

Terms of Service – 2026 Ohio Early Childhood Conference

Welcome to the 2026 Ohio Early Childhood Conference! We're thrilled you're joining us. Please read these Terms of Service ("Terms") carefully. By completing your registration, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to be bound by them.

These Terms are a binding legal agreement between you ("Attendee," "you," "your") and the Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children ("Ohio AEYC," "we," "us," "our") for the 2026 Ohio Early Childhood Conference ("Conference").

1. Acceptance of Terms

By purchasing a registration or ticket to the Conference, you are entering into a binding contract with Ohio AEYC and agree to these Terms. If you do not agree with any part of these Terms, you should not register for or attend the Conference. Consider this the fine print, but much more interesting.

2. Eligibility and Registration

To ensure a professional and focused environment for all, please note the following eligibility requirements:

- **Adults Only: No children are allowed in the convention center or in session rooms.** This policy is strictly enforced to maintain a professional learning environment. We love kids—it's why we do what we do—but this event is for the grownups. Your little ones deserve quality care while you're learning how to provide quality care. See the irony? We do too.
- **Registered Attendees Only:** Only individuals who have officially registered for the Conference and specific sessions may enter session rooms.
- **Badge Up:** You must wear your official Conference badge at all times within the Conference venue. It's your all-access pass and our way of knowing you belong with us. Don't lose it!

3. Tickets, Pricing, and Payment

Getting your registration is your first step to an amazing experience. Here's how the financial side works:

- **Membership Matters:** We offer discounted pricing for current NAEYC members with Ohio AEYC as their chosen affiliate and non-members.
- **Membership Verification:** If an attendee registers as a current NAEYC member with Ohio AEYC as their chosen affiliate but is *not* a current member at the time of

verification, the attendee agrees to pay the registration difference of either adding a membership or paying the non-member rate, whichever is less. We'll work with you, but membership status will be confirmed.

- **Ticketed Items:** Any separately ticketed items (e.g., special events, conference workshops, etc.) are **non-refundable**.
- **Payment Terms:** The invoice will be e-mailed to the primary attendee. It is the responsibility of the attendee to submit this invoice to the payer (or paying party?) to ensure prompt payment is made. If you would like Ohio AEYC to send an invoice on your behalf, please e-mail Laura Richards at admin@oaeyc.org and include the e-mail address of where the invoice is to be sent, what program it is to be made out to, and a PO number, if applicable.
- **Late Payments:** We get it, things happen. However, all overdue payments are subject to a **5% late payment fee per month** on the outstanding balance. So please, pay on time. Set a reminder. Tie a string around your finger. Do whatever it takes. Your wallet will thank you.
- **Your Financial Commitment:** You, the attendee, agree to pay any balance due in full, regardless of whether you end up canceling or substituting your registration.
- **Collection:** Ohio AEYC reserves the right to turn over any unpaid balances to a collection agency. Attendee is then subject to additional collection fees and will not be allowed to attend any future Ohio AEYC events or functions. This won't be fun for anyone, so please don't let it get to this point – we like you and really hope to see you around!

4. Cancellations, Substitutions, and Credits

Plans change and life happens, we get it. Here's our policy on that.

- **No Refunds:** Conference Registration fees are **non-refundable**. We commit resources based on registration numbers, so we cannot offer refunds.
- **Substitutions are Welcome:** You may send a substitute in your place.
 - All substitution requests must be sent via email by April 18, 2026 to admin@oaeyc.org. Requests made by phone will not be accepted.
 - For a substitution to be final, you must receive a written confirmation from Ohio AEYC.

- If a member registration is being substituted by a non-member, the difference in registration cost will be due. This applies to both those who were members prior to registration and those who purchased membership along with registration.
- **Future Conference Credit:** Alternatively, you may request a credit to be applied to the **2027 Ohio Early Childhood Conference**.
 - All credit requests must be made via email to admin@oaeyc.org by **March 4, 2026**. No exceptions.
 - You will receive an email confirmation from Ohio AEYC once your credit is processed.

5. Conference Credit & Continuing Education

We know how important your professional development credits are. To ensure you get them, “help us help you” and follow the process.

- **Pay to Play (and Learn):** If there is a balance due on your account of any kind, your credit (Ohio Approved Credit, DODD, etc.) will **not** be uploaded until the amount is paid in full. If you are part of a group and you have a balance due, the credit to attendees in that group will not be verified until the balance is taken care of.
- **Attendance Tracking is Key:** To receive credit for a session, you must follow the process provided by conference management.
- **Session Entry:** Entry to session rooms is limited to attendees who have pre-registered for that specific session.

