

The AESA Leadership Academy is a yearlong cohort experience for ESA CEOs or cabinet level leaders who are ready to strengthen their leadership practice and navigate increasingly complex educational systems. Through a blend of in-person convenings, virtual sessions, and an immersive international learning experience, participants engage in disciplined problem-of-practice work grounded in real leadership challenges. Along the way, leaders deepen their cultural intelligence, expand their perspective through global learning, and build trusted relationships with peers across the country. Participants leave the Academy with stronger networks, expanded vision, and practical insight to design resilient, future-ready ESAs.

## 2026-27 Academy Session Schedule

Session 1 In Person	<b>July 13 – 16, 2026 • AESA Summer Leadership Conference • Riverside, CA</b>
	Monday, July 13   Dinner 5:30 – 7:30 PM Tuesday, July 14   Breakfast 7:30 – 8:30 AM, Meeting 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Session 2 Virtual	Thursday, August 27, 2026 • 2:00 – 4:00 PM EST
Session 3 In Person	<b>September 23 – 25, 2026 • Advocacy in Action Conference • Washington, DC</b>
	Friday, September 25   Lunch 12:00 – 1:00 PM   Meeting 1:00 – 4:00 PM   Dinner Saturday, September 26   Breakfast 7:30 - 8:30 AM   Meeting 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Session 4 Virtual	October 22, 2026 • 2:00 – 4:00 PM EST
Session 5 In Person	<b>December 1 – 4, 2026 • AESA Annual Conference &amp; Expo • Orlando, FL</b>
	Tuesday, December 1   Dinner 5:30 – 7:30 PM Wednesday, December 2   Breakfast 7:00 – 8:00 AM   Meeting 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Session 6 Virtual	February 9, 2027 • 2:00 – 4:00 PM EST
Session 7 In Person	April 2027: Hungary <i>Travel dates TBD – Professional Learning, Institutional Visits, Cultural Immersion, and Networking</i>
Session 8 Virtual	May 13, 2027 • 2:00 – 4:00 PM EST
Optional Session In Person	<b>July 2027 • AESA Summer Leadership Conference • Location TBD</b>
	Meeting Dates TBD

## Participant Requirements, Expectations, and Tuition

Each applicant must complete **this online application** and:

- Be a current CEO in an ESA with at least two years of experience; or serve in a cabinet level position with four years of experience and the support of their current CEO.
- Attend all virtual and in-person events, including the international trip; participants are also encouraged to all three AESA conferences: Summer Leadership Conference, the Advocacy in Action Conference, and the Annual Conference.
- Possess a valid passport by October 1, 2026.
- Pay AESA \$13,000; tuition includes all academy sessions and the international travel experience.
  - Each agency covers all participant travel expenses and conference registration fees, with the exception of the international travel experience, which is included in the price of tuition.
  - Participants may choose to pay 50% of the tuition in fiscal year 2026, with total payment due by 3/1/2027.