

**Report of the Nebraska NEA Directors
to the 2015 NSEA Delegate Assembly**

**By John Heineman, Lincoln Education Association
and Deb Gnuse, Grand Island Education Association**

The National Education Association Board of Directors meetings have been full of political activity this past school year. It is evident that every decision made in education is based on a political decision. While attended the NEA Board of Director meetings, your Nebraska members of the board have continued to advocate for change that will have a positive impact on the students we teach and the members we support.

The primary focus has been on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, also known as No Child Left Behind – or as NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia says, “No Child Left Untested”). NEA promotes three tenets that must be included in any reform package:

- Reform must bring an end to toxic testing. NEA advocates for grade-span testing, instead.
- Reform must replace “test and punish” systems with real indicators of student success, such as NEA’s Opportunity Dashboard.
- Reform must include local control. Education decisions should be made closest to where the students are: at the state and local levels.

Funding a strong public education system is critical. Providing mandates without the resources necessary to implement them simply sets up schools and students for failure. Your Nebraska NEA directors will continue to push national leaders and policymakers for positive education change and improved funding to accomplish those changes.