6. Code of Conduct

We are committed to providing a safe, respectful, and harassment-free environment for everyone. All attendees are expected to treat others with respect and professionalism. We have a zero-tolerance policy for any form of harassment, intimidation, or disruptive behavior. Ohio AEYC reserves the right to take any action deemed necessary, including immediate removal from the Conference without refund, for anyone violating this policy.

Reporting harassment:

Report harassment and disruptive behaviors to Ohio AEYC staff at events@oaeyc.org.

For immediate assistance during the event, please visit the Ohio AEYC registration booth, which will be clearly marked with signage throughout the venue.

Violation of this Policy, as determined by Ohio AEYC in its sole discretion, is grounds for any action that Ohio AEYC deems appropriate, including but not limited to warning the offender, denying the offender access to an Ohio AEYC Event and restrictions from future Ohio AEYC meetings and events. Ohio AEYC takes all reports of the Code of Conduct violations seriously and will promptly investigate any complaints received. Ohio AEYC reserves the right to take whatever action it, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate, with respect to the investigation of any matters related to this Policy.

Ohio AEYC affirms that creating a safe, inclusive environment is a shared responsibility. We are committed to taking proactive measures to ensure all participants, particularly those from marginalized communities, feel welcomed, respected, and protected throughout our events.

7. Health, Safety, and Accessibility

Your well-being is a priority.

- **Follow the Rules:** You agree to comply with all rules and regulations of the conference venue, as well as all applicable local, state, and federal laws.
- **Accessibility:** We strive to make our conference accessible to all attendees. If you require reasonable accommodations, please contact us at admin@oaeyc.org with your needs in advance so we can make appropriate arrangements. Special requests must be made by February 13, 2026 in order for us to be able to meet those needs.
- **Emergencies:** Please follow all instructions from venue staff, Ohio AEYC staff, and emergency personnel in the event of an emergency.

8. Media and Likeness Release

By attending this event, you are entering an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur.

- **Permission Granted:** You grant Ohio AEYC the irrevocable right and permission to photograph, film, and/or otherwise record you and to use your image, voice, and likeness in any and all media, now or hereafter known, for promotional, educational, archival, and any other purpose, worldwide and in perpetuity, without compensation.

- **Session Recordings:** Recording of sessions by attendees is subject to the explicit consent of the presenter.

9. Personal Property and Liability

You attend the Conference at your own risk.

- **Your Belongings:** Ohio AEYC and the conference venue are not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged personal property. Please keep your valuables secure.
- **Limitation of Liability:** To the maximum extent permitted by law, the total liability of Ohio AEYC for any claims arising from your attendance at the Conference shall be limited to the amount you paid for your registration. We are not liable for any indirect or consequential damages. Please take care of yourself and your belongings!

10. Intellectual Property

The content shared at the Conference is valuable.

- **Ownership:** All session materials, presentations, and related content are the intellectual property of their respective presenters and/or Ohio AEYC.
- **No Unauthorized Use:** You may not record, reproduce, or redistribute any session content or materials without the express written permission of the intellectual property owner.

11. Privacy

We take your privacy seriously. By registering, you agree that we may collect and use your personal data to manage your participation. This includes communications about the Conference, such as important updates and logistical information.

12. Vendors, Exhibitors, and Sponsors

Our partners are an important part of the Conference experience. Please be aware that separate terms and conditions may apply to their booths and activities. Attendees must adhere to any rules set by exhibitors. Any sampling or giveaways are subject to venue rules and applicable laws.

13. Force Majeure

Sometimes, things happen that are out of our control (e.g., natural disasters, public health crises, government orders, or general needs to cancel the conference or make substantial differences). If such an event occurs, Ohio AEYC reserves the right to modify, postpone, or cancel the Conference. In such a scenario, refunds may not be issued, but we may provide

credits for a future event or transition to a different format at our sole discretion. We are all in this together!

14. Governing Law and Dispute Resolution

- **Governing Law:** These Terms shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio, without regard to its conflict of law principles.
- **Jurisdiction:** You agree that any legal action or proceeding arising out of these Terms shall be brought exclusively in the state or federal courts located in Ohio.
- **Severability:** If any provision of these Terms is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions will continue to be in full force and effect.
- **Headings:** The headings used in these Terms are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of the provisions.

15. Miscellaneous

- **Entire Agreement:** These Terms constitute the entire agreement between you and Ohio AEYC regarding your attendance at the Conference.
- **Contact Us:** If you have questions about these terms, please contact us at admin@oaeyc.org. We're here to help!
- **By completing your registration, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to these Terms of Service.**

See you at the 2026 Ohio Early Childhood Conference! It's going to be amazing!