

Take Action to Ensure Your Child Has Opportunity for Success

The research is clear: When families and communities are involved in their children's education, students attend school more regularly, stay in school longer, and perform at higher levels. That's because educators can't tackle socioeconomic and racial disparities alone. They need help from students' families.

Here are seven things you can do to raise your hand for equity, get involved, and ensure your child has access to a great public school.

1. Serve on the school board and/or attend school board meetings where you can be vocal and persuasive. Attend school district meetings when academic issues are discussed.
2. Contact school leaders and state education officials to express support for policies that provide all children—no matter their ZIP code—with access to great public schools.
3. Talk to community and faith-based leaders about why they must be involved in the schools in their communities and fight for what's right for children.
4. Write a letter to your local newspaper editor describing the issues your children face in school, and what can be done to help support their teachers.
5. Visit your members of Congress when they are at home so that they appreciate your level of commitment to ensuring great public schools. Or, send them an email from [NEA's Legislative Action Center](http://www.nea.org/lac). (www.nea.org/lac)
6. Talk to local business leaders and military families who understand how educated citizens benefit the economy, communities, and the nation.
7. Discuss education issues with friends who may not have children in public schools. Talk about education when you're in the grocery store, and at community sporting events. Wherever you are, talk about why it is important to support public education!

Want to know what makes a great public school? Check out [NEA's Great Public Schools \(GPS\) Indicators](http://www.nea.org/gpsindicators) (www.nea.org/gpsindicators) – a tool that can help you advocate for the policies and practices that are integral to the success of schools and students. Don't miss the special section on [parent and community engagement](#).