



ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP NETWORK

EdTA Advocacy Leadership Network guidelines

The Advocacy Leadership Network (ALN) is a 2017-19 Educational Theatre Association advocacy pilot 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), a new era of public education has begun. 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 will demand 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 state affiliates that includes annually designated representatives who monitor and share local, district, state-based arts education policies, legislation, and advocacy successes that can be modeled by others.

The ALN pilot will select representatives from up to ten states annually for three years in a competitive process managed by the director of educational policy. The EdTA national office will:

- Provide advocacy leadership, training, and support for representatives.
- Cover the travel and room/board cost of attendance for 2017 representatives at the ALN in-person meeting April 21-23.
- Waive the registration fee and cover the housing cost (2 nights) of attendance at the EdTA Theatre Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. July 20-22.

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 state will be selected; while multiple individuals from the same state are welcome to apply, individuals interested are strongly encouraged to reach out to their state chapter leadership before doing so.
- National EdTA Board members are not eligible to apply.
- Selected applicants must:

- Attend the eight scheduled ALN monthly webinar meetings, including the orientation, or designate an alternate.
- Attend the in-person meeting in Cincinnati EdTA office in April 21-23
- Attend the EdTA Theatre Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. July 20-22
- Create and share a bi-monthly report with ALN leadership and their state board.
- Obtain a commitment, in writing, from their state chapter leadership to support three years membership in the ALN.
- First-year chapter states are expected to continue membership in 2018 and beyond, with either the same or a newly designated representative. However, first-year state chapters will need to pay the representative's cost of attending an in-person meeting in 2018, and any other national advocacy events.
- State chapters and their representatives who are not selected to participate in the first-year of the pilot should bear in mind that the ALN is a pilot, and that we will be adding ten more states per year in 2018 and 2019.

Application for the ALN closes February 3; interviews will be conducted no later than February 8. Final selections will be announced February 10 and an orientation webinar will be scheduled the week of February 13-17. Please direct any application questions to jpalmarini@schooltheatre.org.