising. Consistent attendance demonstrates commitment, responsibility, and respect for fellow officers and the organization.

Officer Candidate Photo Session

All approved State Officer candidates are required to participate in the official Mississippi Educators Rising Officer Candidate Photo Session during the State Leadership Conference.

These professional photographs will be used for:

- The State Leadership Conference Closing Session during the announcement of the newly elected State Officer Team.
- The Mississippi Educators Rising website.
- Mississippi Educators Rising social media platforms.
- Conference publications and promotional materials.

Candidates should arrive at the scheduled photo session dressed in professional business attire.

Suggested Professional Attire

Male Candidates

- Black suit
- Dress shirt
- Tie
- Dress shoes

Female Candidates

- Black Business suit
- Professional blouse
- Dress shoes
- Conservative jewelry and accessories

Candidates should present themselves in a manner that reflects the professionalism expected of future educators.

Application Submission Instructions
It is preferred that **all** application materials be **typed** prior to printing and obtaining required signatures. Neatness, organization, and professionalism will be considered during the application review process.

Applicants must compile and submit all required materials in the order listed below. Please refer to the sample application packet as a guide when preparing and assembling your submission.

Applications that are incomplete, submitted out of order, or received after the deadline may not be considered for review.

Application Submission Materials
Applicants must submit:

1. State Officer Application Form
Completed and signed application.

2. Student Resume
Include:

- Leadership experience
- School activities
- Community involvement
- Awards and honors
- Educators Rising participation

3. Letter of Interest
One-page letter describing:

- Why you want to serve
- Leadership strengths
- Goals for Mississippi Educators Rising
- Qualifications for office

4. Advisor Recommendation Form
Completed by the chapter advisor.

5. School Administrator Approval
Signature from principal or designee confirming support.

6. Headshot Photograph
School-appropriate photo in **professional attire**.

How to Apply

1. Complete the State Officer Application.
2. Gather all required materials.
3. Obtain required signatures.
4. Submit all materials by the application deadline.
5. Participate in candidate interviews and/or campaign activities as required.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Officer Selection Process

Candidates will be evaluated based on:

- Application quality (10%)
- Leadership experience (10%)
- Professionalism (10%)
- Interview performance (35%)
- Delegate election results (35%)

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2027–2028 State Officers Tentative Calendar

Date	Event	Location / Notes
February 2027	Officer Candidate Meeting	Virtual
February 18, 2027	Short Meeting Following Closing Session of the Conference	Room TBD
April 2027	Officer Training/Executive Board Meeting	FFA Center—Mandatory
June 17- June 20, 2027	National Leadership Conference	Columbus, OH—Optional (if receiving the stipend please see required events)
Bi-Weekly	Officer Meeting	Virtual—Mandatory
September	State Officer Fall Conference Rehearsal	TBD—Mandatory
September/October	Fall Leadership Conference	TBD—Mandatory
January 2028	State Officer Meeting and Rehearsals for State Conference	TBD—Mandatory
February 2028	State Leadership Conference (SLC)	TBD—Mandatory

TENTATIVE

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CAMPAIGN *Guidelines*

Campaign Guidelines

Campaigning is an important part of the Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer election process. Candidates are expected to campaign in a manner that reflects the professionalism, integrity, and character of future educators. All campaign activities should be positive, respectful, and conducted in good taste.

Failure to comply with campaign guidelines may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the ballot.

Candidate Requirements

Candidates selected to run for Mississippi Educators Rising State Office are required to:

- Participate in all required campaign activities.
- Attend all required campaign events during the State Leadership Conference.
- Submit a biography and professional photo for inclusion in the Mississippi Educators Rising mobile app.

Candidates who fail to meet any required deadline or miss a required campaign event will be removed from the ballot.

Campaign Booth

Each candidate will receive:

- One (1) 6-foot table
- Two (2) chairs
- Approximately two (2) feet between campaign booths

Campaign booths should be used to display campaign materials and allow delegates to meet candidates.

Permitted Campaign Activities

Candidates may use:

- Campaign posters and signs
- Campaign banners
- Campaign flyers and handouts
- Campaign buttons, stickers, and promotional items
- Novelty items and candy
- Positive interactions with voting delegates
- Soft, appropriate background music (if used appropriately)

Campaign Conduct

Candidates and campaign teams are expected to:

- Respect fellow candidates.
- Maintain appropriate noise levels.
- Be mindful of nearby competition rooms.
- Immediately lower noise levels if requested by conference staff.

