

Call for Papers: Midsouth Education Policy Workshop
October 8-9, 2026
University of Kentucky—Lexington, KY

The second Midsouth Education Policy Workshop will bring together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to present and discuss empirical research on education policy and the economics of education. This workshop is jointly organized by faculty at Miami University (OH), University of Kentucky, University of Tennessee, and Vanderbilt University. The 2026 workshop will be held in Lexington, KY at the University of Kentucky.

We are accepting submissions (abstracts) for two types of presentations:

- 1) Working papers to be presented in full-length sessions (e.g., 15-20 minutes for presentation and discussion); and
- 2) Works-in-progress to be presented in shorter flash talks (e.g., 10-15 minutes for presentation and discussion).

We welcome submissions from advanced graduate students, early-career researchers, researchers in non-academic environments, as well as practitioners. The workshop will be an opportunity to receive feedback from an engaged and supportive audience.

We hope to see submissions representing a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, methodologies, and topics related to education policy and the economics of education, broadly defined. This list includes (but is not limited to):

- Early childhood education
- K-12 student experiences, outcomes, school choice, accountability, and finance
- Teacher training, performance, and evaluation; teacher labor markets
- Postsecondary access, choice, persistence, and completion
- Higher education finance, governance, and accountability
- The intersection of education and labor markets
- Research methods and data

Please submit a full paper draft or abstract (up to 500 words) for consideration by Friday, August 21, 2026. To submit, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/4o9LKr7ixz9uETrA7>

Authors of accepted papers will be notified by Tuesday, September 1, 2026. The workshop will be held in-person at the University of Kentucky beginning the morning of Thursday, October 8 and concluding in the afternoon on Friday, October 9. We regret that we are unable to provide financial support for conference-related travel.

Questions? Please email Raj Darolia (rajeev.darolia@uky.edu) or Zitsi Mirakhur (zitsi.mirakhur@uky.edu).