

The life of a public education employee is complicated and demanding. NJEA provides an integral support system for you within your chosen profession.

## What union membership does for *you*.

As a member of **NJEA**, **NEA**, your **county association** and your **local association**, you are part of a community of education professionals — **three million members strong** — devoted to advocating for students, educators and great public schools.



**A voice:** NJEA gives you a voice on issues that affect you in your school district, in New Jersey and in Washington D.C. By speaking up together, we ensure that our professional expertise helps guide the decisions that affect our lives.



**A representative:** With NJEA, you are never alone, whether you are negotiating a contract, defending your rights or advocating for positive change. NJEA's highly trained staff of experts is with you every step of the way, supporting your success.



**A community:** NJEA is 200,000 members, committed together to great public schools for every child. As an NJEA member you have access to advocacy training, professional development and a community of dedicated professionals who share your passion for public education.

**njea** My voice, my choice.

The value of  
**NJEA**  
membership



## Leadership Development & Advocacy

NJEA is a steadfast advocate for the rights of members:

- As a member, you can **vote** on your contract, elect your union leadership and help shape the policy and direction your representative body takes on your behalf.
- **Leadership opportunities** abound if you choose to become a building representative, run for office or serve on committees. Members can serve at the local, county, state, and national level.
- NJEA and its local affiliates are **member driven** – the more involved you become, the greater the opportunity to shape your profession.
- The **NJEA Summer Leadership Conference** is a weeklong advocacy and leadership training held each August. Hundreds of members from across New Jersey gather to explore issues, enjoy the company of their colleagues, and face the new school year refreshed in spirit and knowledge.
- The **Jim George Collective Bargaining Summit** is an overnight advocacy program to train members in negotiations and celebrate our accomplishments at the bargaining table.
- The **NJEA ESP Conference** is an advocacy and training program for Educational Support Professional members and locals as well as a celebration of the contributions made by ESP members to public schools.



## Professional Security

The challenges facing our members in their classrooms and worksites are ever growing. NJEA'S Legal Defense program allows NJEA to assist members with job-threatening issues to protect integrity, fairness and due process. Among those programs are:

- The **NJEA Attorney Network**, with attorneys experienced in the laws governing the rights of public education employees.
- **NEA Liability Insurance**, which provides funding for employment-related legal issues.
- The **Attorney Referral Program**, which provides consultations and discounted legal service for

non-employment-related personal issues such as wills, traffic fines, and more.

- **NEA Complimentary Life Insurance**, which provides a bit more financial security as a life insurance policy for your family at no monetary cost to you.
- Short and long-term care insurance through **NJEA Prudential Disability Insurance** and NEA insurance programs.
- **AID-NJEA** is a free and confidential 24-hour support system for NJ educators, school staff members, and their families. It is staffed by active and retired educators and mental health professionals trained to counsel and support their colleagues. Call **866-AID-NJEA** or **866-243-6532**



## Influencing Public Policy

Regardless of political persuasion, educators understand that the policies and laws governing public education are driven by elected officials. School boards govern specific school districts and negotiate contracts. State legislators and the governor determine state funding for schools and set many of the terms and conditions of your employment. Congress sets national education policy. Educating and influencing these policymakers is vital to maintaining successful public schools. There are many ways to be involved:

- Join NJEA PAC, our union's tool for supporting pro-education candidates in New Jersey.
- Join the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education, which supports pro-education candidates nationally.
- Become involved in your local and county's Legislative Action Teams (LAT) and speak directly with your legislators about issues important to you and your students.



## Professional & Career Development

NJEA provides tools you need to succeed professionally.

- **Professional learning** specifically intended for professional growth includes a wide variety of topics to help you meet the needs of your

students. Some of these include strategies for collaborative learning, instructional strategies, creating a healthy and positive school culture, equity issues, special education issues, and more. **Support is also available for such issues as certification, evaluation, and tenure.** Topics also cover a wide range of interests tailored to the needs of Educational Support Professionals.

- The **NJEA Convention** in November is a great opportunity to learn and network with colleagues from across the state.

A variety of publications, both online and in print form, also provide professional and advocacy resources for members. The **NJEA Review** and **njea.org** provide tools and information you need to succeed professionally.



## Member Benefits

- **The Hipp Foundation** – The Hipp Foundation provides grants of up to \$10,000 for school employees to expand their vision of excellence in our classrooms and schools.
- **PRIDE in Public Education:** NJEA's Pride in Public Education campaign provides grants to support the effort by local associations to share the successes of public education and build strong community support for our public schools.
- **FAST - Families and Schools Together Work for Children** – FAST encourages families to be involved in their children's education, to enhance their children's academic progress, and to feel welcome in public schools. FAST is a coalition of education advocates, community groups, and schools working together to foster family involvement in education.
- NJEA has a complete member benefits program including special services such as discount buying, home and auto insurance, travel, credit cards, and more. These services can be accessed using [njea.org](http://njea.org) and going to the **Members Benefits** section.

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