

The VOICE

Nebraska Education Association • May 2026



When Educators Speak, Policy Shifts

*How one member reshaped
the debate on literacy*

● 2026 Delegate
Assembly Recap

● Summer Conferences
Registration Open

● Vouchers Defeated:
AGAIN!



Nebraska State Education Association
605 S. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
www.nsea.org
402-475-7611 • 1-800-742-0047
Volume 79, No. 8
ISSN Number: 1085-0783
USPS Number: 000-369

Exec. Director	Isau Metes
Assoc. Exec. Director	Shauna Benjamin-Brice
Dir. of Public Affairs, Communications	Cassie Ivy
Asst. Dir. of Visual Communications	Kristi Capek
Multimedia Communications Specialist	Kelsey Foley

NSEA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Tim Royers, Millard tim.royers@nsea.org
Vice President	Paul Schulte, Millard paul.schulte@nsea.org
Sec./Treas.	Renaë Noble, Chadron nobledr635@gmail.com
NEA Director	Edward Ventura, Jr., Omaha venturaomaha@gmail.com

Official publication of the Nebraska State Education Association, 605 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508-2742. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to NSEA Voice, 605 S. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

Published 9 times yearly according to this schedule: October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May and August.

Payment of annual NSEA membership dues entitles Nebraska educators to receive *The Voice*. Total cost of producing 9 monthly issues of *The Voice* each year is less than \$2 per member.

Advertising rates available upon request. All advertisements and advertisers are screened prior to publication. Appearance of an advertisement in *The Voice* does not necessarily imply NSEA endorsement of either the product being advertised or the views expressed.

**A Great Public School
for Every Child.**



www.fb.com/nsea.org



[@nsea_org](https://twitter.com/nsea_org)



[@nsea_org](https://www.instagram.com/nsea_org)



[NSEAMEDIA](https://www.youtube.com/NSEAMEDIA)



www.linkedin.com/company/nsea

NSEA Board Certifies District Elections

Elections for vacancies in leadership positions in NSEA's six governance districts and on the NSEA Board of Directors were held in late February and early March. The NSEA Board certified those elections in mid-March.

These electees begin their terms on Sept. 1, 2026.



Capitol District

NSEA Board: Ross Pickel
Vice President: Shari Anderson
Exec. Committee: No candidates
Bylaws Amendment: Passed
NEA Representative Assembly Cluster Delegate: No candidates

Elkhorn District

NSEA Board: Matt McCarthy
President: MacKenzie Waltke
Exec. Committee: Abigail Robinson, MacKenzie Waltke
NEA Representative Assembly Cluster Delegate: No candidates

Metro District

NSEA Board: Stacy Johnson, Kathy Poehling
Treasurer: Carrie Pratt
Secretary: Julie Adams
Exec. Committee, Subdistrict 1: Audra Gibbons
Exec. Committee, Subdistrict 4: Amy Smith
Exec. Committee, Subdistrict 7: Gail Sherrell
Exec. Committee, Subdistrict 10: No candidates
Bylaws Amendment: Passed
NEA Representative Assembly Cluster Delegate: Tracy Hartman-Bradley

Panhandle District

President: Dashiell Rohan
Exec. Committee, Area 1: No candidates
Exec. Committee, Area 4: No candidates
NEA Representative Assembly Cluster Delegate: Shannon Kinsella, Renaë Noble, Dashiell Rohan

Sandhills District

President: No candidates
Exec. Committee: No candidates
Bylaws Amendment: Passed
NEA Representative Assembly Cluster Delegate: No candidates

Tri-Valley District

NSEA Board: Kenzie Mollring
Treasurer: No candidates
Secretary: No candidates
Exec. Committee, West: Nicole Bruck
Exec. Committee, Central: No candidates
NEA Representative Assembly Cluster Delegate: No candidates

R.A. At-Large Delegate

Tracy Hartman-Bradley

On the Cover: A proposed third grade reading retention bill fell short after educators spoke out on its impact on students. NSEA member Rosey Krauel brought classroom expertise to the Capitol, helping shift the conversation toward better solutions. Read the full story and see photos on pages 7-8.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TIM ROYERS

Building on Momentum

With Delegate Assembly now behind us, this is a moment to reflect on what we accomplished together and focus on the work ahead. The progress we discussed and the decisions we made were not the result of any one group. They reflect the collective effort of members across Nebraska.

Membership Strength

We made meaningful progress strengthening our membership. After 14 consecutive years of decline, we are now growing again across all membership categories. That did not happen by chance. It happened because members, local leaders, organizers and staff worked together toward a shared goal.

One of the clearest examples of that alignment was our Just One campaign through January and early February, the most successful membership campaign we've had since its implementation. Time and again, we saw that growth happens when trusted local connections are paired with strong organizing and a shared commitment to our union. That unity is what we must continue to build.

Summer Conferences

Membership growth is a major accomplishment, but it cannot be a one-year moment. The challenge now is to ensure this is the start of a sustained trend.

This summer, we are expanding leadership development opportunities by offering training in each of our six governance districts, making participation more accessible to members across the state. Investing in member leadership today is how we ensure success for years to come.

Delegate Assembly moved forward important organizational work. We began updating our strategic plan, with the goal of shaping a clear vision

for the next five years, one grounded in member input. That work will be shaped by conversations in our buildings and a shared commitment to growing our union.

Delegates also advanced discussion on strengthening our leadership structure, including next steps related to funding a full-time release vice president role while ensuring it does not adversely affect existing programming and staff and does not significantly impact dues.

Our success will ultimately be measured not just this year, but by where this organization is a decade from now.

Working Together

As we move forward, how we approach this work matters. Progress requires honesty. It requires us to look at what is working and what is not and to learn from both.

Improvement does not come from focusing only on successes. It comes from examining challenges and making adjustments. We are not observers in this work. We are participants. The decisions we make and the actions we take shape the future of this organization and the students we serve.

That commitment was evident at the Capitol this session. We made progress on retirement, saw the passage of LR422 and defeated another voucher attempt, thanks to member voices across the state.

That work continues. We are advancing policies that strengthen the profession at the Capitol and at the bargaining table, including securing representation rights, addressing workload and pushing for paid family and medical leave.

We cannot spend all our energy playing defense. Moving forward will take all of us working together, and that is how we will make change.

“
Improvement does not come from focusing only on successes. It comes from examining challenges and making adjustments. We are not observers in this work. We are participants.
”





Rain Or Shine

Turn to the NSEA Children's Fund

Every NSEA member knows of children in heartbreaking conditions. Whether the child is in need of season-appropriate clothing, new eyeglasses or a good meal, the Children's Fund is here to help. Educators often give of their own cash to help, knowing that they can't help every child. That's why NSEA created the Children's Fund in 1994. As an NSEA member, you can use the Children's Fund, and you'll find it quite simple: just call NSEA. No red tape, no forms needed.