Campaigns that receive a second warning regarding excessive noise will lose campaign privileges.

Prohibited Campaign Activities

The following are not permitted:

- Gifts of significant value
- Food, drinks, or monetary incentives
- Raffles
- Negative campaigning
- Harassment or inappropriate conduct
- Defacing another candidate's campaign materials
- Excessively loud music or noisemakers
- Amplifiers or sound systems
- Confetti or confetti-type materials
- Gummed labels or stickers placed on conference property
- Any campaign material that violates school or conference policies

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Campaign Material Restrictions

Campaign materials:

- Must reflect professionalism and good taste.
- Must not contain inappropriate language or images.
- May be displayed only within the assigned booth area.
- May not be posted on:
  - Walls
  - Doors or door handles
  - Glass
  - Elevators
  - Hallways
  - Curtains or fabric

Campaign materials may not be distributed after allotted campaign hours.

Campaign Cleanup

Candidates are responsible for removing all campaign materials before the close of campaigning. Failure to properly clean the campaign area may result in disqualification.

Campaign Violations

Any suspected campaign violation should be reported immediately to the Mississippi Educators Rising State Advisor.

Depending on the severity of the violation, the State Staff may:

- Issue a warning
- Require corrective action
- Remove campaign privileges
- Remove the candidate from the ballot

Campaign Funding

Campaign expenses may be paid through:

- Chapter funds
- School funds
- Fundraising activities
- Private donations
- Personal funds

Candidate Speech

During the Opening Session, each candidate will deliver a campaign speech.
Speech Guidelines:

- Minimum length: 1 minute
- Maximum length: 2 minutes
- Candidates will receive a silent 30-second warning.
- At the conclusion of two minutes, the Student Vice President will announce that time has expired.

Election Process

- Elections will be conducted by secret ballot during the Voting Session.
- Each registered chapter will receive two (2) votes.

Awards Ceremony Attire

The State Leadership Conference Awards Ceremony is one of the most prestigious events of the conference and serves as the official installation of the newly elected Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer Team.

All State Officer candidates are required to wear a black business suit during the Awards Ceremony.

Professional dress demonstrates respect for the office being sought and ensures a consistent, polished appearance during the election results and official photographs.

Required Attire

Male Candidates

- Black suit
- White dress shirt
- Professional tie

Female Candidates

- Black pantsuit or skirt suit
- White or solid-colored professional blouse

Following the announcement of the newly elected State Officer Team, officers will remain after the Awards Ceremony to participate in the official State Officer group photographs. These photographs will be used for the Mississippi Educators Rising website, social media, publications, and promotional materials.

Candidates are encouraged to ensure their attire is clean, pressed, and conference-ready, as these photographs will serve as the official images of the newly elected State Officer Team throughout their year of service.

Obligations of Elected Officers

Students elected to State Office are expected to fulfill all duties and responsibilities outlined in the Mississippi Educators Rising Constitution and Bylaws throughout their term of office.

Newly Elected Officer Responsibilities

Your leadership journey begins immediately following the State Leadership Conference Awards Ceremony. Newly elected officers are expected to remain after the conference concludes to complete the following required activities.

New Officer Meeting

Immediately following the Awards Ceremony, all newly elected State Officers and their advisors are required to attend a brief New Officer Meeting.

During this meeting, officers will:

- Meet the State Advisor and Executive Board.
- Receive important information regarding their term of office.
- Review upcoming dates, events, and expectations.
- Receive information about officer communication and responsibilities.
- Receive officer uniform details.
- Complete the “Meet the State Officer” questionnaire.
- Set Bi-Weekly meeting day and time.
- Ask questions regarding their year of service.

Attendance is mandatory.

Official State Officer Photo

Following the New Officer Meeting, officers will participate in the official Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer group photograph.

This photograph may be used for:

- Mississippi Educators Rising publications
- Social media
- Website
- Promotional materials
- Conference programs
- Press releases

Officers should remain in professional attire for the official photograph.

Conference Breakdown

Leadership includes serving behind the scenes.

Newly elected State Officers are expected to assist the State Staff and Executive Board with conference breakdown following the Awards Ceremony.

