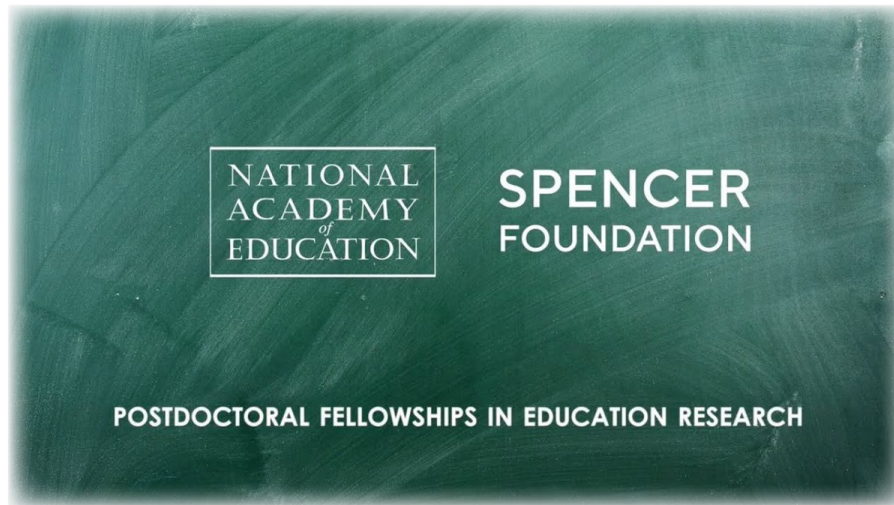




NEPC Fellow Receives Award to Support Research on Ed Tech



NEPC Fellow [Christopher Saldaña](#) has received a 2026 National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship to support his [work](#) examining how school districts' organizational capacities shape the adoption of K-12 technology. Selected from a pool of nearly 500 applicants, Saldaña was one of [25](#) education researchers who received the prestigious \$70,000 award this year.

Saldaña is an assistant professor of K-12 educational leadership and policy analysis in the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a graduate of the [Educational Foundations, Policy, and Practice](#) doctoral program of the School of Education at the University of Colorado Boulder. Since 2019, he has hosted the center's podcast, [NEPC Talks Education](#), which features interviews with researchers studying timely aspects of educational equity. Recent topics include [equitable educational leadership systems](#); [demographic change and school segregation](#); and [ways that school boards navigate recent political challenges](#).

Saldaña is a mixed-methods researcher who specializes in studying

school finance and equity. His NAEEd/Spencer research will examine the ways Wisconsin school districts with different levels of organizational capacity navigate ongoing relationships with subscription-based technology companies (e.g., Google Classroom and Canvas). The study explores ways these relationships impact equity, and Saldaña will also develop practical resources for state and district leaders and policymakers.

NEPC Resources on Digital Technologies and Artificial Intelligence in Education

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