

Call for proposals for The International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement (ICSEI) Congress 2026

Welcome

We are pleased to extend this invitation for proposals for the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement (ICSEI) 2026 congress, which will take place in Doha, Qatar from January 18-22, 2026.

Please see here for more on ICSEI 2026: <https://icsei.org/congress/icsei-2026/>

Due date for proposals: June 8, 2025 (11:59pm AEST)

The ICSEI 2026 Theme - Crossing Boundaries in Education: Fostering Innovative, Inclusive and Sustainable Learning Environments

ICSEI 2026 in Doha will take place at a time of educational change and possibilities. This conference will explore international perspectives on how education systems worldwide are adapting to create innovative, inclusive, and sustainable learning environments. ICSEI 2026 will be a forum to present, discuss, and debate new research, policy analysis, and practical innovations in the context of school effectiveness and improvement, as schools, educators, and policymakers work to foster learning experiences that are equitable, forward-thinking, and responsive to global challenges.

ICSEI's purpose is to advance the quality and equity of education by promoting and contributing to the improvement and effectiveness of schools and other educational institutions. The congress theme, *Crossing Boundaries in Education: Fostering Innovative, Inclusive, and Sustainable Learning Environments*, brings together an understanding of past educational approaches with new possibilities for shaping the future of education. ICSEI 2026 aims to provide an enriching and interactive opportunity for school effectiveness and improvement for scholars and experts to exchange knowledge, ideas, and solutions in an increasingly interconnected world. The congress will explore multiple perspectives on how education can transcend traditional boundaries—across disciplines, cultures, policies, and digital spaces—to ensure learning environments are adaptive, accessible, and future-focused.

ICSEI recognizes the complexity of education systems and embraces the connections and synergies that come with it. ICSEI 2026 will provide a space where different perspectives and experiences are shared and respected—not passively but intentionally through building personal trust among individuals and groups, engaging in critical dialogue, and translating insights into policies and practices. This congress is designed to remain true to the values of ICSEI and its communities.

ICSEI Congress Sub-themes

In addition to the main theme, *Crossing Boundaries in Education: Fostering Innovative, Inclusive, and Sustainable Learning Environments*, the organising committee has identified several sub-themes, linked in several cases to the ICSEI networks that help members explore critical issues in education. Congress sub-themes include:

Innovation in Education

- *Technology Integration and Digital Equity*: Addressing the challenges and opportunities of integrating technology in education, focusing on bridging the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to quality digital resources.
- *The Age of Artificial Intelligence*: Exploring the integration of AI in teaching and learning processes, focusing on personalised education, flexible instruction, automated administrative tasks, and ethical considerations in AI applications.
- *Digital Literacy in Education*: Emphasising the importance of digital literacy skills for students and educators, exploring strategies for incorporating digital literacy into curricula, enhancing critical thinking in digital environments, and ensuring students are equipped to navigate and utilise digital technologies effectively and responsibly.

Inclusivity in Learning Environments

- *Teacher Education and Professional Development*: Examining the evolving role of teachers and the need for ongoing professional development to equip educators with the skills and knowledge required in an evolving educational environment.
- *Equity and Inclusivity in Education*: Recognizing the diverse needs of learners and ensuring that education systems are equitable and inclusive, accommodating diverse learning needs and backgrounds.
- *Mental Health and Well-being in Education*: Highlighting the importance of mental health and well-being for students and educators and integrating well-being strategies into educational practices.

Sustainability in Education

- *Global Collaboration and Localised Solutions*: Encouraging global collaboration while focusing on localised solutions that cater to the unique needs of diverse educational systems and communities.
- *Sustainable Practices in Education*: Addressing the role of education in promoting sustainability, environmental awareness, and global citizenship.

Key Dates for Submissions

The proposal submission system will be open from **May 7 to June 8, 2025**. All people submitting proposals will be informed as to their acceptance by **August 15, 2025**. Proposals are only accepted through the ICSEI Conference Proposal Submission System which can be accessed here: <https://www.conftool.com/icsei2026>

Proposal Selection and Topics

ICSEI Networks

All proposals must be submitted to one of the ICSEI networks. This information will also be used in the program to allow participants to more easily identify papers and sessions by network. ICSEI consists of seven networks:

- Crisis Response in Education Network
- Culture, Race, and Intersectionality Network
- Early Childhood Education and Care Network
- Evidence-Informed Change (*formerly Data Use*) Network
- Educational Leadership Network
- Policymakers, Politicians, and Practitioners (3P) Network
- Professional Learning Networks Network

Further information about the ICSEI networks can be found at: <https://icsei.org/networks/>

ICSEI Congress Sub-themes

All submitting authors must identify the congress sub-theme their proposal is most closely related to. This year's sub-themes include the following:

Innovation in Education

- *Technology Integration and Digital Equity*
- *The Age of Artificial Intelligence*
- *Digital Literacy in Education*

Inclusivity in Learning Environments

- *Teacher Education and Professional Development*
- *Equity and Inclusivity in Education*
- *Mental Health and Well-being in Education*

Sustainability in Education

- *Global Collaboration and Localised Solutions:*
- *Sustainable Practices in Education*

Submission Requirements

All proposals must be submitted through ConfTool **by June 8, 2025 (11:59pm AEST)**

When submitting, you will be asked whether your proposed session is to present academic research or is primarily practice- and/or policy-based, and proposals will be reviewed accordingly. All submissions will be blind refereed; the evaluators will review all submissions without the names of the authors and presenters (which will be submitted separately). Thus, the names of the organizers and presenters must not appear in the text of the proposals. Please note that the submitted abstract will be made available to all participants should the proposal be accepted.

