



Joining the Network: Frequently Asked Questions (for Teachers/Administrators)

I'm fired up! How do I get Educators Rising started at my school?

Whether you are embedding Educators Rising into your cocurricular program or starting up an extracurricular group, it is easy — and free! — to join our network. If you're the teacher leader who is facilitating the program, you should sign up via the [EdRising Virtual Campus](#). (Signing up is as simple as filling out a Facebook profile.) Through this process, you can affiliate your school as an official Educators Rising program. As soon as we approve you as a teacher leader, you can encourage your students to join as well by creating their own profiles in the EdRising Virtual Campus and affiliating with your school.

Who are Educators Rising teacher leaders?

When we say “teacher leader,” we mean you! Educators Rising teacher leaders are passionate, skilled teachers who have joined the Educators Rising network and are paying forward their expertise to the next generation.

Once I register, how do I get my students to affiliate with Educators Rising?

Students must be at least 13 years old to join Educators Rising. Instruct each of your students to sign up by creating a profile in the [EdRising Virtual Campus](#).

This process is important! When students sign themselves up, they are added to our official roster and given access to all the resources and opportunities that Educators Rising offers. As the teacher leader, you will have the chance to approve all students who sign up to be connected to your school through the “Student Management” section of the Teacher Leader Community in the EdRising Virtual Campus.

What resources are available to help me start my program?

Once your school has been approved, you will gain access to the [Teacher Leader Community](#), a private section within the EdRising Virtual Campus. This is where you can connect with other Educators Rising teacher leaders, manage and easily message your students, and access a host of program materials (like an informational guide, a road map with important dates, fundraising ideas, and templates for Educators Rising certificates, press releases, and more).

I work at a career center. How do I sign up given that my students attend different schools?

Follow the same registration process as any teacher leader. In your case, you'll sign up via the [EdRising Virtual Campus](#) and affiliate your career center as an official Educators Rising program. As soon as we approve you as a teacher leader, you can encourage your students to join through the EdRising Virtual Campus as well. When your students are signing up, it's important to tell them to choose the career center rather than their current high school.

I already have a future teacher program at my school. What is the benefit of becoming a part of Educators Rising?

By joining Educators Rising, you will expand the learning opportunities available to you and your students. Through Educators Rising, your students will have access to:

- The EdRising Virtual Campus, a dynamic, free online community with videos and original content to help them become great teachers;
- The Educators Rising National Conference, an exciting annual event that brings together more than 1,000 rising educators like them from across the country;
- Competitive events where they can demonstrate the development of their teaching craft and gain national recognition;
- Micro-credentials to help them showcase their growing teaching skills to a larger audience;
- Leadership opportunities like the Educators Rising Ambassador Program; and
- Scholarships to support their studies in education.

You'll also get access to the private [Teacher Leader Community](#) within the Virtual Campus, which offers:

- The "Student Management" section for managing and easily messaging students;
- Educators Rising resources, branded materials, and tips for teacher leaders; and
- Opportunities to connect with other teacher leaders from across the country.

Can Educators Rising be part of my school's CTE program?

Yes. Educators Rising is a board member of the [National Coordinating Council of Career and Technical Student Organizations](#) (NCC-CTSO) and is integral to CTE programs of study in the Education & Training career cluster. Many states allocate Perkins funds to support Educators Rising programs; it's a wise investment given our current teacher recruitment crisis.

My school doesn't offer a teacher-related CTE pathway. Can we still join Educators Rising?

Yes. Educators Rising has resources and opportunities to support cultivating highly skilled educators, regardless of the structure of the program. Non-CTE elective courses can be highly effective, and some extracurricular models provide quality experiences for aspiring educators.

We want to participate, but our program is extracurricular. Are we allowed to join Educators Rising?

Of course! Educators Rising is committed to creating quality opportunities for high school students to pursue careers in education and helping them develop their teaching craft. Though we believe cocurricular pathways are most effective at providing sustained clinical experience, we support all educators who are interested in using Educators Rising resources to help students explore the profession in thoughtful and rigorous ways.

What funding will I need to run an Educators Rising program at my school?

There is no cost to join Educators Rising, although some states may charge state dues. ([Find out if yours is one of them.](#)) Optional field trips, conference registration, and merchandise purchases have costs for which you and your students may fundraise or use local funding streams. Tips regarding fundraising are available in the Teacher Leader Community.

Does my state have an Educators Rising coordinator and/or state dues?

Some states and regions have a statewide Educators Rising affiliate program, and more are joining each year. Find out if your state has an official state coordinator or state dues on the [State/Regional Affiliates](#) page. (As a reminder, there are no national dues to be a part of Educators Rising.)

I live in a state where we have no official "state affiliate." Can we still join Educators Rising?

Yes! You can still join Educators Rising even if your state doesn't have a state affiliate program. Just sign up through the [EdRising Virtual Campus](#).

How can I learn about other schools or districts that are running successful Educators Rising programs?

The [Teacher Leader Community](#) in the EdRising Virtual Campus is a safe space created specifically for you to share ideas and lesson plans, ask questions, and build professional relationships with your peers and counterparts around the country. As of August 2017, there were more than 39,000 members and 2,400 schools in the Educators Rising network.

I already have a course (or courses) that introduce(s) students to teaching and education. Is Educators Rising an add-on? Do I have to switch my curriculum?

Don't worry — if you already have a cocurricular program of study in place, Educators Rising is simply a way for you to extend and amplify the learning that is already happening. The opportunities offered through the EdRising Virtual Campus can be incorporated into your classroom to supplement the great work you're currently doing. One quick example is using the National Board videos to demonstrate great teaching in action!

Though there are opportunities for your students to engage with Educators Rising outside of the typical school day — especially through attending the national conference or competing — Educators Rising does not need to be an “add-on” or after-school club. The bottom line is that we want to help students have substantive opportunities to try out teaching, and that occurs best when woven into a structured, cocurricular program.

I was part of the Future Educators Association (FEA) several years ago. How is this different?

With our evolution to Educators Rising, we've shifted our focus to offer a dramatically expanded set of resources to help students develop their teaching skills and navigate the journey to becoming great teachers. This includes more support for you, the teacher!

By taking what was great about FEA and expanding on it, we are raising the bar for what aspiring teachers know and are able to do. In addition to doing away with national dues to make membership more accessible to aspiring educators and their dedicated teacher leaders, we now offer a suite of new resources. These include the [EdRising Academy curriculum](#) for teachers and schools that want to start cocurricular programs, [Educators Rising “Beginning to Teach” micro-credentials](#) to give students the opportunity to showcase their growing skills, and more. It's so much more than just a name change!