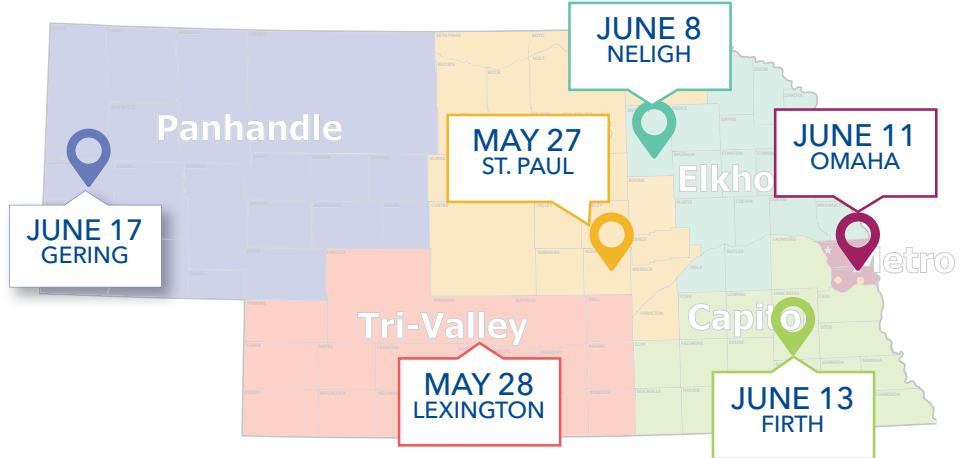
Contributions are tax deductible—and it's important to note that every penny contributed goes to help children. NSEA picks up the administrative expenses.

The generosity of Children's Fund donors has helped to pay for glasses, warm clothing and medical and dental needs of children; provide assistance to a family whose home and belongings were destroyed by fire; and more.

Rain or shine, turn to the NSEA Children's Fund for help. A call to Karen Hunt at the NSEA (800-742-0047) is usually all that is needed. For more information, visit nsea.org/childrensfund.

STRONG

SOLIDARITY • TRAINING • RESILIENCE • ORGANIZING • NETWORKING • GROWTH



NSEA is continuing its shift in member engagement this summer with STRONG, a series of regional conferences designed to bring professional learning and leadership development closer to home. Moving away from a single statewide event, the six-location model reflects ongoing feedback from members who want more accessible, relevant opportunities to engage.

Scheduled in St. Paul, Lexington, Neligh, Omaha, Firth and Gering, the conferences are built to reduce travel barriers while strengthening connections within local associations. The regional approach also creates

space for more localized conversations, allowing sessions to better reflect the day-to-day realities educators face across Nebraska.

STRONG is designed to meet members at every stage of their leadership journey. Participants will help shape the agenda by selecting their interests and experience level, with sessions focused on areas like leadership development, collective bargaining, advocacy, communications and professional growth. Registration is now open. Members are encouraged to choose a location and register at www.nsea.org/26strong.

Looking for a new ride?

DRIVE AWAY with a better auto loan!



When you're at the dealership, simply ask for First Nebraska Credit Union – and we'll take care of the financing.

- Competitive rates
- Easy application process
- Serving Nebr. educators statewide

Want a loan pre-approval before heading to the dealership?

Apply online or give us a call!

firstnebraska.org • (402) 492-9100



Serving Educators across Nebraska for 60+ years!

Federally insured by NCUA.

All loans subject to approval. Rates, terms and conditions vary based on creditworthiness, qualifications and collateral conditions.



Let Us Cook!

Article by Jake Bogus

I wanted to walk out, but I convinced myself it wasn't the right thing to do. It wouldn't be professional. As I sat in the Lincoln High cafeteria last fall with 100+ other secondary social studies teachers for a required 3.5-hour professional development, I noticed most of my fellow teachers were on their laptops. They were all working: grading, lesson planning, contacting parents and e-mailing coworkers.

Time is a precious resource for teachers and this required professional development was cutting into that time.

I sent a couple therapeutic text messages to other teachers.

"Why do we keep doing these? They are a complete waste of time," one teacher replied.

"Most of this stuff doesn't even apply to me," said another.

"It's insane I drove across town for this," said one more.

It's time to be done with required professional development for veteran teachers. It's not just the teachers that I know who feel this way; in fact, there's an entire meme culture on social media dedicated to poking fun at irrelevant professional development.

Please know, I don't blame the curriculum specialists, administrators and district employees who put these sessions together. They're dedicated professionals, who are often required to provide these professional development sessions. Teachers know they care.

However, many of them now work outside the classroom, and their roles have changed. The best professional growth comes from partnership with teachers still doing the work every day.

Time for Teachers

It's time for teachers to decide how to use their time. It's time to normalize independent professional development. It's time to normalize autonomous teacher work-time.

I'm 10 years into my teaching career, and this most recent professional development felt like the last straw.

A 20-minute presentation on "classroom routines." A 20-minute presentation on "how to motivate students." Then turn and talk at your table with other teachers. Next, it's time for breakout sessions on topics we've covered again and again over the past few years.

Please let me focus on the things that are important to my students and their families.

I want to work in my classroom. I want to collaborate with my co-teachers—in my building, in my subject area—on lessons and preparation that actually apply to my 130 8th-grade students who deserve my time and dedication.

Fulfilled, Inspired, Challenged

When I asked a coworker what our district could do to make this better for teachers. "Just let us cook," he said. "Cook," in today's slang, means to do your work exceptionally well. Teachers need more time of their own to "cook."

If it's truly professional, then please have respect for the profession and my time. Simple things, like this: Don't give us assigned seats. Don't make me drive across town for it. Offer a Zoom option. And please, don't make me introduce my school, grade level and the fun things I did over the weekend for the thousandth time in my career.

If it's truly development, then I should leave the sessions feeling fulfilled, inspired and challenged. I should feel that I have developed as a teacher.

Give teachers options, not obligations.

If a district employee has important news to share, I'll read the e-mail. If a curriculum specialist shares something useful, I'll take a look and decide what works best for my students.

The Nebraska Department of Education and school districts have varying contractual agreements for professional development requirements.

What's Working

Some districts, like Lincoln Public Schools, have taken steps in assuring more teacher worktime autonomy. Currently, LPS teachers receive several days per year in which they are expected to work, but they get to choose how they use it and where they go. That means if teachers want to use their time to grade or plan at a coffee shop, they can do that. You know—because they're professionals.

This is a good first step, but we need to go further. Teachers need contractual hours for independent work—not just planning periods. I propose giving classroom teachers several contractual days to use as they see fit to best support their students and families.

During our required staff meetings this year, my building principal has even developed a habit of giving us autonomous work time if she makes it through the required district slides and information before the required time is up. We all love her for it. She respects us and our time as professionals. She gets it. It's time for education departments and school districts to treat their teachers like many other employers are doing in the 21st century workplace. Just let us cook.



This article was written by Jake Bogus, a Lincoln Education Association member and social studies teacher at Schoo Middle School. He serves on the LEA Board of Directors.

Get Connected with UNK

Advance your teaching career with flexible, online programs designed for educators.

UNK Online makes it possible to grow professionally while continuing to serve your students.

We offer high-quality online programs and endorsements built specifically for teachers, with the flexibility you need and the personal support you deserve.

Why Choose UNK?

- ✓ **Designed for working educators**
- ✓ **100% online and flexible**
- ✓ **Supportive faculty who get to know you**
- ✓ **One-on-one advising and real human connection**

Take the next step. Stay connected.
Visit: unk.edu/online



POWER
of the
HERD

UNK ONLINE





Rosey Krauel overlooks the rotunda at the Nebraska State Capitol

WHEN EDUCATORS SPEAK, POLICY SHIFTS: How one member reshaped the debate on literacy

When Nebraska lawmakers debated a bill that would require schools to retain third grade students who did not meet reading benchmarks, the urgency was clear. Students are struggling to read, and scores have declined in recent years. Lawmakers and teachers have worked through several sessions on how they felt it should be addressed. For Sen. Dave Murman (District 38), LB1050 was the answer. Under the bill, the Nebraska Department of Education would set reading benchmarks for third graders.

