

2026 Regulatory Education and Leadership Committee report to the Delegate Assembly

Committee Charge

The Regulatory Education and Leadership (REAL) Committee employs a diverse range of regulatory and professional perspectives to facilitate the planning of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) annual education meeting as defined by the Board of Directors. The committee reports to the Board of Directors. As necessary and appropriate, the committee will work in collaboration with other ASWB committees and task forces to complete its charges. The committee's work will be guided by the ASWB strategic framework whenever applicable.

Ongoing charges

The REAL Committee is charged with the following on an ongoing basis:

- Developing education meeting content relating to social work regulation, leadership, issues faced by licensing boards, association developments and products, and other relevant topics identified by the Board of Directors.
- In consultation with the Board of Directors, identifying and coordinating potential plenary speakers, panelists, and presenters.
- When requested by the Board of Directors, issuing calls for abstracts on topics for presentations and selecting presenters.
- Monitoring continuing education content and CE credit documentation for programming delivered at the annual education meeting to ensure compliance with ASWB policy, professional standards, the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act, and the CE requirements for member boards.
- Identifying opportunities and proposing plans to encourage social work regulators and stakeholders, as the topic relates to these audiences, to attend all or part of the annual education meeting.

2026 charges

During 2026, the Regulatory Education and Leadership Committee is also charged with:

- Developing proposals and activities for speakers, curriculum, engagement, and format for the 2027 Education Meeting centered around the theme "Supporting Social Work Standards".
- Serving as facilitators and idea developers to ensure that a diverse range of presenters and learning styles are included at the education meeting.
- Working with the DEIJ Committee to ensure that the education meeting aligns with the association's strategic framework on DEIJ initiatives.

Recommendations/actions

- The committee began its work in June. Through regular virtual meetings and in-person planning sessions during Leadership Weekend, the committee focused on educational programming and meeting activities.
- The committee implemented a revised Request for Presentations process and reviewed 25 submitted proposals. Presentations were evaluated for their connection to standards development, professional oversight, public protection, and practical application for regulators and licensing boards. Ten presentations have been selected for further consideration for placement in the 2027 ASWB Education Meeting draft agenda.

- The committee organized its work around four regulatory standards pillars: establishing standards, assessing standards, enforcing standards, and evolving standards. These pillars served as the foundation for evaluating how proposed sessions contributed to the conference theme and regulatory practice.
- Recognizing the significance of hosting the Education Meeting in Montréal, the committee intentionally incorporated Canadian perspectives and needs into planning discussions. Members explored opportunities to engage Canadian regulators, presenters, promoting DEIJ with our binational members and stakeholders, and discussed ways to highlight issues relevant to both Canadian and United States jurisdictions.
- The committee also reviewed conference themes, branding concepts, logos, visual identity concepts, and audience engagement activities intended to support the meeting theme and participant experience. The committee developed recommendations and shared them with ASWB staff for implementation.
- The committee recommends that the incoming committee charge does not carry over the 2026 charge “...and idea developers...” and remove “Identifying opportunities and proposing plans to encourage social work regulators and stakeholders, as the topic relates to these audiences, to attend all or part of the annual education meeting” from its ongoing charge.

The committee looks forward to continuing its work with ASWB staff, presenters, and partner committees to finalize programming for the 2027 Education Meeting and to provide educational experiences that support regulators, promote professional standards, and advance public protection.