2026 MECEC Frequently Asked Questions

HOW DO I ACCESS THE REGISTRATION WEBSITE?

The link to the conference registration website is: https://eregister.info/portal/index.cfm

WHAT ARE THE REGISTRATION RATES?

February 16th – April 15th: $350 (Early Bird Registration)
April 16th – May 15th: $400 (Regular Registration)
May 16th – June 5th: $450 (Late Registration)

***Note:** Registration will close on **Friday, June 5th** or once the capacity has been reached. Once the capacity is reached, you will no longer be able to register attendees.

Registering multiple individuals from same school/organization:

If there are multiple individuals attending from the same school or organization, it is best if all attending individuals are registered under the same account. The Point of Contact will be responsible for registering everyone attending within that school or organization. This helps us to better maintain our financial records. If the person registering as a "Point of Contact" does not have an account, they will need to create a new account.

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

All payments will need to be made via check. All checks should be made payable to:

Mississippi Head Start Association (MHSA)
921 North Congress St.
Jackson, MS 39202

Please ensure the following information is included with the check:

- **Purchase order number**
- **Names of individual(s) the payment is covering**

****NOTE: NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED!!**

What if I need to submit a purchase order?

If you need to submit a purchase order, select yes during registration. Once your registration is submitted, please email Dr. Candice Pittman at info@msheadstart.org. In the subject line include: "[Insert Agency/Organization/School Name and District] needs to register for MECEC with Purchase Order."

Once your email is received, we will reply with registration instructions for this payment option. To efficiently track this process, we ask that all registration related inquiries be isolated to the initial email conversation thread. This process will enable you and MHSA staff to easily refer to specific communications within the single thread.

Can I cancel my registration?
Yes, you can cancel your registration. However, no refunds will be allowed. As conference expenses are based on the number of registered participants, you will only be able to substitute.

Can I receive credit if I need to cancel?
No. Unfortunately, conference credit will not be allowed. Refunds will also not be allowed.

Will substitutions be allowed?
Yes, substitutions will be allowed. All substitutions will need to be made within the system to properly account for attendees. Once the conference capacity has been reached, you will no longer be able to make substitutions in the system. At that point, please email Candice Pittman at info@msheadstart.org. In the subject line include: "[Insert Agency/Organization/School Name and District] needs to make substitutions for MECEC."

Once your email is received, we will reply with substitution instructions. To efficiently track this process, we ask that all substitution related inquiries be isolated to the initial email conversation thread. This process will enable you and MHSA staff to easily refer to specific communications within the single thread.

Will there be onsite registration?
No, onsite registration will not be allowed.

Will there be health and safety measures?
MECEC is committed to the health and safety of all participants - attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and staff. We plan to deliver the same world-class conference experience associated with our brand, in addition to, the industry-leading hygiene practices of our event venue.

For security purposes, venue authorities ask that conference attendees wear their conference badge at all conference functions in the venue.

By attending the event, participants accept responsibility to act in the best interests of their health, the health of others who attend, and the communities to which they will return after the event.

PRESENTER REGISTRATION

If you are presenting at the conference, you will need to register for the conference using the regular registration link: https://eregister.info/portal/index.cfm. There is no cost for the lead presenter to attend the conference; however, there will be a **$150 registration fee** for any additional presenters who would like to attend the conference.

WHERE IS THE HOST HOTEL?

The MECEC committee has been able to secure the following hotels for our upcoming conference:

Reservation Code: MECEC
Cut-Off: May 1, 2026
++: Applicable taxes & fees

Best Western Plus
3158 Western Plus
Tupelo, MS 38801
662.847.0300
K/Queen Double $129++

Comfort Inn & Suites
1532 McCullough Blvd.
Tupelo, MS 38801
662.840.0340
K/Queen Double $109++

Hampton Inn & Suites Tupelo
Barnes Crossing
1116 Carter Cove
Tupelo, MS 38804
662.821.0317
King Standard $140 ++

The Hilton Garden Inn – Conference Hotel
363 East Main Street
Tupelo, MS 38804
662.718.5500
K/Queen $109++

Hotel Tupelo – SOLD OUT
314 East Main Street
Tupelo, MS 38804
662.362.6200
K/Queen $149++

****Note:** As additional hotels are secured, they will be added to the list on the conference website at www.msheadstart.org.

WHOVA APP

MECEC will once again use WHOVA to distribute conference information. **Please note that the email address used during registration must match the email address used when setting up your account in Whova (the conference app).**

IS THERE A CONFERENCE AGENDA AVAILABLE?

At this time, we can provide a general agenda for the conference. Once the conference grid has been completed, it will be available at msheadstart.org and in the WHOVA app.

GENERAL MECEC AGENDA:

Monday, June 15th

Pre-Conference Session: **Tentative (TBA)**

Location: ***TBA***

*****Note: Pre-conference will require a separate registration.***

Registration: 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 16th

Registration: 7:30 a.m.

Opening Session: 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Workshops: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 17th

Workshops: 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 18th

Workshops: 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Closing Session: 9:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

WILL CEUS, OSLS, AND/OR SEMIS BE AVAILABLE?

Yes, CEUs/SEMIs/OSLs will be available.

We will provide more information on CEUs/SEMIs/OSLs at a later time.

OTHER REGISTRATION QUESTIONS?

Contact info@msheadstart.org.