Any student that didn't meet the standard would be held back from fourth grade. The bill also would have created reading programs and assistance for students with dyslexia or other reading impairments, but the retention piece of the proposal drew strong criticism from NSEA members during its public hearing before the Education Committee in January.

Ignoring the Experts

Four NSEA members testified against LB1050 at the hearing. Gretna Education Association member Danielle Larson, a 25-year educator and reading interventionist, told lawmakers that while improving literacy is critical, retaining third grade students is not supported by research and risks

harming students academically, socially and emotionally. Larson advocated for early, intensive intervention delivered by well-trained educators.

Kathy Poehling, president of the Omaha Education Association (OEA), warned that mandatory third grade retention oversimplifies reading challenges and ignores the realities educators face in classrooms. She pointed to overcrowded classrooms, limited staffing and high student needs as the real barriers to literacy, arguing that schools need more resources—not mandates

Emily Theis, a third grade teacher and OEA member, said mandatory retention based on a single test score risks harming students' social development and self-confidence. She warned the policy would increase reliance on high-stakes testing, with inconsistent assessment methods across districts, including the use of AI-based tools, raising concerns about fairness and accuracy.

NSEA President Tim Royers and other school leaders said they would back off the opposition if the words "the option of" were added in front of retention, but senators were so adamant on the mandatory retention piece that they refused to amend the language of LB1050.

A Call to Action

Rosey Krauel has spent 22 years in the classroom. Krauel is president of Douglas County West Education Association and serves as an NSEA Board of Director. She was on a local leaders call with President Royers when he mentioned LB1050.

"Tim mentioned that they needed somebody to come and speak to it and I remember I was like, 'oh my gosh, I actually don't have school, and I can come and try and lobby.' I've never testified or been able to take part in any NSEA Lobby Day. It's never worked out in my schedule," Krauel said.

As a reading interventionist for kindergarten through second grade students, she works with the very children the bill would have affected.

"These are my kids," she said. "They're the ones I work with every single day."

She sees where they start, how far they can go, and she knows what happens when the right support is in place.

"So, it just breaks my heart to see that we would want to hold them back for something that they can't help," Krauel said. "I had already made up my mind I would come to Lincoln to talk with senators, but I wanted to do my own research first."

Krauel went through the Nebraska

On the Cover

Department of Education's (NDE) website and found an 84-page report that listed the different screeners that were approved for public schools to use for students.

"The report outlined that some of these screeners that had been previously approved in the past were now too weak to fully measure the range or depth of skills," Krauel said. "I knew that many schools still use these screeners. I printed out the report and brought it with me to talk with lawmakers."

Spring Break Policy Party

On a Friday afternoon during her Spring Break, Krauel drove to Lincoln prepared to engage lawmakers with her research. For her, the issue with the bill was never whether literacy matters. It was whether this approach would actually help the students who need it most.

Under Nebraska's Reading Improvement Act, schools already screen students three times a year to identify reading challenges early. But as Krauel explained to lawmakers, not all screeners work the same way.

"For the 2025-26 school year, there were eight different screeners school districts across the state could choose from. They're all trying to assess similar things, but they're doing it in different ways," she said.

Some assessments are done one-on-one, where a teacher hears every sound a child makes. Others are taken on a device like an iPad where guessing can shape the result. Some focus narrowly on foundational phonics. Others measure a wider range of skills.

"The screeners say they're testing the same thing, but they're not testing the same way," she said.

At the same time, the state is considering shifting to a single, standardized screener, but has told districts they may have a one-year period to "Hold Harmless" and continue to use the same screeners that were deemed too weak—while also proposing retention for students who fall short. For Krauel, that raised a question she could not ignore.

"If we're changing how we screen kids and then saying by third grade they could be retained, could it be because of this one year?" she said.

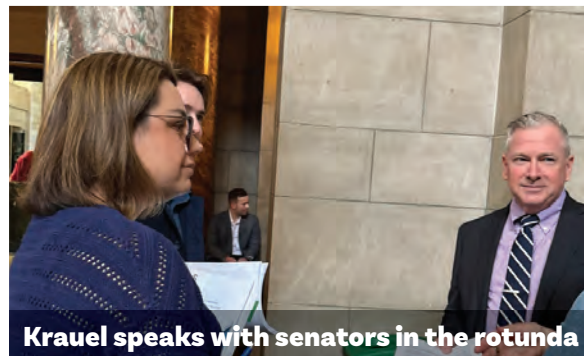
Especially, when that one year would occur for students who are in



Testifiers Emily Theis, Kathy Poehling, Tim Royers and Danielle Larson



Sen. Jana Hughes



Krauel speaks with senators in the rotunda

Kindergarten, a time when research has shown is crucial for intervention to take place. Early literacy depends on getting it right from the start. Rushing changes to assessment while also attaching high-stakes consequences like retention risks missing that window.

The Power of One Voice

Krauel brought her experience, NDE data and the perspective of someone who sits beside struggling readers every day.

"There were a lot of 'aha' moments for the senators I spoke with," Krauel said.

What she offered was not opposition for its own sake, but clarity. Yes, students need to read. Yes, the system can improve. But holding students back without first ensuring accurate screening and strong intervention is not a solution.

As debate continued, lawmakers advanced an alternative approach. Sen. Jana Hughes (Dist. 42) introduced LR440, an interim study to examine the identification, evaluation and effectiveness of reading screeners approved by the Nebraska Department of Education and utilized by school districts, and to examine whether improvements to screening practices should precede consideration of

student retention at the third-grade level. Royers credits Krauel with stopping LB1050 in its tracks. The bill died on a filibuster by opponents, with 31 senators voting to advance it—two votes short of the required 33.

"As a direct result of her conversations, Hughes agreed to carry a Legislative Study on screeners," Royers said. "In the final days of debating that bill, the presence of that study was critical because it gave lawmakers something else to rally around as an alternative to what the governor and Murman were trying to do. Without that off-ramp, I don't think the vote count would have gone the way it did. Something about Rosey's approach worked. Her voice most likely saved us from that bill, and it serves as a clear reminder to all of our members that no one is 'just a member' your voice and your expertise is powerful and we need you to use it."

For Krauel, the debate was never about politics. It was about the students she works with every day—the ones learning to read one sound, one word, one breakthrough at a time.

"These are my kids," she said.

And for one spring break, she made sure their voices were heard, too.

PURSUE YOUR POTENTIAL.

ADVANCE YOUR TEACHING CAREER.



**“ I LOVED BEING
ABLE TO GET MY
MASTER'S DEGREE
WHILE WORKING
FULL-TIME AS
AN EDUCATOR.**

ALEX DECKER
Peru Online Alumni
Master of Science in Education



FULLY ONLINE GRADUATE PROGRAMS DESIGNED FOR WORKING EDUCATORS

- ✓ Affordable **tuition**
- ✓ Finish in as little as **24 months**
- ✓ **Multiple start** dates each year

GRADUATE PROGRAMS:

Master of Arts in Teaching
Master of Science in Education
Master of Science in Organizational Management

TEACHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOR COLLEGE AND HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT (TEACH)

Receive a TEACH Grant to pay for College! This is a federal grant available to Undergraduate and Graduate students, completing their degree in education.



