

the Association of Personalized Learning Schools & Services

APLUS+ Network Conference 2024

Overview For Attendees and Presenters

Deadline for Early Registration: September 6, 2024



***"Personalized Learning:
Where Imagination is Transforming Education"***

21st Annual APLUS+ Network Conference

**Wednesday October 23rd—Friday, October 25th, 2024
Sheraton Park Anaheim Resort Hotel
Anaheim, California**



APLUS+ Network Conference 2024 Overview

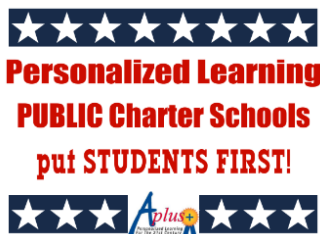
The year 2024 is shaping up as one that may usher in significant changes. The long-awaited LAO-FCMAT report on the nonclassroom-based funding determination process has been released, offering a mixed bag of proposed recommendations that, in some cases, are long overdue improvements to the funding determination process that charter school advocates have recommended for more than a decade. Other recommendations may contain a double-edged sword, appearing at first to be reasonable ideas but with possible treacherous consequences. Several recommendations were also offered that were nonstarters for our movement, seemingly pulled directly from our opposition’s harmful and destructive playbook. Additionally, the State Controller’s office recently convened a Task Force comprised of representatives from various interested parties to examine possible changes to the audit process with the goal of greater transparency and accountability. Other interested parties are considering possible changes to improve, enhance, and hold more accountable charter school authorizer oversight. It’s also a major election year with many offices changing players. There is also a looming state budget crisis on the horizon. Finally, we must always be vigilant in standing united to ward off harmful threats and support positive bill proposals that emerge through each year’s Legislative process.

Contrarily, we gather to celebrate our 21st APLUS+ Conference event in 2024. APLUS+ is excited to announce our return to the land of the Magic Kingdom, of imagination, hope and promise, of dreams and aspirations in the “Happiest Place on Earth”. Our 2024 event will once again be hosted by the Sheraton Park Resort Hotel in Anaheim, California, just a 10-minute walk from Disneyland®. In tandem with this pinnacle hub of imaginative spirit for which Disneyland® is famous, our 2024 APLUS+ conference theme is: **“Personalized Learning: Where Imagination is Transforming Education”**. Fantasia’s Mickey Mouse has been chosen as our honorary host to symbolically guide and uplift us all in celebration of our 21st annual APLUS+ Conference 2024 event and to help expand our spirit of imagination. You’ll even have the opportunity to bring Mickey Mouse home with you. Stay until the very end of the conference to have a chance to win, among many gifts, one of several Mickey Mouse Fantasia souvenir mementos during our annual “Have Your Cake and Eat it Too” Farewell reception event!



Despite the ongoing hurdles, obstacles, and challenges we face, our greatest strength remains our united commitment through our Flex-Based Personalized Learning model to guide students to their education success and to prepare them for the challenges and opportunities that await them in the 21st century. Our evolving potential to serve the needs of our 21st century students is as great as our capacity for broader imagination, creativity, and innovation.

As we continue to grow in our united strength and resolve in guiding our students successfully, we generate greater energy and magnetism around our unique Flex-Based Personalized Learning model. More parents, students, educators, elected officials and decision-makers are taking notice and demanding more flexible and personalized school options. We came very close last year in 2023 to passing our bill, SB426, through the California State Senate to change the term nonclassroom-based instruction to Flex-Based instruction. Recently APLUS+ hosted a panel discussion in Sacramento to discuss the innovative practices, benefits, and successes of Flex-Based Personalized Learning schools. Many of our APLUS+ member schools have now formally adopted the Flex-Based Personalized Learning model brand identity and have integrated it into their school culture. Many of our fellow charter school colleagues are now embracing Flex-Based instruction throughout the charter school movement. As we continue to build greater momentum to embrace this identity change within our movement we will eventually see greater acceptance beyond our movement.



