



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**SXSW EDU® PanelPicker® Now Open Until July 20 for 2019 Event Programming Submissions**

Conference and Festival Unveil New Tracks and Formats to Support Attendee Experience and Evolutions in Education

**June 25, 2018, AUSTIN, Texas** – The SXSW EDU® Conference & Festival is now accepting programming proposals through PanelPicker®, its official user-generated session proposal platform. PanelPicker serves as a two-part process that enables anyone who is passionate about teaching and learning to help shape the annual event by proposing session ideas. The submission process is then followed by a window for public voting and advisory board review.

“We continuously look for ways to evolve SXSW EDU to be more cohesive, more powerful, and more reflective of the ways that education is transforming year after year,” said Greg Rosenbaum, SXSW EDU General Manager. “Through PanelPicker, our passionate and engaged community brings new and varied topics and voices from the global education landscape to the forefront in Austin. Every year we are so impressed with the amazing work that is happening on every level of the learning continuum.”

To support the SXSW EDU community in the submission process, the organization has aligned its tracks to reflect the amazing learning and teaching happening inside and outside the classroom. Exciting new tracks for 2019 include Accessibility & Inclusion, Emerging Tech, Science of Learning, and Student Agency. In addition, as the discussion around learning evolves, tracks have been realigned to highlight education levels with tracks for Early Learning, K-12 Education, Higher Education, and Adult Learning.

Back by popular demand, the Debate format is returning to SXSW EDU. Some of the hallmarks of SXSW EDU are authenticity, a platform to share your opinion, and passion for education. Debates are the perfect place to have a respectful dialogue with people of varying opinions and through that discourse comes some amazing learning, both for the audience as well as the debate participants.

PanelPicker is open for submissions through Friday, July 20. The platform will then re-open on Monday, August 6 for public voting on all programming proposals through Thursday, August 30. Program selections will be made on the basis of community voting, as well as review from the SXSW EDU Advisory Board and staff. Initial speakers and sessions for SXSW EDU 2019 will be announced in October. For more information, please go to [sxswedu.com/panelpicker](https://sxswedu.com/panelpicker).

# SXSW EDU

Innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship are all synonymous with learning and SXSW EDU. To that end, SXSW EDU 2019 is proud of its broad range of competitions:

- 1) Launch – 2019 marks the eighth annual Launch competition. SXSW EDU will be raising the level of funding eligibility requirement for Launch to broaden the roster of entrepreneurs;
- 2) Student Startup – Now in its fifth year, the Student Startup competition is expanding so that students across the country can apply and participate
- 3) Learn by Design – The newest of the competitions and now in its third year, Learn by Design will continue to drive the innovation and connection between learning and space.

Please go to [sxswedu.com/competitions](https://sxswedu.com/competitions) for more information and how to apply.

SXSW EDU has created a fresh new experience for the Conference's popular Expo feature, which will bring together programming, networking, and creative spaces. In the reimagined Expo, attendees will experience a mix of hands-on, discovery-based learning activities previously seen in the Playground, programming from the NEXT Stage, and opportunities for networking in the Meet Up Pavilion.

An attendee favorite every year, SXSW EDU's Film program is an opportunity for filmmakers of all ages to show how the power of film can be used to explore critical topics and issues impacting education — from stories of student activism to an inside look at early learning tactics in France. For more information on how to submit films to SXSW EDU between now and December 4, 2018, please go to [sxswedu.com/films](https://sxswedu.com/films).

SXSW EDU received more than 1,400 session ideas proposed for this past event, resulting in 1,200 speakers and more than 450 sessions that drew 15,500 attendees in 2018.

**About SXSW EDU:** The SXSW EDU® Conference & Festival cultivates and empowers a community of engaged stakeholders to advance teaching and learning. The annual four-day event affords registrants open access to engaging sessions, immersive workshops, interactive learning experiences, film screenings, early-stage startups, business opportunities, and networking. SXSW EDU is a component of the South by Southwest® family of conferences and festivals. Join the passionate and innovative community at SXSW EDU, March 4-7, 2019 in Austin, Texas. For more information, please visit [sxswedu.com](https://sxswedu.com).

**Press Credentials:** Press accreditation for SXSW EDU 2019 will open on Tuesday, August 1, 2018 at [sxswedu.com/press](https://sxswedu.com/press).

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