

NEA Friends of Education: American Library Association

The NEA Board of Directors approved the recommendation to award the American Library Association (ALA) with the 2024 NEA Friends of Education Award. ALA spends \$12 million annually to support libraries across the United States. In 2020, there were 230 books challenged. That number rose to 2,571 books in 2022. We all need the freedom to learn and the freedom to read. ALA has been fighting censorship since 1967.



Hakeem Jeffries Visits NEA



Hakeem Jeffries (NY), Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives and a product of public schools came to speak with the NEA Board. He spoke of being ready to do the work for our children, public education, and the country's future. Democracy itself is on the ballot in 2024. He spoke of optimism and how this can help us overcome challenges. As we move into the election season, messaging is critical. The Biden Administration's track record must be shared to make a strong case in November. We have the record and vision; we need to anchor it in simplicity. "Education is the practice of Freedom."

Election 2024 Resources



\$
KEEP
CALM
AND
PAY YOUR
DUES

Candidate Comparison



Make A Plan to Vote

Step 1
SEE IF YOU'RE REGISTERED TO VOTE

Step 2
REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Getting your ballot ahead of Election Day gives you peace of mind and is a great way to avoid the last-minute in-person rush.

LET YOUR BALLOT GO GET YOUR STAMP



EdActivist App



Biden Wins Video



See Educators Run



Dues for 2024-2025

Dues for the upcoming year will increase \$5 for EA members and \$2 for ESP members.

Your NEA Directors in Action: Hill Report

Expand the Child Tax Credit To Reduce Child Poverty

The bipartisan Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024 would raise the amount of the Child Tax Credit over three years, index it to inflation, and increase the “refundable” portion for the poorest families (those earning so little they pay no federal taxes). Changes in how the credit is calculated would further increase benefits for low-income families with more than one child. More than 16 percent of U.S. children are living in households below the federal poverty line—in 2023, an income of \$30,000 for a family of 4. Research shows that growing up in poverty is linked to lower educational attainment and earnings, more emotional and behavioral problems, worse adult health, and other lifelong problems.

Paraprofessionals & Education Support Staff Bill of Rights

Education support professionals (ESPs) transport students, keep schools and grounds safe and clean, prepare and serve healthy meals, provide one-on-one attention, and perform other vital functions that keep schools and campuses running. Despite their importance, many struggle to get by—one-third make \$25,000 or less a year, and 1 in 10 rely on assistance programs to feed their families. This would help ESPs receive the living wages, health care, paid leave, and safe working conditions they deserve. The resolutions call for a livable, competitive wage and access to benefits, including health care and paid leave; the supplies, resources, and training they need for their jobs; a meaningful voice in workplace policies and the right to negotiate for better working conditions; the dignity of safe, healthy, and adequately staffed workplaces; and year-round job security and opportunities for growth.

Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023

The bipartisan Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act of 2023 will help provide funding for public schools, roads, and other public services in rural communities across America. The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 changed the revenue-sharing structure for counties that contain national forests managed by the U.S. Forest Service and certain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management to further support the economic security of the nearby rural communities. Conceptually similar to the federal Impact Aid program, the SRS program accommodates the loss of tax base due to the presence of national forests and select lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Counties can use these funds in various ways, including to support their schools, students, and educators.

NEA RA 2024: Philadelphia Convention Center

July 4-7: *Promote, Protect, Strengthen Public Education*

RA Town Hall June 12, 8 pm EST

Strategic Plan & Budget Hearing June 13, 7:30 pm EST

Legislative Hearing June 17, 9 pm EST

Resolutions Hearing June 18, 7:30 pm EST

CCBR Hearing June 20, 7:30 pm EST

Ohio Hotel:
Lowes Philadelphia
1200 Market Street

Ohio NEA Director's Report