Chronic learning losses, social challenges, and mental health issues for students are real. The need for better proven educational alternatives to the one-size-fits-all classroom model is real. Our job as innovative educational pioneers is to remain steadfast in our vision to serving all students through Flex-Based Personalized Learning schools that are firmly rooted in integrity, transparency, accountability, and academic excellence. We must rise above the potential threats and consequences of those few bad actors with self-serving interests and agendas. The stronger we remain united in our vision and resolve to advance our Flex-Based Personalized Learning model with integrity, accountability, and academic success, the greater our results and the better we can serve our communities.

Embrace this magical opportunity you have been given to be a part of our 21st century movement to transform education through your imagination. Wishing you a magical and transformational experience at our 21st annual APLUS+ Conference 2024 in the heart of Disneyland!

Jeff Rice, Founder/Director; APLUS+

APLUS+ Network Conference 2024 Highlights



Who Attends APLUS+ Network Conferences?

We estimate that our 2024 conference will welcome 400+ attendees. Typically, APLUS+ Network conferences attract a high percentage of both educational and administrative decision-makers who are either on the leading edge of providing an innovative, Personalized Learning model for their students, or who are interested in developing a more flex-based and personalized model for their schools. The majority of our attendees represent California public charter schools that are firmly rooted in Flex-Based Personalized Learning instruction.

Professional Development Workshops, Breakout Sessions, and Networking

APLUS+ Conference 2024 workshops, breakout sessions, and networking discussions will be tailored specifically to the needs and interests of key school decision-makers and stakeholders, including Board Members, CEO's, Directors, Site Administrators, CFOs, Curriculum Coordinators and Developers, Counselors, Technology Specialists, Mentor Teachers, Teacher Guides, CTE, Special Education and Special Needs Teachers, and more. Proposed topics may include but not be limited to:

- **Administrative Leadership**
- **Advocacy Strategies, Community Relations, & Outreach Successes**
- **Assessment & Accountability Strategies for Personalized Learning**
- **Compliance, Financial, and Legal Issues in the "New Era"**
- **Data Collection, Analysis, & Reporting Strategies**
- **Instructional Strategies for Achievement**
- **Mental Health challenges and solutions post-COVID**
- **Preparing Students for Their Goals in Life**
- **Specialized Programs for Personalized Learning Students**
- **Preferred Partner Training Sessions**



A TOTAL OF 12 OR MORE TWO-HOUR INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS!

To kick off our 2024 conference we will offer at least 12 two-hour in-depth workshops on Wednesday afternoon, October 23rd. Workshop proposals may be submitted by a single presenter, a panel of presenters, or a discussion facilitator seeking to offer a more in-depth exploration in a particular topic area of interest.

MORE THAN 50 BREAKOUT SESSIONS COVERING YOUR MOST CRITICAL AREAS OF INTEREST!

Over the course of a day and a half throughout Tuesday and Wednesday morning of the conference, APLUS+ will be offering more than 50 one-hour and fifteen-minute breakout sessions and networking discussions. Breakout sessions proposals may be submitted by a single presenter, a panel of presenters, or a roundtable discussion facilitator in your area of expertise.

SHERATON PARK ANAHEIM BALLROOM SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS!

The 2024 APLUS+ Conference will again feature several key spotlight sessions in our main ballroom on topics of top-of-mind interest to many of our attendees.

SUBMIT YOUR WORKSHOP/BREAKOUT SESSION PROPOSAL BY AUGUST 30, 2024.

