Revised October 2026



NEPBIS Proposal Rating Guidance and Rubric

(adapted from APBS with permission)

Thank you for your interest in submitting a presentation proposal for the Northeast Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (NEPBIS) Leadership Forum. All submitted proposals go through a blind peer review process, using a rubric to guide scoring. Each proposal is reviewed by two people, and selections are made to benefit the full breadth of content needs of our participants. Please review the rubric for criteria guidance.

Strong proposals:

- align with the NEPBIS goal statement
    - *The primary goal of the Northeast PBIS Network is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of PBIS implementation in schools and districts within the northeast states by enabling communications, information exchange, political visibility, technical assistance, and a professional bridge to the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS).*
- address content that is significant for the field
- align with the principles, technical assistance guidance, and research-base underlying Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

Proposals must include:

- complete descriptions with background information on the topic
- relevant theories, research, and practical applications
- data demonstrating fidelity, outcome and/or research outcomes
- overview of the presentation including:
    - intended **learning outcomes**,
    - intended **audience** for the presentation,
    - alignment with the **PBIS framework,**
    - operationally defined **practice** and/or **systems** features that promote **equity,** and
    - clear evidence of implementation fidelity and outcome **data**

Statement on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in proposals and development of conference materials:

While we understand the opportunity that the use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Claude) provides, conference presenters are expected to create and deliver original content without the use of AI. Submitted proposals should represent the presenter's original work and professional expertise. During the proposal submission process (and later for accepted sessions) presenters will be asked to affirm their submission of original content.

Submission Deadline is January 8th, 2027

Strand Selection

Decide which strand best fits your proposal. If your proposal can fit into two strands, you will have the opportunity to select a primary and secondary strand when submitting online. The strands include:

Schoolwide	**Mental Health and Wellness**
Classroom	**Family and Student Voice**
Advanced Tiers	**Integrated Academic and Behavioral Supports**
Equity	**School Safety**

Session Format

Decide on the format of the presentation you will be submitting. Presentation formats are further explained below. Please determine which format below is best for your submission.

Poster	Poster sessions occur during a conference reception on Thursday, May 13, 2027, and are visual presentations with all posters presented simultaneously. Each presenter will be provided with an 8’ x 30” table and a 3’ x 4’ poster board on which visual information is displayed.
Oral Presentation	A 75-minute presentation addressing topics significant and relevant to NEPBIS, informing practice and/or research, and aligning with the NEPBIS mission statement. Information in the presentation should be based on sound concepts, theories, or evidence.

Identify a Title

Create a title that will entice conference attendees to come to your session, is descriptive of your topic, and is within the **12-word limit**.

Write a Summary (Short Session Description)

Develop a 35-word or less description of your session. This will appear in the conference program and online and is what conference attendees will read. Make your session description inviting so that people will want to attend.
Some tips to keep in mind:

- Describe what participants will get out of your session or how it can be used in authentic settings relevant to the topic.
- Highlight alignment with the PBIS framework:
    - operationally defined **practice** and/or **systems** features that promote **equity**, and
    - include clear evidence of implementation fidelity and outcome **data**.

- Accurately reflect what you are covering, so attendees know what to expect.
- The summary “sells” your presentation to attendees – make it strong and intriguing!

Prepare the Abstract

Develop your abstract and summary in a Word document. Then, copy and paste it into the online submission application. Write the 450-word abstract. Refer to the NEPBIS Forum Scoring Rubric in this guide that provides information about each scoring component on which your proposal will be evaluated and given a score.

Some helpful tips:

- Use clear, concise language
- Begin with a brief introductory paragraph that provides an overview of your topic.
- Describe the theory, concept, or research base of your topic.
- Your proposal can be oriented for practitioners and/or caregivers. Although proposals do not need to present a formal research study, every presentation should be grounded in and supported by fidelity and outcome data. That is, the topic should be based on sound theory, rigorously tested by others, and supported by your data…it cannot just be a “good idea.”
- Describe exactly what you will be presenting, including how you will present it. If it will be an interactive presentation, provide a description of how it will be interactive (e.g., “Participants will score their own multi-tiered process with the evaluation tool.”)
- Explain the impact your proposal has on the field and how it aligns with the PBIS framework and NEPBIS Network’s mission and goals.
- When finished, carefully review for spelling, grammar, and usage errors.

Align the Abstract with the Scoring Rubric

The abstract describing the proposal submission is the most important component. Successful proposals describe clearly and completely in 450 words or less what will be presented and how the presentation's content is significant to the field of PBIS. The following areas all relate to the proposal scoring rubric.

Preference for Northeast PBIS Presentations

Preference will be given to presentation proposals from the Northeast PBIS Network States (CT, DE, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT).

Submit your proposal using the link on the *NEPBIS Forum Page.*
Please direct any questions to the forum team at NEPBIS@uconn.edu

Good luck! We hope to see you in Mystic, CT at the forum!

NEPBIS Forum Proposal Rubric ***NOTE**: Scores in the first two rows will be double weighted*					
Criteria	**Not Evident (0)**	**Emerging (2)**	**Approaching (3)**	**Meets (4)**	**Exceeds (4)**
Practices & Systems: Session explicitly focuses on evidence-based practices and/or systems that are consistent with a PBIS/MTSS framework	Absent	Minimal	Insufficient detail	Present, but not explicit	Explicit focus on evidence-based practices and/or systems, which are clear and operationally defined.
Data: Session provides evidence of implementation fidelity and outcomes	The session does **not** include implementation fidelity or outcome data.	The session **minimally** includes implementation fidelity or outcome data.	The session includes implementation fidelity OR outcome data, however, **insufficient detail** to judge reliability and validity.	The session includes implementation fidelity **OR** outcome data using **reliable, and valid** measures or **established** indicators.	The session includes implementation fidelity **AND** outcome data using **reliable and valid** measures or **established** indicators.
Equity: Session includes focus on equity consistent with culturally sustaining and equitable implementation and/or equitable outcomes.	Absent	Minimal	Insufficient detail	Present, but not explicit	Explicit focus on equity in implementation and/or outcomes
Clarity: Written materials provide clear and cohesive summary of proposed session	Goals and objectives of the presentation are not clear	Goals of the presentation are clear, but how the objectives will be met is not clear	Goals and objectives of the session are mentioned	Goals and objectives are stated and explained	Goals and objectives of the session are made abundantly clear and explained in detail
Generality: Session content is relevant for NEPBIS audience and provides information and resources to support implementation	Presentation would not be of interest or cannot identify an audience for the presentation	Although an audience is identified, it is not clear why attendees would want to attend the presentation	Presentation has a clear audience and general rationale for why attendees would attend	Presentation would be interesting to clearly identifiable groups of attendees and may provide useful	Presentation would be highly interesting; there would be a large/wide audience; and presentation provides useful information and

				information and/or resources	resources to support implementation