Responsibilities may include:

- Assisting with cleanup.
- Packing conference materials.
- Organizing supplies and equipment.
- Preparing materials for transport.
- Helping ensure the conference concludes successfully.

Working together during conference breakdown is the first opportunity for the newly elected officer team to serve as a leadership team.

First Assignments

Following election, officers should expect to begin working immediately.

Initial responsibilities may include:

- Completing required paperwork and agreements.
- Joining official communication platforms.
- Submitting requested photos and biographies.
- Reviewing the State Officer Handbook.

Meeting deadlines and completing assignments promptly demonstrates professionalism and sets the foundation for a successful year of service.

Leadership Begins on Day One

Election marks the beginning of your service—not the end of the campaign. Mississippi Educators Rising State Officers are expected to lead by example, serve with integrity, and represent the organization with professionalism from the moment they are elected through the completion of their term.

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FREQUENTLY *Asked Questions*

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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APPLICATION *Documents*

Mississippi Educators Rising

State Officer Candidate Application Checklist

Instructions:
Complete all required forms and obtain all required signatures before submitting your application.

Attach this checklist to the front of your application packet and upload all documents in the exact order listed below. Applications that are incomplete, missing required signatures, submitted out of order, or received after the deadline may not be considered.

Applicant Name: _____

School: _____

Required Application Documents

- ☐ State Officer Application Checklist *(This page — place first)*
- ☐ Candidate Information Form
- ☐ Statements of Understanding
- ☐ State Officer & Teacher Leader Agreement
- ☐ Administrator Approval Form
- ☐ Photo & Video Release Form
- ☐ Social Media Agreement
- ☐ Advisor Recommendation Form
- ☐ Teacher/Administrator Recommendation Form
- ☐ Official School Transcript
- ☐ Headshot (Must be in professional attire)
- ☐ Any additional required documents listed in the application instructions

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Applicant Certification

I certify that I have completed all required application materials and that all information submitted is accurate and complete.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Candidate Application

NOTE: Submissions are limited to two *(2) applications per good-standing Educators Rising Mississippi chapter.*

Name _____

Address_____**City**_____**State**_____**Zip**_____

Email _____ **Cell** _____

School Name_____

Address_____**City**_____**State**_____**Zip**_____

Advisor's Name _____**Email**_____

Current Grade Classification: ☐9th ☐10th ☐11th

Office Seeking:

___President

___Vice President

___Secretary

___Treasurer

___Reporter/Historian

If you are not elected to sought position, are you willing to serve in another position, if available?

Yes ____No ____

Officer Commitment Statement

By applying, I understand that serving as a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer is a privilege and leadership responsibility. If elected, I commit to fulfilling all duties, attending required events, representing Mississippi Educators Rising professionally, and serving as a positive role model for future educators throughout Mississippi.

_____	_____
Student Signature	**Date**
_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Signature	**Date**
_____	_____
Advisor Signature	**Date**

Statements of Understanding

Instructions:

Please read each statement carefully. Place your initials beside each statement to indicate that you have read, understand, and agree to abide by the expectations outlined below.

Initials	Statement of Understanding
	I understand that this is an application for candidacy as a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer. Submission of this application does not guarantee candidacy. My candidacy will be considered complete only after the Mississippi Educators Rising State Leader confirms that all required forms, documents, and application materials have been received.
	I understand that I am responsible for conducting my own election campaign. I also understand that all campaign expenses are my responsibility and must be funded through personal donations, my local Mississippi Educators Rising chapter, or approved fundraising efforts.
	I understand that I am required to attend the Mississippi Educators Rising State Leadership Conference, where the official election will take place.
	I have carefully reviewed the qualifications, expectations, and responsibilities outlined in the State Officer Job Description and agree to fulfill all duties if elected.
	I understand that, if elected, I am expected to conduct myself with integrity, professionalism, and ethical behavior at all times, both in person and online, including on all social media platforms. Failure to uphold these standards may result in removal from office.
	I understand that, if elected, I must comply with all provisions of the Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer Code of Conduct. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, including removal from office, as determined by Mississippi Educators Rising State Staff on a case-by-case basis.
	I understand that serving as a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer requires travel throughout my term of office. If elected, I agree to cooperate with Mississippi Educators Rising in making all necessary travel arrangements.
	I understand that travel and officer responsibilities may require me to miss school. If elected, I agree to communicate with my teachers and complete all missed assignments and coursework in a timely manner.
	I understand that State Officers are required to complete assignments and projects, including but not limited to newsletter articles, reports, presentations, promotional activities, and other responsibilities assigned by the Mississippi Educators Rising State Leader. I agree to complete all assignments according to established deadlines and expectations.