Share your expertise, best practices, and enthusiasm with your fellow colleagues! Access the following link online to complete and submit your workshop, breakout session or networking discussion proposal no later than August 30, 2024:

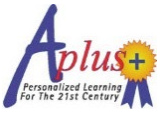
<https://aplusnetwork.wufoo.com/forms/q1rubieu05zm2os/>

APLUS+ Conference 2024 Presenter Bonuses

As always, the strength and success of our annual conference is predicated on the willingness of our members to share their expertise and best practices with their fellow members. Plan to share your wealth of knowledge and experience during our 2024 conference, and in heartfelt appreciation for your willingness to share your expertise and best practices with your fellow members and conference attendees, you will receive a:

- ✓ **10% Discount on Conference Registration Fee***
- ✓ **Special Presenter Appreciation Gift**
- ✓ **Second Entry in Our Signature Bon Voyage "Have Your Cake & Eat It Too" Farewell Reception and Drawing**

*Session proposals must be submitted prior to submission of the registration form to take advantage of the 10% presenter discount.



APLUS+ Network Conference 2024 Sponsors, Preferred Partners & Exhibitors

“Personalized Learning: Where Imagination is Transforming Education”

Our 2024 APLUS+ Conference will feature up to 38 APLUS+ Conference Sponsors, APLUS+ Network Preferred Partners and affiliate resource providers and exhibitors. These quality companies offer a wide variety of products and services that are designed to enhance and support Flex-Based Personalized Learning public charter schools. Our conference exhibitor services typically include a wide variety of single subject courses that may be delivered either online or in person, various curriculum resources, and other education-based products and services, as well as back-office, legal, financial, community relations, advocacy, and other consulting services. Many APLUS+ Preferred Partners will also provide on-site training opportunities for attendees to learn more about their high-quality products and services.



APLUS+ Conference 2024 Pioneer Awards

Following our traditional Flex-Based Personalized Learning state-of-the-state address on Thursday morning, October 24th, APLUS+ will once again take time to honor and recognize our member individuals and organizations whose innovative vision, achievements, sustainability, and other major successes have helped elevate and advance our model and movement.

APLUS+ Conference 2024 Keynote Address

APLUS+ is honored to welcome, during our Conference 2024 Thursday afternoon lunch session, Keynote Speaker Kevin J Fleming, Ph.D., 4x Author and Founder & CEO of Catapult, a professional development company which provides educational institutions with highly impactful masterclasses featuring influential thought leaders, subject matter experts, and insightful coaching, creating a support platform that empowers educational institutions to transform passive support for change into an active commitment to institutional transformation. Catapult’s subject matter experts, curriculum, virtual community, and innovative coaching model all revolutionize the professional development that education colleagues receive.



APLUS+ Conference 2024 Evening Receptions

Our APLUS+ Conference 2024 Wednesday evening kick-off welcome reception will take place in the Sheraton Park Anaheim patio immediately following our first afternoon of intensive workshops and will feature tasty hors d'oeuvres and drinks. As is our tradition, APLUS+ will treat you to your first beverage to help jump-start your reception experience. Our kick-off reception offers a great opportunity for us all to wind down and relax and chat in a beautiful garden setting after our first conference day and once again celebrate Diane Grotjohn’s birthday!



Our APLUS+ Conference 2024 Thursday evening reception will again take place in the Sheraton Park Anaheim patio immediately following Thursday’s full day of general session events and breakout sessions and will feature tasty hors d'oeuvres and drinks with your first beverage of choice again on us! Then plan to join us for a special showing in the main ballroom of the documentary movie produced by APLUS+ member Learn4Life entitled “La Lucha: Getting Schooled in America”. You will not want to miss this very moving, touching, inspiring, heartbreaking, and hopeful account of real students’ life challenges and struggles to find their paths to success.

APLUS+ Conference 2024 Famous Fabulous Farewell Bon Voyage Reception & Drawing

Our annual APLUS+ Network conference tradition returns on Friday morning following our morning breakout sessions as we close our 2024 conference on a high note by bidding you all a fond farewell with our ever popular, signature Bon Voyage “Have Your Cake & Eat It Too” Farewell Reception and Drawing. Go out in style with a smile and a shot of caffeine and a variety of tasty treats. Experience the thrill of anticipation as you await anxiously on the edge of your seat to see if your name will be called above all others. Plan to stay for this exciting conference conclusion for your chance to win one of several very cool prizes, including Fantasia’s Mickey Mouse plush toys, limited-edition artwork, and the latest eye-boggling, envy-generating tech gadgets! Must be present to win!



