

# Why AEFPP

## I love education research, but I work in policy and/or practice. Why should I come to AEFPP?

- One-stop shopping for the latest education policy research findings, from early childhood through higher education. The 400+ papers presented at the conference will bear on key policy issues such as improving teacher quality, strengthening accountability systems throughout the education sector, turning around the lowest performing schools and districts, reducing disparities in school discipline, improving the quality of preschool education, and reducing summer melt in college enrollment.
- A conference large enough for a diverse range of presenters and topics, yet small enough to allow plenty of opportunities for networking and conversations with attendees.
- Connections with top education policy researchers. Our members have testified before Congress and state legislatures, published widely in academic and nonacademic outlets, and had their research covered in national media. They are committed to making research accessible to policymakers and practitioners. Recent presidents of the association include Sue Dynarski, Michigan; Dan Goldhaber, AIR/CALDER; and David Figlio, Northwestern.
- Connections with others like yourself. AEFPP is increasingly attracting attendees who are researchers in education policy or practice settings or staff at organizations that bridge between the research and policy communities, such as professional associations. The current president is Carrie Conaway, Chief Strategy and Research Officer at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, demonstrating the value the association places on the voice of policy and practice.
- Policy talks during every breakout session and during a featured policy talk session
  - Policy talks connect research and practice by generating a broad discussion on a topic of immediate policy relevance, rather than sharing findings from individual papers.
  - The topics for this year's policy talks are being developed in collaboration with external stakeholder groups to help increase their relevance for attendees in policy and practice settings.
  - Suggested topics for this year include: the future of work, teacher working conditions and teacher shortages, the reemergence of school segregation, design of federal student aid programs in higher education, school discipline disparities, gainful employment regulations in higher education, and design of state funding systems for early childhood education.
- Special events for policymakers and practitioners to network with one another and with other conference participants.