Acknowledgement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all of the Statements of Understanding listed above.

_____ _____

Student Signature **Date**

I understand my role in supporting the applicant as they fulfill the responsibilities and expectations of serving as a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer.

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature **Date**

_____ _____

Advisor Signature **Date**

_____ _____

Administrator Signature **Date**

Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer & Teacher Leader Agreement

State Officer Code of Conduct

Serving as a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer is both an honor and a responsibility. State Officers are expected to represent Mississippi Educators Rising with professionalism, integrity, and leadership at all times. By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the expectations outlined below.

As a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer, I agree that I will:

1. Accept the authority and direction of my advisor, Mississippi Educators Rising State Staff, Executive Board members, and any authorized adult supervising a Mississippi Educators Rising activity or event.
2. Attend all required meetings, trainings, conferences, rehearsals, and activities **for their entire scheduled duration** unless excused in advance by the Mississippi Educators Rising State Leader.
3. Treat all individuals with courtesy, professionalism, and respect, including fellow officers, advisors, presenters, conference participants, volunteers, hotel staff, university personnel, and guests.
4. Follow all rules, policies, and expectations established by conference facilities, hotels, universities, and other event venues while respecting the rights and property of others.
5. Refrain from purchasing, possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco products, vaping devices, illegal drugs, or any controlled substances not prescribed to me. This prohibition includes non-alcoholic or "mock" alcoholic beverages intended to imitate alcoholic drinks.
6. Never possess or use firearms, ammunition, fireworks, explosives, weapons, or other prohibited items at any Mississippi Educators Rising function.
7. Adhere to the official Mississippi Educators Rising Professional Dress Code, as well as my school's dress code, during all official events.
8. Purchase and maintain the required Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer uniform prior to the annual State Officer Retreat.
9. Be dressed appropriately, prepared, and out of my room by the designated time each morning during conferences and official events.
10. Attend all scheduled meals unless otherwise directed by Mississippi Educators Rising State Staff.
11. Refrain from any form of public display of affection (PDA) while representing Mississippi Educators Rising.
12. Attend all required State Officer Training sessions. Absences or early departures may occur only with prior approval from the Mississippi Educators Rising State Leader.
13. Actively participate in planning, organizing, and facilitating officer trainings, conferences, workshops, and other assigned leadership activities.
14. Understand that my responsibilities begin immediately upon election and continue until all official duties have been completed following the conclusion of the State Leadership Conference, including conference breakdown and loading of community service donations and materials.
15. Conduct myself with honesty, integrity, professionalism, maturity, and ethical behavior in every setting while representing Mississippi Educators Rising.
16. Use social media responsibly and professionally. I will not post, share, or distribute any photos, videos, comments, graphics, or other content that could negatively reflect upon Mississippi Educators Rising,

its officers, advisors, staff, members, partners, or sponsoring organizations. *(See Mississippi Educators Rising Social Media Agreement.)*

17. Understand that harassment, bullying, hazing, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or any behavior that creates an unsafe or inappropriate environment will not be tolerated.

State Officer Advisor Agreement

As the advisor of a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer, I understand that my support is essential to my student's success.

By signing below, I agree to fulfill the following responsibilities:

1. Attend all required State Officer Training sessions unless excused in advance by the Mississippi Educators Rising State Leader. During officer activities, I understand that advisors are expected to remain with their students unless participating in an approved Mississippi Educators Rising Teacher Leader activity.

2. Attend all required in-person meetings and trainings involving my officer, excluding regularly scheduled virtual bi-weekly officer meetings, and provide supervision and support throughout all required activities.

3. Understand that my officer is expected to participate in:
    - Bi-weekly virtual planning meetings
    - State Officer Training & Executive Board Meeting
    - Fall Leadership Conference rehearsals
    - Fall Leadership Conference (including set-up and clean-up)
    - State Leadership Conference rehearsals
    - State Leadership Conference (including set-up and breakdown)
    - Any additional required officer meetings or leadership activities

4. Recognize that my officer's responsibilities continue until all conference responsibilities have been completed following the State Leadership Conference.

