

Justification Toolkit

This toolkit includes:

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Making the case for professional development requires a solid understanding of the benefits of attending an event.

The NCTM 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting offers a valuable opportunity to improve your instructional practice, explore the latest trends in mathematics and in mathematics education and to gain insight that will transform your experience, learning and teaching mathematics.

This toolkit provides resources to help define and clearly communicate these benefits so you can make the case for attendance.

About NCTM Conferences

Connecting with your community of math educators delivers expert resources and best practices that will enhance your teaching and advance your skills.

NCTM's conferences—whether virtual or in-person—deliver information, strategies, and tools to support and develop your student's mathematical skills, fluency, and disposition through connections with mathematics leaders and teachers.

Whether you're a classroom teacher, administrator, math coach, supervisor, college professor, or early career teacher—you will benefit from the sessions, learning, and connections available.

The NCTM 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting will take place over two weeks, April 21–24 and April 28–May 1, with a single registration fee for all of the sessions.

Register by March 16 and receive a free, all-cotton NCTM t-shirt!

Why attend?

- **Professional development you can trust.** While we are moving through a time of uncertainty, NCTM 2021 offers positive, supportive, and actionable information presented by leaders throughout the country.
- **Connections to your math community.** Our virtual conference offers numerous opportunities for you to connect through live interactive sessions, RoundTable discussions, networking, social, and collaborative opportunities, and much more.
- **Discover innovative tools and resources to support your teaching.** Meet with exhibitors and get answers to your questions about their products and services.

Professional Benefits

Beyond fulfilling your personal professional development goals, attending the NCTM 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting delivers expertise and knowledge that you can take back to your school or district. When you submit a request to attend, be sure to *focus on what you will specifically gain*. Connect your responsibilities, goals, and challenges to your conference experience. Here are some goals common to mathematics teachers and how the meeting helps them meet those goals.

Benefits Worksheet

GOAL	How the NCTM 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting Supports Your Goals
<p>✓ Gain insight into successful implementation of college- and career-ready standards.</p>	<p>NCTM 2021 features experts in mathematics education who will help you correlate standards to your curriculum and give you research-based strategies to assist with implementation. A variety of sessions provide tools that make the connections back to your classrooms.</p>
<p>✓ Stay on top of current (and future) trends in mathematics education</p>	<p>NCTM 2021 offers concurrent sessions, live and prerecorded workshops and sessions, roundtable conversations, and more that keep you ahead of the trends in mathematics education. Sessions focus on developing equitable classroom norms and routines, creating spaces where students are socially and emotionally engaged in mathematics, collaborative learning experiences, and more across the range of teaching/learning settings.</p>
<p>✓ Expand your professional network</p>	<p>You'll connect and engage with knowledgeable speakers and session leaders while experiencing exceptional peer-to-peer networking throughout the event.</p>
<p>✓ Keep your students engaged and excited about learning</p>	<p>Ground-breaking mathematics education experts who witness real success in schools across the country will present workshops and sessions to share their insights and strategies.</p>
<p>✓ Gain fresh ideas and get inspired</p>	<p>Get inspired by keynote speakers and leaders in mathematics education who will stimulate your passion for teaching.</p>
<p>✓ Learn about new advances and technologies for the classroom</p>	<p>Learn about new mathematics tools and resources through the virtual exposition and targeted workshops. Speak with exhibitors through a chat or video meetings.</p>

Conference Strands

Agency, Identity, and Access

To build student agency and foster student mathematics identity, NCTM advocates empowering each and every student to be a doer of mathematics through applying their understandings to make sense of the world. Effective systems and structures must also be in place to ensure access to high-quality mathematics learning opportunities.

Sessions in this strand include, but are not limited to, creating and implementing equitable classroom norms and routines; creating spaces where students are socially and emotionally engaged in mathematics; and strategies for creating inclusive mathematics classrooms.

Mathematics Teaching and Learning

NCTM describes mathematics teaching as a complex process that requires teachers to deeply understand mathematics content, know how concepts develop across students' school experience, and implement instructional practices that support learning for each and every student (NCTM, 2014).