**SCAN FOR PROGRAM
INFORMATION**

JOIN NEBRASKA'S FIRST COLLEGE - BE A PART OF THE LEGACY

LEGISLATURE

2026 Nebraska Legislative Session Recap: Educators Deliver Key Wins While Shaping the Path Forward

The 2026 Nebraska Legislative Session wrapped up on its 60th and final day, April 17, after lawmakers introduced 546 new bills and 12 proposed constitutional amendments. For NSEA members, the short session delivered a mix of hard-fought victories, successful defenses of public education and clear reminders of why your voices matter every day at the Capitol. While not every priority crossed the finish line, your advocacy helped secure several strong outcomes for educators, students and retirees—and stopped measures that would have harmed Nebraska classrooms.

One of the session's biggest threats, Governor Pillen's priority bill LB1050, died on a filibuster in the final full week of debate. The measure would have mandated third-grade retention for students failing certain literacy tests, piling on unfunded mandates and undermining local control. Read more about NSEA's effort on pages 7-8.

NSEA also helped stop LB1013 from being amended into LB867, a sweeping plan that would have upended education and services for youth in the state's Youth Rehabilitation

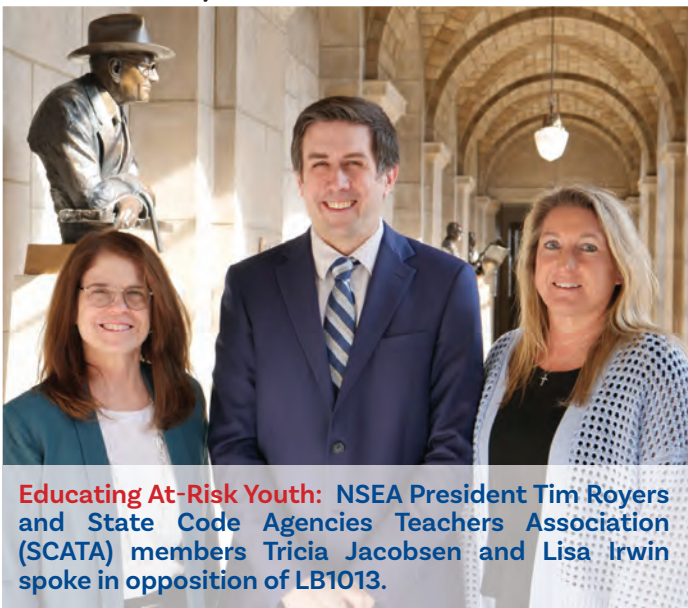
and Treatment Centers. Thanks to powerful testimony from our members at YRTC Kearney, the Health and Human Services Committee stripped the most damaging facility changes before the bill could move forward. We stood shoulder-to-shoulder with a broad coalition at a Capitol press conference to protect stable learning environments for these vulnerable students.

Vouchers were blocked yet again when the controversial \$3.5 million "gap funding" provision was removed from the state budget bill, LB1071. Proponents called it one-time bridge money, but it was clearly an attempt to wedge open the door for a larger permanent voucher program next year – one they hoped would be harder to challenge at the ballot box. Nebraska voters fejected vouchers for the fourth time in 2024, and public dollars belong in public schools.

On the positive side, several NSEA-supported measures became law. LB824, carried by Senator Lonowski, cuts the required break-in-service for retirees from 180 days to a clear 120 days before they can return as long-term substitutes or in other roles under the School Employees Retirement Act or Class V plan. The old intermittent-service loophole is gone, giving retirees certainty and a straightforward path back to Nebraska classrooms.

Senator Ballard's LB820 delivered a critical fix to cost-of-living adjustments for retirees in the Omaha Public Schools Employees Retirement System, directly responding to direction from last year's NSEA Delegate Assembly. The same bill, which also incorporated LB1166, includes a timing adjustment for NPERS contribution rates – thanks to Senator Juarez – so future changes align with September paychecks. And because the NPERS plan is now over 100 percent funded (from last year's LB645), many members will see another pay bump this July as rates drop to their lowest level.

Higher-education members scored a major win with Sen. John Cavanaugh's LB956, which is now law. Following an NSEA roundtable last winter, the bill requires public postsecondary institutions to share standardized



Educating At-Risk Youth: NSEA President Tim Royers and State Code Agencies Teachers Association (SCATA) members Tricia Jacobsen and Lisa Irwin spoke in opposition of LB1013.



Fully Fund IDEA: NEA Director Edward Ventura, along with Sen. Victor Rountree and NSEA President Tim Royers stand in support of LR422.

compensation data. This levels the playing field for bargaining and helps address recruitment and retention challenges at our colleges and universities.

Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh’s LB966, the Hunger-Free Schools Act, passed and will cover the cost of reduced-price meals through a private donation for the next five years. Families at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level will now receive free school meals, a direct boost for student nutrition and learning. LB304 also passed, removing the sunset date for the federal Child Care Subsidy program and preserving vital support for working families.

Senator Rountree’s Resolution LR422 passed unanimously 47-0, formally urging Congress to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act at the promised 40 percent level. Currently covering less than 15 percent, the shortfall forces states and local districts to divert money from other priorities – an especially painful reality after this year’s special-education funding cuts.

LB429, signed by the governor on April 14, establishes new requirements and restrictions for school boards in their dealings with professional employees’ organizations. The measure was monitored closely by NSEA to protect the rights and representation educators have earned through certification elections.

Not every good idea advanced. Our top priority, LB440

for Paid Family and Medical Leave introduced with Senator Spivey, did not make it to the finish line. Yet your fall membership survey showed more than 80 percent of members still rank this as a top issue, and NSEA will keep pushing in 2027. If the Legislature won’t act, Nebraska educators have a proven track record of taking issues directly to voters.

We also bid farewell to 13 senators who are term-limited or not returning next year: John Arch, Christy Armendariz, Tom Brandt, Machaela Cavanaugh, Robert Clements, Wendy DeBoer, Myron Dorn, Ben Hansen, Megan Hunt, Fred Meyer, Mike Moser, Dave Murman and Jane Raybould. Their departures mark the end of an era, and we thank them for their service.

Despite the challenges, NSEA members helped move several strong bills across the finish line and blocked others that threatened public education. Every phone call, email and testimony you provided made a difference. We are already preparing for 2027 with three interim studies this summer and fall: LR402 on higher-education lab hours (Senator Quick), LR440 on reading screeners and retention (Senator Hughes) and LR455 on educator burnout (Senator Juarez). Watch your inbox for ways to get involved.

The people of Nebraska remain the second house of the Legislature. Together we will keep fighting for the policies our students and educators deserve – whether at the Capitol or, if necessary, on the ballot in 2028. Thank you for everything you do for Nebraska’s public schools.

