

**Minutes for the TOPSS Committee Meeting  
May 18, 2026, 7:30 PM Eastern time**

**Participants:** Kari Hall, MA (Chair); Natasha Alston, MPS; Emily Polacek, MA; Michael Berndt, MEd; Stephanie Franks, MS, MEd; Christina Luzzi; Joshua Viau, PhD; Frank Worrell, PhD; Karen Brakke, PhD; Emily Leary Chesnes, MBA; Beth Schwartz, PhD

**Unable to participate:** Katie Hope Grobman, PhD; Amber Roopan; Debra Kawahara, PhD

**Conflict of Interest Disclosures**

There were no conflict of interest disclosures relevant to this call.

**Approve April TOPSS meeting minutes**

TOPSS approved the minutes of the April 20, 2026, TOPSS Committee meeting.

**Visit with Wendy Jeremie, MSc, APA Committee for Global Psychology**

Wendy Jeremie, MSc, from the Committee for Global Psychology (CGP) visited TOPSS to discuss a draft rubric developed to help APA Boards, Committees, and other groups assess whether their projects take a global perspective. The rubric was developed in response to the [Resolution on Promoting Global Perspectives in US Psychology](#) adopted by the APA Council of Representatives in February 2026, which commits APA to actively ensuring that a global perspective is implemented in processes and outcomes laterally throughout the Association. Committee members shared feedback on the rubric and how global perspectives are relevant to the work of TOPSS.

**APA 2026 and Preconvention Workshop**

Committee members received an update on a planned August 5 workshop for high school teachers before APA 2026 begins and were reminded of the TOPSS invited speakers at APA 2026.

**Subcommittee Discussion**

The two TOPSS subcommittees broke into separate discussion rooms to discuss next steps for work ahead.

The Resources subcommittee members discussed:

- A plan for reviewing the resources on skills developed at the 2017 APA Summit on High School Psychology Education. Subcommittee members offered to review the skills resources by the July TOPSS call.
- A plan to review [Conducting Psychological Research for Science Fairs: A Teacher's Guide and Resource Manual](#), last updated in 2016.
- The need to review teaching activities posted to the TOPSS website in the coming months.

The Professional Development subcommittee members discussed:

- Plans for upcoming webinars.
- Outreach to CABA on a planned webinar with CABA on the value of a psychology degree.
- Plans for encouraging teachers to apply for funds through the APF High School Psychology Outreach grant program, which has a July 15 deadline.

## Updates

Committee members were reminded of the following items:

- The call for candidates for the TOPSS Committee 2026 elections close July 15. Members were encouraged to contact potential candidates or share names with TOPSS chair-elect Emily Polacek.
- The APF High School Psychology Outreach grants have a July 15 deadline.
- Funding is available for the Engaging Psychology's Future initiative.
- The ongoing reviews of video submissions to the TOPSS competition for high school psychology students.
- The recent decisions for the 2026 APF Professional Development awards.

## Association Rule 120-5

TOPSS members voted to approve removing one additional sentence from APA Association Rule 120-5 on TOPSS, as indicated by the strikethrough text below. TOPSS voted to recommend that the Board of Educational Affairs advance the following motion to Council:

### MOTION:

That the Board of Educational Affairs advance the following proposed Association Rule changes to Council (bracketed/strikethrough material to be deleted; underlined material to be added):

## 120-5. COMMITTEE OF TEACHERS OF PSYCHOLOGY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

120-5.1 There shall be an American Psychological Association of Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPSS) Committee whose mission shall be to (a) promote the highest standards in the teaching of Psychology both as a science and discipline; (b) promote professional development and other means for lifelong learning for high school teachers of psychology; (c) increase professional identity and promote leadership for high school teachers of psychology; (d) facilitate networking, including the formation of both horizontal and vertical linkages, among teachers from all teaching levels of psychology; (e) encourage recruitment and retention of students[, particularly minorities, in the field of] in psychology; (f) enhance the visibility and legitimacy of high school psychology within the American Psychological Association; (g) enhance the visibility and legitimacy of high school psychology with other members of the psychological community and in the community at large; (h) recommend the appropriate response to advocacy, education policy, and certification issues that impact on the quality or viability of teaching of high school psychology.

The voting members of the TOPSS Committee shall consist of seven members, who serve staggered three-year terms. The other members of the TOPSS Committee, who shall serve ex-officio without a vote, shall be composed of two college faculty advisors who serve three-year terms and one liaison from the BEA. All voting members of the Committee must be high school teacher affiliates of the association.

Each year, a call for nominations for the three open positions that will become vacant in the following year shall be broadly disseminated. Following the call, the committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for each position and hold an election in which all TOPSS affiliates are eligible to vote. ~~Following the election, the results of the election shall be forwarded to the Board of Educational Affairs and the Board of Directors for final approval.]~~

The TOPSS Committee shall report to Council through the APA Board of Educational Affairs.

**Next TOPSS Meetings**

The next TOPSS call will be held July 20, 2026.