APLUS+ Conference 2024 Schedule at a Glance

“Personalized Learning: Where Imagination is Transforming Education”



Wednesday, October 23rd

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Registration Check-In | 10:00 am—5:30 pm |
| Coffee and Welcome Snacks | 10:00 am—12:30 pm |
| Workshops I | 12:30 pm—2:30 pm |
| Refresher Break | 2:30 pm—3:00 pm |
| Workshops II | 3:00 pm—5:00 pm |
| APLUS+ Welcome Reception | 5:15 pm—6:00 pm |

WEDNESDAY DINNER ON YOUR OWN

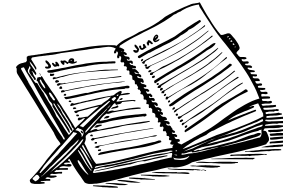
Thursday, October 24th

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Registration Check-In/Breakfast | 7:30 am-9:00 am |
| APLUS+ Exhibitor Hours | 7:30 am-5:30 pm |
| APLUS+ State of the Movement Address | 8:00 am-8:45 am |
| APLUS+ Pioneer Awards Ceremony | 8:45 am-9:15 am |
| Breakout Sessions I | 9:30 am-10:45 am |
| Breakout Sessions II | 11:00 am-12:15 pm |
| LUNCH/Keynote Address | 12:15 pm-1:45 pm |
| Conference Exhibitor Networking & Break Time | 1:45 pm-2:45 pm |
| Breakout Sessions III | 2:45 pm-4:00 pm |
| Breakout Session IV | 4:15 pm-5:30 pm |
| APLUS+ Evening Reception | 5:30 pm—6:15 pm |
| Film Screening of “La Lucha: Getting Schooled in America” | 6:30 pm—8:00 pm |

THURSDAY DINNER ON YOUR OWN

Friday, October 25th

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Registration Check-In/Breakfast | 7:30 am-8:30 am |
| APLUS+ Exhibitor Hours | 7:30 am-11:30 am |
| Breakout Sessions V | 8:30 am-9:45 am |
| Breakout Sessions VI | 10:00 am-11:15 am |
| Bon Voyage Farewell Reception/Drawing | 11:30 am-12:00 pm |
| Conference concludes | 12:00 pm |



APLUS+ Conference 2024 Registration Fees

For APLUS+ Members (including Preferred Partners):

- Early Full-Conference Registration for Members by 9/6/24-\$749 ea.
- Late Full-Conference Registration for Members by 10/4/24-\$849 ea.
- Early One-Day Conference Registration for Members by 9/6/24-\$549 ea.
- Late One-Day Conference Registration for Members by 10/4/24-\$649 ea.

For Non-APLUS+ Members (including non-member Exhibitors):

- Early Full-Conference Registration for Non-Members by 9/6/24-\$899 ea.
- Late Full-Conference Registration for Non-Members by 10/4/24-\$999 ea.
- Early One-Day Conference Registration for Non-Members by 9/6/24-\$649 ea.
- Late One-Day Conference Registration for Non-Members by 10/4/24-\$749 ea.



APLUS+ Conference 2024 Registration Instructions

To register for the 21st annual APLUS+ Network Conference 2024, please complete the online registration form here:

<https://aplusnetwork.wufoo.com/forms/rg6kfga133eiq5/>

Each online registration form can accommodate up to 12 attendees from a single organization. For more than 12 attendees, simply fill out additional forms. Advance registration and payment only. APLUS+ does not offer onsite conference registration.



APLUS+ Conference 2024 Hotel Room Reservations

“Personalized Learning: Where Imagination is Transforming Education”



How to Make Hotel Reservations at the Sheraton Park Anaheim for the APLUS+ Conference 2024

The APLUS+ Conference 2024 special group hotel room rate is \$235 per night. Applicable state or municipal taxes, fees or assessments are additional. Shoulder dates up to three days before and after the conference dates are available at the APLUS+ conference group rate based on hotel availability at the time of request.

