

2017 NSEA Delegate Assembly Nebraska 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 the Secretary of Education, the implementation of ESSA, and 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

GOAL 1 – Strong Affiliates for Educator Voice and Empowerment: NEA will partner with state and local affiliates to strengthen their organizational capacity to: secure opportunities for empowered educators to transform the conditions of teaching and learning through supportive policies, practices, and structures; engage and continually deepen relationships with and relevance to members; and grow Association membership and strength while thwarting attacks on member rights and union strength.

GOAL 2 – Empowered Educators for Successful Students: In partnership with state and local affiliates and parents and communities, NEA will enhance the quality of education professions by supporting the development of educators across their professional continuums for empowerment roles that elevate the quality of professional practice, shape the future of teaching and learning, achieve educational opportunity and equity, advance national, state, and district level policies, and create solutions designed to improve student outcomes.

Core Functions

1) Research, Policy, and Practice for Great Public Schools: In partnership with state and local affiliates and allied organizations, NEA will research and synthesize key learnings to develop, identify, and implement national, state, and district policies that facilitate successful practices and models for teaching and learning that promote student success.

2) Organizing: In partnership with state and local affiliates, parents, and communities, NEA will organize to grow and strengthen our Association at all levels in order to improve student outcomes, secure the proper teaching and learning conditions, and achieve educational opportunity and equity for all students.

3) Advocacy and Outreach: NEA and its affiliates, in partnership with parents, communities, and allied organizations, will advocate educators' views to national, state, and district policymakers, stakeholders, and the public to advance policy that achieves equity of opportunity, access, and excellence for students in public education; promotes social, economic, and racial justice for America's students and their families; and secures members' rights and greater empowerment as experts to determine and shape optimal conditions for teaching and learning.

4) Communications: NEA will utilize the best communication strategies to advance the organization's mission and vision by understanding key audiences, engaging state and local affiliates, members, partners, parents and communities, coordinating message development and delivery across the Association, and enhancing the Association's brand and reputation.

5) Business Operations: NEA will administer and support business operations across the Association and its affiliates in a manner that supports the changing needs and priorities of the organization by ensuring efficient and effective infrastructure and sound fiscal management, leveraging technology, and strengthening the Association's human capital.

6) Governance: NEA will develop and maintain leadership development and decision-making structures and processes across the Association and its affiliates 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. That will happen as NEA works to:

- 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 ESSA.
- 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.

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:

1. Common Core State Standards Overview;
2. Curriculum and Instruction;
3. Professional Development;
4. Assessment and Reflection;
5. English Language Learners; and,
6. Students with Disabilities.