5. Support, mentor, and hold my officer accountable throughout the year by monitoring communications, assisting with responsibilities, encouraging professionalism, and ensuring deadlines and assignments are completed on time.

Violations and Consequences

State Officers are expected to uphold the highest standards of conduct. Failure to comply with any portion of this agreement or any additional Mississippi Educators Rising policies may result in disciplinary action.

Depending on the nature and severity of the violation, consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal or written warning
- Probation
- Suspension from officer responsibilities
- Removal from the State Officer Team
- Immediate dismissal from a Mississippi Educators Rising event

Acknowledgement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with all expectations outlined in this State Officer & Teacher Leader Agreement.

Student Signature	**Date**
Parent/Guardian Signature	**Date**
Advisor Signature	**Date**
Administrator Signature	**Date**

Mississippi Educators Rising
State Officer Administrator Approval Form

Instructions:
The applicant's school administrator must carefully review each statement below. Please place your initials beside each statement to indicate your understanding and support. This completed form must be uploaded as part of the student's online State Officer application.

I acknowledge that _____ *(Applicant Name)* is applying for consideration as a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer Candidate.

Administrator Initials	Statement of Understanding
	I understand that this student is responsible for conducting an election campaign, including participation in the campaign activities held during the Mississippi Educators Rising State Leadership Conference. I understand that campaign expenses are the responsibility of the candidate and may be funded through personal donations, the local Mississippi Educators Rising chapter, or approved fundraising efforts.
	I understand that the student must attend the Mississippi Educators Rising State Leadership Conference, where the official election will take place. I agree to allow the student to attend the conference without academic penalty and to provide the opportunity to complete any missed assignments or coursework in accordance with school policy.
	I understand that, if elected, Mississippi Educators Rising State Officers are required to participate in leadership trainings, conferences, meetings, and other official events throughout their term of office. I agree, to the greatest extent possible, to support the student's participation in these required activities by allowing attendance without academic penalty and providing opportunities to make up missed coursework during both the current and following academic year, as applicable.

Administrator Acknowledgement
By signing below, I certify that I have read and understand the expectations associated with serving as a Mississippi Educators Rising State Officer. I support this student's candidacy and, if elected, will support their participation in required Mississippi Educators Rising leadership activities to thegreatest extent possible.

Administrator Information

Administrator Signature: _____

Administrator Name (Print): _____

School: _____

Date: _____

Mississippi Educators Rising
Photo & Video Release

Authorization for Use of Photographs, Video, and Media

I, _____ *(Applicant Name)*, hereby grant Mississippi Educators Rising permission to photograph, videotape, record, or otherwise capture my image, voice, and likeness during Mississippi Educators Rising events and activities.

I further grant Mississippi Educators Rising the unrestricted right to use, reproduce, edit, publish, distribute, display, and disseminate these photographs, videos, recordings, or other media, in whole or in part, including any photographs or media that I voluntarily provide, for lawful purposes including, but not limited to:

- Educational and instructional materials
- Presentations and workshops
- Printed and digital publications
- Promotional and recruitment materials
- Websites
- Social media platforms
- Newsletters
- Other Mississippi Educators Rising communications

I understand and agree that Mississippi Educators Rising may identify me by name, school, chapter, and/or leadership position when using these materials.

I acknowledge that these materials become the property of Mississippi Educators Rising and may be copyrighted, published, reproduced, modified, distributed, or otherwise used without additional notice, compensation, or approval.

I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished photographs, videos, recordings, publications, or other media in which my image or likeness appears, provided such use is lawful.

I release and hold harmless Mississippi Educators Rising, its officers, employees, agents, volunteers, representatives, sponsors, and assigns from any claims, demands, or causes of action arising from the lawful creation, use, publication, distribution, or display of these photographs, videos, recordings, or other media, including claims related to privacy, publicity rights, or defamation.

Acknowledgement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and voluntarily agree to the terms of this Photo & Video Release.

_____ _____

Student Signature **Date**

As the parent/legal guardian of the student named above, I have read and understand this Photo & Video Release and grant permission for Mississippi Educators Rising to photograph, record, and use my student's image, voice, and likeness as described in this agreement.

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature **Date**