EDUCATION RELATED PRIORITY BILLS

NSEA continues to monitor several of these measures neutrally while expressing strong concerns about others:

- **LB304 (Sen. DeBoer):** Eliminate a sunset date for the federal Child Care Subsidy program
✔ **NSEA position: Support**—Approved by governor
- **LB429 (Sen. Murman):** Provide requirements and restrictions for school boards relating to professional employees’ organizations
⚠ **NSEA position: Monitor**—Approved by governor
- **LB653 (Sen. Murman):** Change acceptance of students under the enrollment option
✔ **NSEA position: Support**—Approved by governor
- **LB745 (Sen. Juarez):** Change provisions to requirements for a diploma of high school equivalency
✔ **NSEA position: Support**—Approved by governor

Legislature

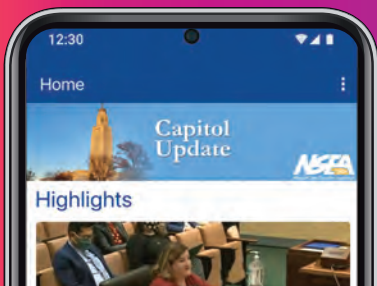
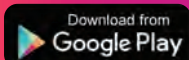
- **LB748 (Sen. Sorrentino):** Change provisions to Nebraska Educational Savings Plan Trust
 ⚠️ **NSEA position: Monitor**—Approved by governor
- **LB820 (Retirement):** Change contributions by school districts, computation of tax withholdings, retirement allowances and cost-of-living adjustments
 ⚠️ **NSEA position: Monitor**—Approved by governor
- **LB824 (Sen. Lonowski):** Change provisions to termination of employment under the School Employees Retirement Act and the Class V School Employees Retirement Act
 ✅ **NSEA position: Support**—Approved by governor
- **LB924 (Sen. Andersen):** Change powers of learning community councils and levies
 ⚠️ **NSEA position: Monitor**—Approved by governor
- **LB937 (Education):** Adopt the Prior Learning Act and change provisions relating to student transfers, school absences, option enrollment, extracurricular activities and the College Pathway Program Act
 ⚠️ **NSEA position: Monitor**—Approved by governor (includes LB1146, LB1164, LB1224, LB1241 and LB1243)
- **LB940 (Sen. Murman):** Prohibit certain color additives in school meals
 ⚠️ **NSEA position: Monitor**—Approved by governor
- **LB956 (Sen. Cavanaugh, J.):** Provide collection of postsecondary institution compensation data
 ✅ **NSEA position: Support**—Approved by governor
- **LB966 (Sen. Cavanaugh, M.):** Adopt the Hunger-Free

Schools Act

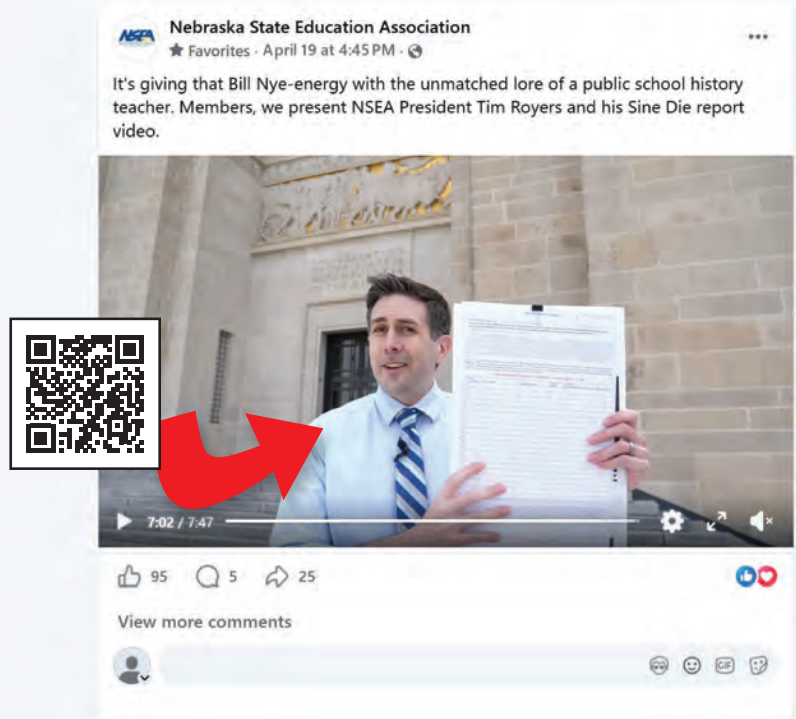
- **NSEA position: Support**—Approved by governor
- **LB1071 (Sen. Arch):** Provide, change and eliminate provisions related to appropriations for Nebraska state government expenses for the biennium ending on June 30, 2027
 ⚠️ **NSEA position: Monitor**—Approved by governor
- **LB1086 (Sen. Dover):** Change eligibility requirements for community college gap assistance
 ✅ **NSEA position: Support**—Approved by governor
- **LB1029 (Sen. Conrad):** Redefine terms to reportable funding from a foreign adversarial source for colleges and universities
 ✅ **NSEA position: Support**—Vetoed by governor
- **LB1050 (Sen. Murman):** Provide requirements for dyslexia screening and limit advancement to grade four under the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act
 ❌ **NSEA position: Oppose**—Failed to advance
- **LB730 (Sen. Kauth):** Require schools designate restrooms and locker rooms based on sex
 ❌ **NSEA position: Oppose**—Failed to advance
- **LB1219 (Sen. Brandt):** Limit amount of property taxes that may be levied by a political subdivision
 ❌ **NSEA position: Oppose**—Failed to advance
- **LB1034 (Sen. Dungan):** Prohibit school staff from allowing federal immigration enforcement officers to access schools without a judicial warrant
 ✅ **NSEA position: Support**—Failed to advance

Download the NSEA Capitol Update App!

- Receive alerts and calls-to-action during the legislative session.
- Stay up-to-date on events and education news from the Nebraska Legislature.



Scan the QR code to watch NSEA President Tim Royers' Sine Die Video Report or visit www.youtu.be/Cn65_-01jSo.





CHADRON STATE COLLEGE

ME

Master of Education

- Online & Hybrid Formats
- Affordable Tuition
 - \$389.40/credit hour
- CAEP Accredited
- Special Concentrations
 - Curriculum & Instruction-Elementary (General & Field options)
 - Language Arts
 - Mathematics
 - Physical Education
 - Science
 - Social Science
 - Curriculum & Instruction-Secondary
 - Business Education
 - Career and Technical Education
 - Physical Education
 - Mathematics
 - Social Science
 - Science
 - Early Childhood Special Education (Birth-Kindergarten)
 - PK-12 Reading Specialist
 - K-12 Special Education

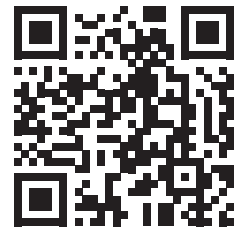
The Master of Education is a blend of theoretical and practical knowledge that can be immediately applied to the classroom setting.



“My professors were understanding while holding me to a high standard. They not only provided me with an invaluable education with skills to use in the classroom but also taught me how to seek out knowledge, learn independently, and never settle for less than my best effort.”

— Kattie

APPLY TODAY



The Nebraska State Colleges are equal opportunity institutions and prohibit unlawful discrimination and harassment. Chadron State College has designated an individual to coordinate its non-discrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to: Human Resources, Chadron State College, 1000 Main St., Chadron, NE 69337, Telephone: 308-432-6224, Email: hr@csc.edu. CSC has also designated an individual to coordinate the college's efforts to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Inquiries regarding Title IX may be directed to: Title IX Coordinator, Chadron State College, 1000 Main St. Chadron, NE 69337, Telephone: 308-430-0980, Email: titleixcoordinator@csc.edu

165th Delegation

Together We Move Forward, Together We Make Change

NSEA President Tim Royers opened the 2026 Delegate Assembly (DA) on Friday evening, April 24, highlighting the importance of strengthening staff, governance and membership to sustain growth. He emphasized the need to build on recent membership gains and outlined plans to expand summer training to all six governance districts to increase access and engagement. Framing the theme, “Together We Move Forward, Together We Make Change,” Royers urged delegates to stay involved and focused on long-term success.