Conference attendees are responsible for contacting the hotel directly to reserve their own hotel rooms and cover all associated costs. Please be sure to specify room preference either as one king or two queen beds. Hotel room reservations made be made by calling:

Sheraton Park Anaheim Hotel Room Reservations:

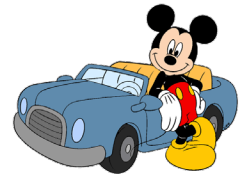
1-866-837-4197

Hotel room reservations for the APLUS+ Conference 2024 can also be made online at the following web address:

Booking Website: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50822044>

Hotel room reservations must be secured no later than Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024 to take advantage of the APLUS+ Conference 2024 special group room rate. APLUS+ has also arranged for the following amenities:

- ✓ No added resort fee.
- ✓ Complimentary in-room basic Wi-Fi daily.
- ✓ Complimentary basic Wi-Fi in all meeting spaces.
- ✓ Discounted self-parking of \$20.00 per vehicle.



The Sheraton Park Hotel at the Anaheim Resort is located just minutes from Disneyland. The address is:

Sheraton Park Anaheim, 1855 S Harbor Boulevard, Anaheim, CA. 92802

APLUS+ Conference 2024 Registration/Substitution/Cancellation/Payment Policies

Registrations

Our APLUS+ online registration form can accept up to 12 attendees from each organization. For more than 12 attendees, simply fill out one or more additional registration forms online as needed. Our early registration deadline is Friday, September 6th, 2024, and registration forms and payment must be received by this deadline to take advantage of the early registration discount. All conference registrations must be completed and received in advance of the conference and are due no later than Friday, October 4th, 2024. There will be no onsite registration services available.

Substitutions

Unpredictable and unanticipated circumstances always occur that necessitate last-minute changes in who can attend our conference. Therefore, substitutions for registered attendees are welcome as needed and will be honored until Wednesday, October 16th, 2024 by 5:00 pm.

Cancellations and Refunds

If a school or organization must cancel one or more registrations outright, a full refund of an attendee’s conference fee will be given if notification of the attendee’s cancellation and a request for a refund is submitted in writing no later than Friday, September 27th, 2024, by 5:00 pm PDT. Due to our annual requirement to front conference costs for materials, food, and other conference related fees for each attendee well in advance of the conference date, refunds are not available for any cancellation notice and refund request submitted after September 27th, 2024. Unfortunately, we are unable to refund conference sponsorship fees due to late cancellations.

Invoices

Our APLUS+ conference registration policy is to issue and send invoices for conference registrations only upon request. **PLEASE NOTE: If you require an invoice for processing conference payment, PLEASE REQUEST IT IN ADVANCE ON THE ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM AT THE TIME YOU SUBMIT YOUR CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS!** For those requesting invoices, a purchase order number is much appreciated along with your conference registration form for reference on your conference invoice, as well as the email address of the individual to whom the invoice should be sent.

Payments

Schools or organizations with more than one representative attending may submit one payment to cover fees for all attendees. Please make checks payable to APLUS+. APLUS+ can accept direct credit card payments online via Paypal. On your online conference registration form, please indicate if you would like to make payment via Paypal and a Paypal invoice will be emailed to you. Payments must be received in advance of the conference and are due no later than Friday, October 11th, 2024.

Late Payments

All payments must be received in advance of the conference and are due no later than Friday, October 11th, 2024. Payments that are not received prior to the beginning of the conference will be subject to a 10% late fee based on the total amount due.

Wellness Support

Our wellness support table was established initially during our first post-COVID APLUS+ Network Conference in 2021. As it has been very well received and very much appreciated by our guests, APLUS+ will continue to help support the well-being of all conference 2024 attendees with an assortment of daily immune-boosting vitamin supplements, pocket-sized hand sanitizers, and face masks as requested.