All proposals for ICSEI 2026 must be submitted in English. If you intend to present in Arabic, you must state “Presentation in Arabic” at the beginning of your abstract. Parallel session speakers may present in either language; however, translation services between English and Arabic will be provided only for major events (Opening and Closing Ceremonies and Keynote Presentations).

IMPORTANT NOTE: All presenting authors and co-authors for accepted proposals will be required to be ICSEI members to present at the Doha 2026 Congress. But good news! The congress registration discount for members is greater than the cost of annual membership. And you will continue to receive discounts on events throughout the year. You can become an ICSEI member at <https://icsei.org/membership/#join>

Proposal types

Submission Requirements

Individual Paper

Individual paper proposals can be submitted by an individual or small group of co-authors. Authors present abbreviated versions of their papers followed by comments/critique and participant interaction. Each 90-minute paper session will consist of 3-4 individual papers, grouped by the program committee according to a cross-cutting research problem, theme or issue.

Paper proposals should be a maximum of 500 words (excluding references).

Paper proposals should address the following:

- Objectives, purpose, problem of practice, or policy focus
- Research question(s) or focus of inquiry
- Perspective(s) or theoretical framework, or context
- Methods, techniques, modes or approach to inquiry
- Data Sources/evidence
- Results, findings, learning
- Educational importance of this research or inquiry for theory, practice, and/or policy
- Connection to the conference theme

Symposium

A *symposium* provides an opportunity to examine specific research issues, problems, or topics from a variety of perspectives. They may present alternative solutions, interpretations, or contrasting points of view on a specific subject, or in relation to a common theme. Frequently interactive, a large portion of the session may be

Symposium proposals should be submitted as a single document that includes:

An introductory abstract of a maximum of 200 words (excluding references) that provides an overview of:

- The overarching theme, objectives and purposes of the symposium
- The issue(s) or question(s) to be addressed

devoted to dialogue among presenters and a discussant, questions and discussion among all those present, or small-group interaction.

Symposia are 90 minutes in length. They typically include 3-4 coordinated presentations.

- How the above will be addressed through the papers included
- The importance for educational theory, policy, research, and/or practice
- How the session will be organized and the approach to interaction

Proposals of 3-4 papers, (500 words maximum each, excluding references) that address the following:

- Objectives, purpose, problem of practice, or policy focus
- Research question(s) or focus of inquiry
- Perspective(s) or theoretical framework, or context
- Methods, techniques, modes or approach to inquiry
- Data Sources/evidence
- Results, findings, learning
- Educational importance of this research or inquiry for theory, practice, and/or policy
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Poster

Poster sessions combine the graphic display of materials with the opportunity for individualized, informal discussion of a project in research, policy and/or practice. Individual presenters set up displays in a large area with other presenters.

Posters should be set up to be visible for the duration of the conference. Presenters will be expected to be present at designated times.

Poster proposals should be a maximum of 500 words (excluding references).

Poster proposals should address the following:

- Objectives, purpose, problem of practice, or policy focus
- Research question(s) or focus of inquiry
- Perspective(s) or theoretical framework, or context
- Methods, techniques, modes or approach to inquiry
- Data Sources/evidence
- Results, findings, learning
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- Connection to the conference theme

The following guidelines should be considered for preparing the posters:

- Size: The poster surface will be approximately 1 meter x 1.5 meters; recommended dimensions of poster are 0.60 m width x 0.85 m height
- Poster orientation: Portrait

- The title of the presentation and the author’s name and affiliation should appear at the top of the poster.
- All the text and illustrations should be large enough to be viewed from a distance of more than one meter.
- Figures and tables should be kept as simple as possible to easily communicate the main messages to viewers.
- A large font-size heading of no more than two lines should be provided with each illustration. It is helpful to highlight key points or conclusions in large font type in a distinct area of the proposal.

Practitioner Pods

Practitioner Pods are led by practitioners from early childhood, school, or higher education sectors. To facilitate a Practitioner Pod, you can submit as an individual or as a small group of co-facilitators. Each submission involves a 45-minute interactive workshop. Each Practitioner Pod will emphasize the connection between practice and research and/or policy. The interactive sessions are designed to be practical and relevant, fostering the development of applicable skills through participant interaction.

Each 90-minute Practitioner Pods session will include two separate 45-minute presentation submissions, grouped by the program committee according to a cross-cutting to theme or issue.

Practitioner Pods: Proposals should be a maximum of 500 words (excluding references) and address the following:

- Real-world classroom challenges, problem of practice, or policy focus
- Focus, purpose or topic of interactive workshop
- Link to research and evidence-informed practice
- Interactive workshop activities
- Outcomes for participants or description of practical and applicable content
- Educational importance of this content for practitioners or policymakers
- Connection to the conference theme and/or subthemes.

Accessibility

ICSEI 2026 aims to be the first fully accessible ICSEI event. Our Digital Accessibility Partner, “Mada,” will ensure venue accessibility, inclusive customer service, and accessible event platforms (websites/applications). Presenters are encouraged to consider accessibility in their materials (e.g., large fonts for posters and clear visuals).