Re-Elected

Running unopposed and elected by acclamation, current NSEA Vice President Paul Schulte thanked members for their confidence. Schulte will begin his second three-year term effective Sept. 1. He previously served as a full-time release president of the Millard Education Association and as a petition sponsor for the Support Our Schools Nebraska campaign.

Keynote Speaker

On Saturday, delegates heard from invited guest 2026 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Sarah Hardin. A member of the Mullen Education Association and a high school science teacher at Mullen Public Schools, Hardin is known for turning curiosity into hands-on learning that extends beyond the classroom. A native of O’Neill who once planned a career in science, she took what she describes as a “leap of faith” into teaching nearly two decades ago, completing a transition-to-teaching program through the University of Nebraska at Kearney while stepping directly into her first classroom.

Hardin told delegates that some of the most meaningful moments in education are often the smallest—and the easiest to overlook. She reflected on a former student who reminded her how powerful simple, consistent acts of kindness can be.

“A lot of what our students carry, we don’t always see right away, and sometimes we don’t realize when those moments matter. I had a student write me a note after a graduation gift I gave him two years ago. He hadn’t really been in my classes—just the required ones—and then he avoided me after that. But after he graduated, I got a simple note thanking me for the gift. It said two things: ‘Thanks for the gift,’ and ‘You were the first person to say good morning to me every single day.’ And I remember thinking, that’s it. Because to me, that really was nothing—walking down the hall, saying good morning. But to him, it wasn’t,” Hardin said. “When you feel like you’re part of something, it changes how you show up.”

Her message served as a reminder that even the simplest gestures can shape how students feel seen, valued and connected.

Dues, Bylaws & NBIs

Delegates approved amendments to bylaw Article V, clarifying the body’s role, including explicitly assigning responsibility for approving the annual audit. The changes also establish submission deadlines for resolutions and new business items and require advance submission for inclusion in official materials. Additionally, the bylaw amendments define the scope and duration of new business items, specifying that they may not conflict with existing bylaws or resolutions and remain in effect for up to one year unless renewed.

Delegates updated seven existing resolutions and adopted 10 new resolutions addressing a range of priorities, including strengthening the

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and affirming respect for individual names and pronouns, both of which passed unanimously. Other actions include committing to cross-cultural and multilingual education training, preserving generational languages, defining and prohibiting sexual harassment, eliminating discrimination, opposing institutional discrimination and hate-motivated violence, promoting civility in public discourse and ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Delegates approved nine new business items. Over the next 12 months, ad hoc

committees will:

- Study the feasibility of creating a LGBTQ+ Caucus as a state affiliate;
- Form a working group to better support students with special needs and combat funding cuts on Special Education programs in the state;
- Review the financial impact of creating a membership incentive for early career educators;
- Study the feasibility of adding a Special Education Committee;
- Commit to Honoring Genoa Industrial Boarding School Survivors and Descendants by illuminating the NSEA building orange on Feb. 20 every year;
- Form a committee to develop proposed changes to board policies so that the role of Vice President becomes a full-time release position if it is determined that it can be done in a way that does not have substantial impact on dues presented at the 2027 DA and does not adversely affect

“When you feel like you’re part of something, it changes how you show up.”

— Sarah Hardin
2026 Nebraska
Teacher of the Year

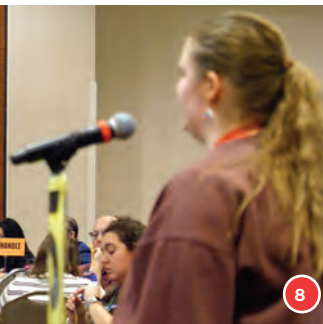
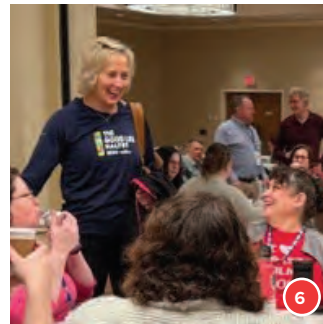
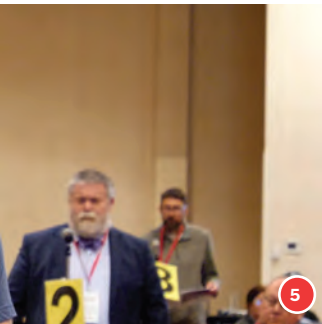
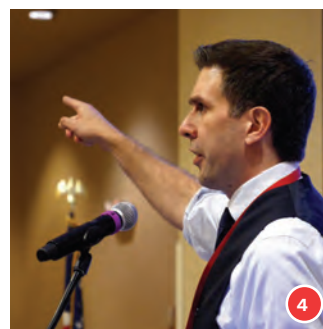
ate Assembly

- existing programming and staff;
- Extend the Legal Representation Study Committee for one year.
- Draft a bill for the 2027 legislation session to establish a Nebraska Educator Workforce Retention Scholarship Program;
- Provide all elected delegates the ability to opt in to “Green Only,” an electronic access option for all appropriate materials related to DA.

Delegates set dues for 2026-27 at \$442, a \$3 or .68% increase. A breakdown of dues can be found in the April edition of *The Voice*.

Delegates in Action

1. Christina Running Hawk-Ellison speaks at microphone one.
2. NSEA delegates vote in favor of a proposed motion on the floor.
3. Delegate Michelle Richards waits at microphone four.
4. NSEA President Tim Royers presides over the assembly.
5. Delegates Wes Jensen, Dash Rohan and Ben Welsch line up to debate a proposed NBI.
6. Neb. gubernatorial candidate Lynne Walz greets delegates.
7. 2026 Neb. Teacher of the Year Sarah Hardin addresses delegates.
8. Retired delegate Walta Sue Dodd waits to hear a question from NSEA Aspiring Educators President Kathryn Koehler.
9. Royers wears the First Nebraska Credit Union mascot head after delegates gathered money for the Children's Fund.
10. Delegate Brian Jens Whitecalf spoke in support of his resolution on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, sharing a personal account of growing up experiencing homelessness.
11. Delegate Tracy Hartman -Bradley holds a yellow card while speaking at microphone four.



Award

The NSEA honored individuals for outstanding service to public education over the past year, recognizing excellence in teaching, support, public service, leadership and community impact. NSEA President Tim Royers said the awards highlight the dedication of educators and advocates across the state. Recipients from across the state are pictured on pages 16-17.

