

## Why K-12 CS Educators Should Attend RESPECT

[ACM RESPECT](#) (Conference for Research on Equitable and Sustained Participation in Engineering, Computing, and Technology) isn't just another academic conference—it's where your classroom experiences directly inform and shape the future of CS education research.

### What makes RESPECT different:

This conference creates a unique space where practitioners like you work alongside researchers as equal partners. Your daily insights about what actually works with students, the challenges you navigate, and the innovative solutions you've developed are exactly what researchers need to ground their work in reality. At the same time, you gain access to emerging research findings before they're widely available, helping you make evidence-informed decisions in your classroom.

### The practitioner-researcher exchange:

When educators attend RESPECT, they bring authentic classroom contexts that help researchers ask better questions and design more relevant studies. Researchers, in turn, share findings and frameworks that can validate your practices, offer new approaches to persistent challenges, and help you advocate for your programs with evidence. This isn't a one-way presentation model—it's genuine collaboration where both groups learn from each other.

### What you'll gain:

You'll connect with a community that values your expertise, discover research-backed strategies you can implement immediately, contribute to studies that could shape CS education policy and practice, and potentially find collaborators for action research in your own context. Many practitioners leave with concrete tools, fresh perspectives on equity challenges, and validation that their work matters to the broader field.

### How you know we mean it:

RESPECT has been trying for years to create an environment that is more welcoming to K-12 practitioners. In 2023 we added a CSTA liaison to our organizing committee and the 2024 conference included two plenary panels to make space for thoughtful, community-building discussions between researchers and K-12 practitioners.

*What Have We Really Done "For All?" The Influence of Data and Research on CS Education Policy and Practice*

Facilitated by Dr. Joshua Childs, this panel discussed how data influences what happens in CS classrooms, advances innovation in CS, and how the CS education community can leverage resources and support to inform CS policies and

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<p>practices. Panelists focused on the intersection of data, research, and practice that advance current thinking, discussions, and policies in CS education that have the potential to benefit students in all communities.</p>	
<p><i>Understanding the Impacts of Policy through the Lens of K-12 Practitioners</i></p> <p>Moderated by Shaina Glass (Director of Education) from the Computer Science Teachers Association, a panel of practitioners and researchers shared their perspectives on the role practitioners do and should play in the development of educational policy, how current educational policies shape computer science education at the K-12 level, and how researchers and practitioners can better collaborate toward shared goals.</p>	<p>Sponsored by the Computer Science Teachers Association</p>

RESPECT publications often focus on K-12 work and the number of K-12 practitioner attendees is on the rise. We hope that this [new KPP track](#) in 2026 will be continued evidence of your value to this community and our commitment to making this conference a great space for you!