



Professional Learning Community

Frequently asked questions

I've attended ALN events for free before. Why is there a fee now?

The Assessment Learning Network has been generously supported by the Michigan Assessment Consortium (MAC) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). While those organizations continue to support the ALN, recent economic realities necessitate a more shared model of funding. The support provided by MAC and MDE allow us to offer high-value events featuring state, national, and international assessment experts, while keeping registration fees low.

My organization used to be an "ALN Member" and received free registration and meals at live events. What's different now?

Individuals and organizations can now interact with the ALN professional learning community in two ways: as a PARTICIPANT (attending events for your own learning) or as an AFFILIATE (attending, engaging, and committing to intentionally share ALN learning and resources with a named constituency)

This model of engagement and pricing has evolved for four simple reasons:

- **Simplicity**—we want to make it easier for people to choose the right level of engagement for them.
- **Coherence**—we want to seamlessly integrate with MAC membership structure we've built.
- **Consistency**—we want ALN to be consistent with how we promote ALL MAC projects/programs
- **Community**—our overall goal is building and sustaining a BROAD community committed to assessment literacy with MAC in the lead; all programs/initiatives fall under this broad umbrella

I am a MAC member. What benefits are there for me in this new structure?

Individual MAC members are eligible for discounted registration for any ALN event. In addition, they can purchase a "Season Pass" for all 5 ALN events at a discount rate as well. **Becoming a MAC member and buying a "Season Pass" essentially allows you to purchase 5 events for the price of 4!**

My organization is a MAC Organizational Supporter. What do I get?

MAC's Organizational Supporters are important participants in fulfilling the MAC mission. When they also commit to being ALN AFFILIATES, they become eligible for:

- Member pricing for all designated organizational members (number depends on level of support)
- Consultation on how to extend learning to their members/constituents (optional)
- Assistance in presenting information to their members/constituents (optional)
- Additional recognition as an ALN AFFILIATE



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I purchased a Season Pass, but I can't attend one event. Can I get a refund?

Events are non-refundable for season pass holders; however, you may designate an alternate for up to two ALN events

What does it mean to be an ALN Affiliate?

ALN Affiliates make an active commitment to intentionally share the ALN learning and materials with a specific set of colleagues/members/constituents. This implies that ALN Affiliates:

- Attend and participate in all ALN activities in a season
- Are positioned to influence a significant number of educators or policymakers through their professional roles.

What are the RESPONSIBILITIES of an ALN AFFILIATE?

ALN INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATES commit to all the following **responsibilities**:

- Pre-register for and attend all ALN events
- Participate in ALN event facilitated dialogue and activities
- Review Michigan's Assessment Literacy Standards and available ALN resources
- Attend orientation and periodic networking engagements
- Synthesize and share ALN information and resources with colleagues; if you represent an Organizational Affiliate, share resources with the organization's members/constituents

Why would I become an ALN AFFILIATE? What benefits would I get?

Affiliation opens a two-way conversation and a mutual commitment to increase assessment knowledge among your followers, members, or constituents. MAC supports ALN Affiliates in their efforts to share assessment literacy learning with colleagues/members/constituents through a variety of **optional benefits**, including:

- Orientation engagement and periodic networking opportunities
- Communications tools (templates for newsletter articles, web posts, informational videos, handouts, etc.)
- Customized consultation
- MAC individual membership (one-year)
- Recognition on the ALN website and selected printed publications