1. **Alisha Taylor**, Lincoln Education Association, receives the 2026 Early Career Educator Award. Taylor accepts the award from NEA Director Edward Ventura Jr.
2. **Sheryl Norman**, Palmer Education Association, receives the 2026 NSEA award for Teaching Excellence. Norman is pictured with NSEA Vice President Paul Schulte.
3. **Jennifer Hosking**, Omaha Education Association receives Tom Black Public Relations Award. Hosking accepts the award from NSEA President Tim Royers.
4. **Elkhorn District President Lisa Hanson** accepts the 2026 Gallagher Award on behalf of Elkhorn District. Hanson is pictured with NSEA Secretary/Treasurer Renae Noble.
5. **Senators Margo Juarez, Machaela Cavanaugh and Ashlei Spivey** were jointly honored with NSEA's 2026 Friends of Education Award for their support of public education through their service in the Nebraska Legislature. Sen. Juarez's award was accepted by Legislative Aide Erica Favor on her behalf.
6. **Peter Ferguson**, *Bigger Than the Score* host on 93.7 The Ticket, receives the Outstanding Media Award.

Not Pictured: Friend of Education Award recipient State Senator Machaela Cavanaugh.



Winners



2026 award recipients continued:

7. **Brian Jens Whitecalf**, Grand Island Education Association, receives the 2026 Education Support Professional of the Year. Whitecalf is pictured with Noble.
8. **Sen. Ashlei Spivey** accepts her NSEA 2026 Friends of Education Award from President Royers.
9. **Ben Welsch**, Hastings Education Association and Tri-Valley District President, receives the Tom Black Public Relations Award. Welsch is pictured with President Royers.
10. **Dr. Amanda Morales**, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, receives the Great Plains Milestone Award for her work advancing human and civil rights in education. Morales accepted the award from Ventura Jr. and is pictured with EMAC Chair and LEA member Nora Lenz.
11. **Belinda Westfall**, principal of Prairie Lane Elementary School in Westside Public Schools, receives the Administrator of Excellence Award from Schulte.
12. **Keith Cummings**, accepts the NSEA Children's Fund Helping Hands Award on behalf of the Fremont Education Association (FEA). FEA was recognized along with the Wisner-Pilger Education Association for their fundraising contributions to the NSEA Children's Fund.

About the Awards: Now is the time to discuss who you or your local association might nominate for one of the honors awarded at Delegate Assembly next April. Any NSEA member may nominate a member teacher, Education Support Professional (ESP) or deserving group. Nominations open as early as September and accepted through early February. Guidelines can be found at: www.nsea.org/DA.

Association Roundup



NSEA: On the Move

Members, governance leaders and staff connecting across the state this spring.

Top Photos: In late April, NSEA executive team members, along with NSEA-Retired President John Heineman, visited Nebraska's congressional delegation during Super Week in Washington, D.C.. They are pictured here with U.S. Rep. Don Bacon.



Middle Photos: The Bored Teachers Comedy Tour, a national group of current and former educators known for humor about classroom life, performed in Lincoln on April 11. NSEA members were invited to a reception at the Lied Center for Performing Arts commons before the show.



Bottom Photos: NSEA Aspiring Educators held their spring conference at Hastings College. Before the conference, AE members created a Brady Bunch-themed video to help participants prepare. Once there, members were treated to Eileen's Colossal Cookies and Kool-Aid, both founded in Hastings.

NSEA
150+
Presents

Family of teachers

The Walters Family Builds 90-Year Teaching Legacy



Left to Right: Deborah, John, Carolyn, Angela and LorRene

The Walters family has nearly a century of combined experience in education, a shared legacy spanning Nebraska and Wyoming. John, Deborah, LoRene, Carolyn and Angela represent 90 years of service to students across the region.

John Walters was a business teacher and volleyball coach in Litchfield after graduating from Kearney State College. He spent 20 years teaching at Hayes Center, followed by 12 years as a substitute teacher in Hayes Center, Culbertson and Trenton.

Deborah Walters dedicated 20 years, including 15 teaching kindergarten in Sheridan, Wyoming.

LoRene Walters Kelly earned degrees in speech-language pathology

and audiology, with 20 years at Omaha Public Schools.

Carolyn Walters taught K-12 special education in Wyoming for seven years and is now in her ninth year of K-8 special education in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Angela Walters Stitman is a first-year physical therapist assistant with North Platte Public Schools.

John and Deborah are retired, while the next generation continues the family's impact.

Teaching isn't just a career—it's a family tradition. Family of Teachers celebrates those who inspire students.

Does teaching run in your family? Submit a photo at www.nsea.org/Family.



Are You Nebraska's Next Teacher of the Year?

In 2027, one teacher will represent the good work of all the teachers in the state as the Nebraska Teacher of the Year (TOY).

Application forms will soon be available through your school administration or at the website listed below. Teachers may self-nominate or nominate a colleague for the honor.

A panel will review applications, and up to five finalists will be selected for interviews in August. The 2027 recipient will be recognized at an awards luncheon.

Since 1972, the Nebraska Teacher of the Year program has recognized outstanding certified teachers in a pre-K-12 classroom setting who plan to continue in active teacher status in a state-approved or accredited school.

The application seeks information on educational background and

personal development, community involvement, philosophy of teaching and learning and commentary on the teaching profession.

The Teacher of the Year will maintain a regular teaching schedule while also participating in a year of professional learning through the National Teacher of the Year Program.

The TOY Review Committee also selects up to five Award of Excellence Teachers.

The NSEA, Nebraska Council of School Administrators, Nebraska Association of School Boards, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, Data Recognition Corporation, as well as the State Board of Education, present cash awards or grants to the Teacher of the Year and other finalists. For additional details, visit www.education.ne.gov/toy.

Last Chance to Attend!

If you are nearing retirement, it may be time to review your benefit options.

Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems will offer seminars throughout the spring and summer, with in-person sessions statewide and virtual options available. Omaha School Employees' Retirement System members may also participate. Seminars are open to school plan members, OSERS members and their spouses age 50 and older. Eligible employees may receive paid leave to attend up to two sessions, with one per fiscal year. Additional sessions may be attended at the employee's expense with employer approval. Registration is required at www.npers.ne.gov. NPERS and OSERS members must complete the appropriate form when signing up.

If you have questions, contact the NPERS Education Services department at npers.seminars@nebraska.gov or call 402-471-9671.

In-Person Seminars	
HASTINGS:	May 8
KEARNEY:	May 5
LA VISTA:	May 19
LINCOLN:	May 14*, May 21
OMAHA:	May 12
Webinars	
	May 1
OSERS:	June 2
	June 3

* Indicates the session is a half day.

Summer To-Do: Apply for Certificate Renewal in Advance

Educators, add this to your summer "to-do" list: If your certificate expires in 2026, now's the time to get ahead of the game and start the renewal process.

Each year, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) sends certificate renewal reminders to thousands of Nebraska educators. The teaching certificate is valid for teaching in all Nebraska school systems and must be renewed every five years. Certificates expire on Aug. 31 each year. Backlogs at the department in recent years have

sent members to NSEA for help to get answers about the process. This year, the department is encouraging certificated teachers who will need to renew in 2026 to apply as early as possible.

Teachers who are unsure if their certificate expires this year can log in to the Nebraska TEACH portal and check the expiration date at <https://teach.education.ne.gov/#/verifylicense>. To renew, log on to <https://teach.education.ne.gov/#/> and start an application. The application

can be found at the top of the account portal.





Benefits designed with **YOU IN MIND**

Explore exclusive benefits online:

- Student debt reduction
- Flexible insurance coverage
- Complimentary life insurance
- Easy retirement planning
- Shopping and travel deals



Scan below
to learn more





ISAU METES

Message from the Executive Director

My First 100 Days: Listening to Action

In my first 100 days as executive director, I shared a simple belief: before you can lead, you have to listen, and just as importantly, you have to be transparent about what you are hearing and how it is shaping the work ahead. That commitment guided the early phase of this work, from meeting with staff and connecting with partners to examining the systems that support our members and sharing those insights along the way. Now, as we move forward, that listening, paired with a continued commitment to transparency, is taking shape in action.

