



## *Support and Relationships Influence and Power Protection and Advocacy*

### **1 A VOICE AT THE TABLE**

There's power in numbers. Belonging to your OEA and your local Association gives you greater influence over the decisions that affect your students, your classroom, and your career. Whether you advocate for changes at your worksite, speak at school board meetings, advocate for increased school funding at the state and local level, or lobby your state legislators and city/county board members, we will support you.

### **2 INCREASED PAY AND BENEFITS**

As part of your Association, you can advocate for professional pay, health care, and retirement security so a career in education is a viable profession.

### **3 IMPROVED PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

Your Local helps you advocate for access to high-quality professional development and increased collaboration time so you can improve your practice. Your Association (and that means you and your co-workers!) can work with the administration to develop mentoring and other support from more experienced colleagues.

### **4 NATION-WIDE COMMUNITY OF EDUCATORS**

When you are a member of your local Association, you are also a member of your OEA and the National Education Association (NEA). Your Association is your way to connect with likeminded colleagues across the district, state, and nation who are working to better students' lives.

### **5 IMPROVED WORKING AND STUDENT LEARNING CONDITIONS AT YOUR WORKSITE**

Your Association empowers educators to advocate for smaller class size, less standardized testing, input into curriculum, and safe buildings, just to name a few. These working conditions mean a better learning environment for your students.

### **6 POSITIVE CHANGE IN YOUR WORKSITE**

Your Association can work with the administration as a partner and collaborate with parents and community organizations to resolve issues in your school. As an educator who works with the children, you can work with the administration to solve problems together.

### **7 ENHANCED RIGHTS**

A collective bargaining agreement is an enforceable legal document that protects your rights. It contains a formal procedure for advancing grievances with support of an expert (Labor Relations Consultant). Your Association will be there to offer guidance, advice, and, if necessary, legal representation.

### **8 COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE**

As a member of your Association, you join forces with fellow educators to make a difference in the social justice issues that matter most to you. Your Association can provide training to members to develop new strategies to work to achieve equity in your schools.

### **9 LIABILITY PROTECTION**

Because the liability potential can be so serious for individuals employed by schools and other educational units, your OEA provides all eligible members with professional liability insurance through The Educators Employment Liability (EEL) Program.

### **10 MEMBER BENEFITS**

Improve your buying power and save money with NEA's Member Benefits program that offers extensive member-only benefits and discounts.

