



Conference 2026 Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a virtual option? There is no virtual option. We can't put in enough volunteer hours or manage a team of people big enough to pull it off with the level of quality we desire, and hiring a professional team would drive our conference registration rate too high for our comfort level.

The food cost seems high. Why? NYSATA does not mark up meals for profit. Hotel banquet meals come at a higher cost per plate than many restaurant meals. Providing a quality dining experience for nearly 200 meal guests to eat at once is a challenge. All meal tickets include appetizer, entrée, desert, and coffee or tea plus a mandatory 22% service charge.

The projected sale of hotel rooms and banquet meals (called our *group performance*) gives NYSATA leverage to contract hotel meeting space for free or a reduced fee, allowing to keep our registration fee low for everyone.

Where do I find the schedule for workshops and other events? A detailed conference schedule will appear in the printed conference program you'll receive when you arrive, as well as the Whova conference app. There are always last-minute cancellations and schedule changes, so use the app for the most up-to-date schedule information.

How do I access the Whova app? When you register, be sure to use the email address you'd like to use to join the app. We usually begin inviting our paid registrants to join the Whova app about two weeks prior to our event and every few days after that. *Your bill must be fully paid before we'll invite you to join.* Your email invitation will contain a link and specific instructions to join our community. Once you join, you can start planning your agenda and communicating with other conference participants.

Is there a day rate? A single day rate is not offered. There isn't an easy way for our volunteer "staff" to record and/or monitor single day access and having a single flat fee for the conference allows us to keep the lowest rate possible for everyone.

Do I get a discount for presenting a workshop?

NYSATA is an all-volunteer community. We can't provide compensation or discounts for workshop presenters without increasing the cost for everyone else. All professional associations depend on people participating as part of the community, including sharing their expertise with others at events like conferences.

All the people who give countless hours year-round as officers and program coordinators also don't receive compensation or conference discounts for their contributions. We appreciate all the volunteers who work to make NYSATA such a great community. You will find a small token of thanks in your presenter packet when you arrive.

Can I register for the conference if I am not a member of NYSATA? Absolutely! NYSATA offers non-members the opportunity to join us for this exciting weekend of professional development, but at a higher fee than for members. Prior to November 1, consider becoming a member and taking advantage of our early bird rate for the best value.

Can I join or renew my membership with my conference registration? Yes, you can join or renew and complete your conference registration all on one form. If you renew separately, your membership must be current and paid in full to receive the member rate when you register.

Is there a fee or sign-up required for workshops? There are plenty of options to fill your schedule without adding additional fee workshops. Workshops in the general schedule are offered on a first come, first served basis. Some presenters have set a small fee for materials, payable onsite to the workshop presenter (please plan to bring cash in small bills). Optional pre-registered Extended Studio workshops are offered for a ticket fee paid in advance to help cover speaker fees, materials, and other costs associated with those offerings.

If my school team is attending the conference together, do we all have to individually register? Everyone must register online using their own member login information. Your unique member login keeps your selections and transactions in your own record in our database. Use the instructions below for paying with a PO. Several registration confirmations may be bundled together and attached to a single PO or check for payment, as per the instructions in the registration confirmation email.

How do I register if my school is paying for me with a PO?

1. GET DISTRICT APPROVAL FIRST; know what fees the district agrees to cover.
2. Register yourself online. Choose your registration and any meal options or ticketed events you wish to attend. Choose the PAY LATER option for payment.
3. You'll get an email confirmation and invoice with detailed payment instructions and address.
4. Attach a printed or digital copy of your registration confirmation or invoice to the PO. PO must be received prior to the start of the event.
5. You are responsible to pay any remainder not covered by your school district.

Will I be charged for cancellation or not paying/attending once I register? Yes. NYSATA incurs costs to process registration, POs, credit card payments, and refunds. Additionally, the space reservation, food, and materials to fulfill your order must be purchased ahead of time by NYSATA, resulting in a loss when late cancellations occur. Please read the cancellation policy near the registration link at www.nsyata.org/2026-conference.

Can my partner/friend/child/parent/colleague/administrator attend as my guest? Guests for awards banquets may preregister and pay for their meal online. Other than ticketed guests of awardees for meal events, no guests are permitted. There are no reduced fees for partial days or individual workshops or keynote sessions.. All conference attendees must register for the entire event.