Phase 1: Listening

The internal listening tour strengthened alignment and communication, with conversations across staff and leadership clarifying priorities, workload and opportunities to better connect our work. Externally, engagement with partners reinforced the value of collaboration, while a review of our legal, financial and operational structures ensured a stable, intentional foundation. This work was never about checking a box. It was about building trust, and that commitment will continue throughout my tenure as executive director.

Phase 2: Strategic Goals

In partnership with members, governance leaders and staff, we are aligning our work to clear, shared goals rooted in our mission. This includes strengthening internal culture, investing in staff development and creating space for innovation to better serve members across Nebraska. We are also reviewing and updating our strategic goals to reflect our values and the evolving needs of educators today.

Phase 3: Deliver

As we move into action, the impact of this work is already visible. This

year, nearly 1,900 new members joined NSEA, with growth across all categories driven by intentional outreach and relationship-building. Our 16 member organizers and two issue organizers, alongside staff, continue to strengthen engagement statewide. More than 450 members turned to our advocacy department for support, thousands connected with organizational specialists, and we supported more than 200 local associations at the bargaining table, including two certification elections that bring us to more than 100 recognized bargaining units.

Our members are also shaping the broader conversation. This year, 20 members partnered with senators in interim studies, 13 testified at committee hearings and more than 6,200 emails were sent to senators and the governor. Through *The Voice* magazine and a growing digital presence of more than 18,000 followers, members are sharing their stories and strengthening our collective voice. At our Senators' Dinner, 154 attendees, including 13 senators and a member of the State Board of Education, joined us in conversation about the future of public education.

We Are Stronger

This work is grounded in a simple truth: when we listen first and act together, we are stronger. The first 100 days focused on building understanding and alignment, and that foundation now carries into a phase centered on delivering visible, meaningful results rooted in member priorities. We will continue to share progress openly and invite feedback, because listening is not a phase, but an ongoing commitment. The strength of this association has always come from its members, and that is what drives this work and will shape what comes next.

“
We will continue to share progress openly and invite feedback, because listening is not a phase, but an ongoing commitment. The strength of this association has always come from its members, and that is what drives this work and will shape what comes next.

”



Rea Nominated for NEA Lifetime Service Award

Roger Rea, a longtime Omaha Public Schools chemistry teacher and local leader, has been nominated for the NEA-Retired Distinguished Service Award, recognizing a lifetime of service to public education and fellow educators.

Rea spent 34 years in the classroom and 20 years helping develop nationally recognized chemistry exams through the American Chemical Society. In Nebraska, he served in multiple leadership roles with the Omaha Education Association, including president, and helped shape statewide bargaining and benefits systems through NSEA. Rea was Nebraska's 1989 Teacher of the Year. He received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching in 1985 and was one of two Nebraska candidates for the NASA Teacher in Space Project in 1986. He was also a founding board member of the Educators' Health Alliance, where he served more than 25 years.

Following his retirement in 2000, Rea continued his work with educators through NSEA-Retired, serving nine years as president and delivering retirement and Medicare seminars to thousands of Nebraska educators.

The NEA-Retired Distinguished Service Award honors individuals whose careers reflect significant, lasting contributions to public education and continued service to the profession in retirement.



Walz for Governor: NSEA-Retired members are the first in the state to receive Lynne Walz for governor yard signs, joined by John Heineman and Tim Royers.

PVREA Supports EPIC Discovery Center Scholarship Fund



EPIC Discovery Center: PVREA Treasurer Guy Roggenkamp, EPIC Executive Director Alison Larson and EPIC Program Director Scott Mazour.

The Platte Valley Retired Education Association (PVREA) held its quarterly meeting Feb. 11, 2026, at the EPIC Discovery Center, where members learned more about the center's mission and voted to support student access.

Twenty-eight members attended the meeting, which featured a presentation from EPIC Executive Director Alison Larson. Larson shared the center's philosophy of STEAM-based learning, offering

hands-on experiences for learners from early childhood through young adulthood.

Following the presentation, PVREA members approved a \$525 donation to the EPIC Children's Foundation. The contribution will support a scholarship fund that helps cover admission costs for students who qualify, expanding access to educational opportunities at the center.

NSEA-Aspiring Educators



2026 AE Delegate Assembly and Spring Conference: 1. Current AE President Kathryn Koehler (right) hands incoming AE President MaKenna Benson-Berger the official gavel. 2. Presenters NSEA Vice-President Paul Schulte and Christina Running Hawk-Ellison take a photo with AE member Anton Goodwin. 3. Outgoing AE President Koehler with Nebraska gubernatorial candidate Lynne Walz. 4. (Left to right) AE members Camry Runyan, Kathryn Koehler, Jillian Mangold, Owen Elsasser and MaKenna Benson-Berger. 5. (Left to right) Cassie Phillips-Ernest, Owen Elsasser, Elizabeth Henderson, MaKenna Benson-Berger, Macy White and Paige Amos.

MARCH 27 & MARCH 28

ASPIRING EDUCATORS

Delegate Assembly

SPRING CONFERENCE

The NSEA Aspiring Educators (AE) hosted their annual Spring Conference and Delegate Assembly at Hastings College on March 27–28, bringing together AE from chapters across Nebraska for a weekend focused on professional growth, leadership development and the future of public education.

The annual gathering served as the organization's business meeting, where delegates came together to share ideas, strengthen connections and help shape priorities for the year ahead while building skills to support them as future educators.

The event featured professional development sessions, a career fair and networking opportunities designed to help members prepare for student teaching and entry into the profession. Attendees also took part in the Aspiring Educators Delegate Assembly.

Gubernatorial candidate Lynne Walz met with students during the event, and attendees heard from an early career panelist who shared insights and experiences from the field.

Social activities and informal networking opportunities provided additional chances for members to build community while celebrating the work of aspiring educators across Nebraska.

Speaking of Education

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

— Martin Luther King

Mailed By: **The Nebraska State Education Association**
605 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508-2742

VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 12



The statewide primary election is Tuesday, May 12 and **voter ID** is required.

Acceptable forms of Photo ID:

- Nebraska Driver's License
- Nebraska State ID
- Nebraska College ID
- Military ID
- Tribal ID
- US Passport
- Nebraska Political Subdivision ID (state, county, city, public school, etc.)
- Hospital, assisted-living or nursing home record

Nebraska Governor	Former State Sen. Lynne Walz
State Board of Education: Dist. 6	Grady Erickson
NU Board of Regents: Dist. 2	Elizabeth Butler

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE			
Dist. 02	Caitlin Knutson	Dist. 28	Former State Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks
Dist. 04	Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek	Dist. 32	Shay Smith
Dist. 10	Cindy Johnson	Dist. 34	Ben Blodgett
Dist. 16	Cindy Chatt	Dist. 36	Darin Tompkins
Dist. 18	Jess Goldoni	Dist. 46	Sen. Danielle Conrad
Dist. 20	Sen. John Fredrickson	Dist. 48	Kurt Zadina
Dist. 26	Sen. George Dungan	Voter ID Required!	