Explore FAA Aerospace Education Opportunities

for the 2026-2027 School Year

THE FAA IS LOOKING FOR K–12 EDUCATORS LIKE YOU!

Educators play a vital role in inspiring the next generation of aerospace professionals. By introducing students to aviation, engineering, drones, airport design, and aerospace careers, you can help students discover possibilities they may never have considered.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is proud to support educators with engaging programs, hands-on learning experiences, and connections to aviation professionals that bring aerospace education and career exploration into classrooms and communities across the country.

Explore four ways to bring FAA aerospace education opportunities to your students during the 2026–2027 school year.

NEW: FAA AEROSPACE WORKFORCE EDUCATOR PILOT PROGRAM

For educators serving students in grades 3–5

The FAA is excited to launch the **Aerospace Workforce Educator Pilot Program** for the 2026–2027 school year. This new initiative will provide a small group of educators with ready-to-use aerospace lessons, FAA engagement opportunities, and resources to help introduce students to aerospace careers.

Ten educators will participate in the inaugural pilot. Participating educators will receive:

- Six complete aerospace-themed lesson plans
- PowerPoint presentations, classroom materials and student activity worksheets
- Interactive review games
- Support from FAA staff throughout the school year
- Opportunities to connect classroom learning with aerospace workforce and career pathways

Participants will also have an opportunity to provide feedback that will help the FAA shape future educator engagement and aerospace workforce education efforts.

Interested in participating? Email 9-apl-faaeducation@faa.gov for additional details and information about joining the 2026–2027 pilot.

FAA ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM

For schools serving students in grades 3–5

The **FAA Adopt-a-School Program** connects FAA personnel with local schools to bring authentic aerospace learning and career exploration directly into the classroom.

During the 2026–2027 school year, participating FAA personnel will partner with selected schools in their local communities. Activities may include classroom visits, conversations with FAA professionals, career exploration, and support for aerospace-focused learning.

The program can complement science, STEM, technology, and career-readiness instruction while helping students learn about the wide variety of people and professions that keep our nation's aviation system moving.

Interested in bringing Adopt-a-School to your school?
LEARN MORE: www.faa.gov/adopt-a-school

Contact your FAA STEM AVSED point of contact to discuss opportunities in your area. A geographic contact list is available on the FAA STEM AVSED Contact Us page.

AIRPORT DESIGN CHALLENGE

For K–12 students

The **Airport Design Challenge (ADC)** invites K–12 students to explore aviation, engineering, and airport planning by designing their own airports using Minecraft™.
Working individually or collaboratively, students learn about airports, airport operations, engineering, and emerging technologies while applying STEM concepts through creative, hands-on activities.

ADC is available **year-round**, making it easy to incorporate into:

- STEM, engineering, technology, or geography classes
- After-school programs and clubs
- Career exploration activities
- Team projects
- Independent learning

The FAA also recognizes outstanding Airport Design Challenge projects and gives students opportunities to showcase their work.

READY TO START DESIGNING?
Visit **www.faa.gov/adc** to learn more and get started.

FAA ACE ACADEMIES

Summer aerospace experiences for students

FAA co-sponsored Aviation and Career Education (ACE) Academies give students an opportunity to explore aviation and aerospace careers through hands-on activities, mentorship, and real-world experiences.

Working with aviation and community partners, ACE Academies connect students with professionals such as pilots, engineers, aircraft technicians, and air traffic controllers. Depending on the academy, experiences may include visits to aviation facilities, hands-on demonstrations, career exploration activities, and orientation flights.

SEE ACE ACADEMIES IN ACTION:
Visit **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2YAWR478Aw**

FIND AN ACE ACADEMY:
Visit **www.faa.gov/education/ace_academy**

Interested in Starting an ACE Academy?
The FAA can provide resources and guidance to organizations interested in bringing an ACE Academy to their community.

Email **9-apl-faaeducation@faa.gov** to learn more about getting started.

JOIN US: FAA AEROSPACE EDUCATION OPEN FORUM

September 23, 2026 | 4:00 p.m. ET

Want to learn more about these programs and other opportunities to bring aerospace education into your classroom?

Join the FAA for an **Aerospace Education Open Forum** featuring information and resources from the FAA and national partners, including:

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP)
- Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA)
- Jamail Larkins of Aviation Start

Educators will have an opportunity to learn more about aerospace education programs, resources, and opportunities available to students.

REGISTER FOR THE OPEN FORUM

Webinar Registration – Zoom

We encourage you to register even if you cannot attend live. **Registered participants will receive additional information and resources, including a recording of the forum.**

EXPLORE MORE FAA EDUCATION RESOURCES

Looking for additional ways to bring aerospace into your classroom?

FAA Education www.faa.gov/education
Resources for Educators www.faa.gov/education/educators
K–12 Curriculum Resources www.faa.gov/education/educators/curriculum/k12
Aviation and Space Careers www.faa.gov/education/about/careers-aviation-and-space

Thank you for all you do to inspire, educate, and empower students. We look forward to working with you throughout the 2026–2027 school year and helping students across the country discover the many opportunities available in aviation and aerospace.

Sincerely,
Mary Butcher-Kimball
Federal Aviation Administration

STEM AVSED
Aviation & Space Education