Sessions in this strand will support teachers in building knowledge and skill for teaching mathematics and with implementing the eight research-based teaching practices outlined in the Teaching and Learning Principle from *Principles to Actions*.

Professionalism and Advocacy

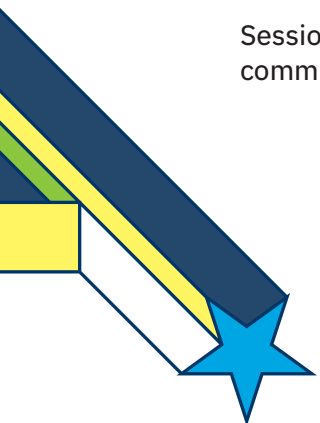
Who we are as professionals evolves throughout our career. Along the journey as a teacher, learner, and advocate for mathematics education, we often turn to our colleagues for professional support, and they turn to us.

Sessions in this strand feature opportunities to learn about collaborative learning experiences, mentoring, coaching, social media, and how to become an effective advocate for students, teachers, and our profession with all stakeholders as we continue to expand the positive impact on individuals, families, and communities.

Systemic Change

In order to create positive, systemic change, classroom teachers, instructional coaches, mathematics specialists, administrators, and other system level stakeholders must support and challenge one another to have critical conversations to address systemic concerns.

Sessions in this strand explore ways to identify and leverage individual strengths within diverse communities of educators and empower one another to create positive systemic change.



NCTM 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting Registration Rates

NCTM MEMBER REGISTRATION *(membership renewal not included)*

Premium NCTM Member Registration	\$218
Essential and Intro Member Registration	\$249
Emeritus & Life Members	\$218
Student Members	\$155
Group Registration <i>Rates are per registrant when registering groups of 5 or more. One year of Essential membership is included.</i>	\$291 (per registrant)

NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION

Bundle and save! Join NCTM and take advantage of discounts when you package registration with membership.

Non-member Full Registration	\$405
Premium Registration + One-Year Premium Membership <i>Bundle includes full registration with NCTM Premium Membership at \$149 and 30% event discount</i>	\$367
Essential Registration + One-Year Essential Membership <i>Bundle includes full registration with NCTM Essential Membership at \$94 and 20% event discount</i>	\$343
Student Registration + One-Year Student Membership <i>Bundle includes full registration with NCTM Student \$49 Membership and 30% discount</i>	\$204



Sample Justification Letter

You can use this draft letter to help gain approval to attend the NCTM 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting. Feel free to customize this sample to “make the case” for your participation.

<Date>

Request to Attend the NCTM 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting

www.nctm.org/virtualannual

Dear <Colleague>

This year, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)’s Annual Meeting will be presented as a virtual event. To enhance my professional skills and knowledge, as well as students’ academic growth and success, I would like to attend the NCTM 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting. The meeting is offered over a two-week period, April 21–24 and April 28–May 1 with a single registration fee that includes access to the content for 60 days.

This is the premier professional event for mathematics teachers and leaders. As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, this event offers an exceptional opportunity to learn best practices central to engaging each and every student in mathematics learning.

For an <NCTM member/Nonmember> the registration fee for the entire four-day conference would be \$_____. I believe that I would also benefit from attending a Preconference Workshop, Catalyzing Change in Early Childhood and Elementary Mathematics on April 20, or Catalyzing Change in Middle School Mathematics on April 21, for an additional \$_____. The total cost for my participation would be \$_____.

The NCTM 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting program will offer 600+ sessions and preconference workshops. This will allow me to build a custom learning plan specific to my grade level and professional development goals. Conference strands include the following:

1. Agency, Identity, and Access
2. Mathematics Teaching and Learning
3. Professionalism and Advocacy
4. Systemic Change

My participation in this program will complement our school’s objectives. I plan to share what I’ve learned with my peers and to give our students the tools they need to succeed.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

<Your Full Name>