

## **2014 NSEA Delegate Assembly Nebraska's NEA Directors Report**

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The National Education Association Board of Directors has focused on how the strategic plan and budget relates to the work of the NEA and strong state and local affiliates. The NEA Board of Directors lobbies Congress during each meeting in Washington, D.C., with the Nebraska delegation focusing on educational issues affecting our members across the country. Leading the profession has focused on leadership development, the Center for Organizing, the Great Public Schools Fund, and the Common Core Standards.

### **NEA Strategic Goals**

#### **1) Strong Affiliates for Great Public Schools:**

Building affiliate capacity to elevate the voices of education professionals is critical to the advancement of public education in America. In partnership with state and local affiliates, NEA will promote an organizing culture designed to build capacity to grow membership, increase member activism, improve fiscal health, enhance public education and assist affiliates in fending off attacks to member rights and union strength.

#### **2) Uniting the Nation for Great Public Schools:**

Facilitating collaboration between educators, parents, communities and other stakeholders is critical to ensuring that all students are educated in a great public school. In partnership with state and local affiliates, NEA will empower educators to collaborate with school and community stakeholders to co-create solutions designed to shape the future of education, improve student learning, achieve educational equity, enhance professional practice and the quality of professionals, and advance successful solutions that drive national, state and district level policies.

### **Core Functions**

#### **1) Research, Policy & Practice for Great Public Schools:**

Track and identify practices that have been successful in encouraging student learning or in shaping the future of learning. In partnership with organizations supportive of educator led transformation of public education, use key learnings and research to develop, identify and implement national, state and district policies that facilitate these practices.

#### **2) Organizing:**

In partnership with state and local affiliates, NEA will aggressively advance an association-wide 'culture of organizing' and engage members as a collective by supporting affiliates to activate our vast network in pursuit of the vision.

#### **3) Advocacy and Outreach:**

In partnership with state and local affiliates and other organizations supportive of educator-led transformation of public education, advocate educators' positions to national, state and district policymakers, education stakeholders and the public (with priority focus on parents, ethnic minority communities, and labor partners) in order to influence policy development and debates to achieve equity of opportunity, access, and quality in public education); advance the views and expertise of our members about policy for great public schools for every student; promote social justice; and advance and preserve members' voices, rights, and optimal conditions for teaching and learning.

#### **4) Communications:**

Utilize the best communication strategies to engage affiliates, members, partners, parents and communities.

#### **5) Business Operations:**

Administer the business operations in a manner that supports the changing needs and priorities of the organization and ensures efficient and effective infrastructure that supports good fiscal management, uses technology for innovation and strengthens NEA's human capital.

#### **6) Governance:**

In partnership with leadership, develop professional development and decision making processes that clearly advance the organization's mission and vision.

## **Lobbying on Education Issues: NEA Legislative Agenda**

NEA supports federal policies that will help strengthen our democracy and economy by fulfilling the promise of public education and helping America's struggling middle class achieve the American Dream.

- Ensure the resources necessary to help all students succeed.
- Revise the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to help create great public schools for every student and provide relief from flawed provisions of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- Promote social and economic justice for all.
- Raise the minimum wage to help students and families.
- Ensure every child has access to high-quality early education.
- Help children and families by extending unemployment benefits.
- Protect students and enhance school safety.
- Ensure a secure retirement for working Americans.
- Safeguard essential health care benefits for children and families.
- Protect and promote public education.

## **Leading the Profession Common Core State Standards**

NEA believes the Common Core State Standards have the potential to provide access to a complete and challenging education for all children. Broad range cooperation in developing these voluntary standards provides educators with more manageable curriculum goals and greater opportunities to use their professional judgment in ways that promote student success.

## **Advocacy & Communications**

To communicate effectively about the Common Core State Standards, NEA compiled materials to discuss and share among different audiences.

## **CCSS Toolkit**

This toolkit is intended to be a fully dynamic resource of information on Common Core State Standards and contains six critical areas for understanding and preparing for implementation of the Common Core State Standards.