IN an increasingly diverse society where communities of color comprise over 100 million Americans, the Community Advocacy & Partnership Engagement (CAPE) Department brings America closer to the National Education Association’s vision of great public schools for every student.

Through partnerships, advocacy and organizing, CAPE is where communities of color are connected to this important mission.

Helping unite the nation to fulfill the promise of public education is the work of NEA’s members and Affiliates. CAPE outreaches in the following four communities of color: African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian American/Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latinx. CAPE also focuses on family and community engagement.

For more information on CAPE, our tools, and resources please see our links and contact information below.

CAPE State and Local Project Grants Website: http://www.nea.org/grants/58935.htm
CAPE Website: www.nea.org/CAPE
202-833-4000

National Education Association
Community Advocacy & Partnership Engagement (CAPE)
1201 16th Street, NW
Suite 413
Washington, DC 20036
Partnerships

It’s through strategic partnerships CAPE holds with communities and community organizations that NEA brokers and maintains support for public education at every level (local, state, and national).

With a commitment to true, authentic partnership, these relationships are of mutual benefit—by design, building capacity and power for all.

CAPE also provides research to Affiliates considering potential partnerships, as well as technical assistance on engagement with community organizations.

Advocacy

Through coordinated joint actions with partners, CAPE increases and enhances the Association’s rich history of advocacy for public education and social justice.

We seek to garner community support for policies and other measures that will provide equal access to a quality public education, improve teaching and learning conditions, attract and retain the most talented and Aspiring Educators of Color, secure adequate and equitable funding for schools, and advance a more just society through the activism of our members and joint advocacy with our partners.

We maintain close working relationships with organizations at the national level that represent communities of color, civil rights organizations, and intergovernmental organizations to jointly advocate policy priorities that are of concern to NEA members and our partners.

Organizing

CAPE supports the collective action of NEA members in communities of color. Through collective action, CAPE raises the voices of NEA members and communities of color to organize around progressive civic and social justice issues to ensure children of color have access to a quality public education.

Recognizing that partnerships with parents and the community are essential to student success, CAPE’s portfolio also includes bridging the gap between educators and parents and community. With an emphasis on robust, positive, proactive and year-round programming, CAPE’s community outreach and engagement framework helps Affiliates move this very important priority from the transactional, to the transformative.

The department provides state and local partnership funding grants that are intended to assist state/local affiliates to identify, engage, and mobilize community organizations and community leaders around increasing student achievement, engaging members who have participated in leadership trainings, and creating union roles to build capacity to engage community partners.