The goals of the virtual meeting are to:

- Strengthen partnerships across states in addressing issues faced by state leaders in the current constrained environments of state government.
- Increase awareness of best practices and successful strategies state leaders can utilize.
- Explore topics useful to state leaders in ensuring equity for all children birth to through grade three, particularly during this challenging climate.
- Identify organizational needs and resources to support state leadership efforts.

**Pre-Conference Events:**

**NASLEE New Member Orientation**

Join NASLEE’s Executive Leadership Team and Partners to hear more about the association, member benefits, and ways to get involved. All members are welcome!

*Monday, October 24th | 11:00am – 12:00pm EDT*

**Unveiling NASLEE’s Strategic Plan**

NASLEE’s Executive Leadership Team will present the association’s new strategic plan and lead a conversation with members on implementation. All members are welcome!

*Tuesday, October 25th | 11:00am – 12:00pm EDT*

**NASLEE Business Meeting**

NASLEE’s Executive Leadership Team will share important association updates, including amendments to the association by-laws, and plans for next year. This session is for full members, but affiliate and associate members are welcome to listen in.

*Wednesday, October 26th | 11:00am – 12:00pm EDT*
Monday, October 24:

1:00 - 2:00  Plenary  Federal Opportunities and Systems Alignment

Tags: Systems Alignment, Inclusion

Speakers:
- **Katie Hamm**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development, Office of Early Childhood Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- **Swati Adarkar**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy and Early Learning, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education
- **Christy Kavulic**, Association Division Director – Early Childhood Team, Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education
- **Beth Caron**, Social Science Analyst, Office of Head Start, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

2:00 - 3:00  Plenary  Aligning Systems at the State and Local Level

Moderator:
- **David Jacobson**, Principal Researcher and Technical Advisor, Education Development Center (EDC)

Tags: Systems Alignment, Equity

Speakers:
- **Nasha Patel**, Managing Director, Watershed Advisors
- **Lindsey Allard Agnamba**, CEO, School Readiness Consulting
- **Judy Reidt-Parker**, Director, Early Childhood Systems Consulting, Start Early
- **Dayna Jung**, Preschool Promise Manager, Early Learning Division, Oregon Department of Education

3:00 - 4:00  Plenary  Infusing Equity into State ECE Systems

Tags: Systems Alignment, Equity

- **Iheoma Iruka**, Founding Director, Equity Research Action Coalition

4:00 – 4:30  Breakout  Networking Happy Hour
The National Association of State Leaders in Early Education

Tuesday, October 25:

1:00 - 2:00  Plenary  Systemic Improvements to Address the Early Childhood Workforce Crisis

Moderator:
- **Nicol Russell**, Vice President of Implementation Research, Teaching Strategies

Speakers:
- **Caitlin McLean**, Director of Multi-State and International Programs, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment
- **Mina Hong**, Director, Early Childhood Systems Consulting, Start Early
- **Jani Kozlowski**, Technical Assistance Specialist, Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

**Tags:** Inclusion, Data

2:00 - 3:00  Concurrent Sessions  Session 1: Workforce Session Breakout: Wage Scales

Speakers:
- **Jessica Teng**, Assistant Director, Early Childhood Systems Consulting, Start Early
- **Andi Bales Molnar**, Professional Learning System Specialist, Early Learning Division, Oregon Department of Education
- **Hailey Heinz**, Deputy Director and Senior Research Scientist, Cradle to Career Policy Institute, The University of New Mexico
- **BB Otero**, President, Otero Strategy Group, Washington, D.C.

**Tags:** Equity, Data

Session 2: PreK Data Equity Framework

Speakers:
- **Dale Richards**, Senior Research Scientist, Child Trends
- **Joy Thompson**, Research Scientist, Child Trends
- **Ja’Chelle Ball**, Research Assistant, Child Trends

**Tags:** Equity, Data
The National Association of State Leaders in Early Education

3:00 - 4:00  Plenary  Innovations in ECE Funding and Sustainability

Moderator:
- Elizabeth Gaines, Founder & CEO, Children’s Funding Project

Speakers:
- Molly Sullivan, Director of National Initiatives, First Children’s Finance
- Theresa Hawley, Executive Director, Center for Early Learning Funding Equity, Northern Illinois University
- Ariel Ford, Director, Division of Child Development and Early Education, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

4:00 – 4:30  Breakout  Networking Happy Hour

Wednesday, October 26:

1:00 - 2:00  Plenary  State of Preschool Yearbook Session

Speakers:
- Steve Barnett, Senior Co-Director, NIEER
- Allison Friedman-Krauss, Assistant Research Professor, NIEER
- GG Weisenfeld, Assistant Research Professor, NIEER
- Kathryn Kigera, Director of Quality Initiatives, Division of Early Learning, D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education
- Pamela Truelove-Walker, Senior Director, Early Learning and Early Education, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education

Tags: Equity, Data, Inclusion
2:00 - 3:00 Concurrent Sessions

A Conversation about PreK, TK, and Kindergarten – Where are we and where are we headed?

Speakers:
- **Steve Barnett**, Senior Co-Director, NIEER
- **Allison Friedman-Krauss**, Assistant Research Professor, NIEER
- **GG Weisenfeld**, Assistant Research Professor, NIEER
- **Laura Bornfreund**, Senior Fellow and Advisor on Early and Elementary Education, New America

**Session 2: Building Equitable Systems Begins with Infants and Toddlers – A Look at Local Level Successes**

**Tags:** Equity, Data

- **Arabella Pluta-Ehlers**, Program Manager, Children, Youth and Families, National Association of Counties
- **Jammie Albert**, Program Manager for Early Childhood Success, Institute for Youth Education, and Families, National League of Cities

3:00 - 4:00 Plenary


**Moderator:**
- **Jim Squires**, Former Senior Technical Assistance Specialist, CEELO – Former State Leader in Vermont

**Tags:** Systems Alignment, Equity

Speakers:
- **Jacqueline Jones**, Former Early Childhood Researcher and Policymaker – Former State Leader in New Jersey
- **Noel Kelty**, Assistant Professor, Saginaw Valley State University – Former State Leader in Michigan
- **Tracy Zimmerman**, Vice President, Policy and Communications, Neimand Collaborative -- Former State Leader in North Carolina

4:00 – 4:30 Breakout

Networking Happy Hour