Amplifying Our Voice: Leading Boldly for Our Students, Our Professions, and Our Union

Educator Voice: An Unprecedented Opportunity for Our Nation’s Educators

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NEA Leadership Competency: ORGANIZING

- NEA Leadership Competency progression level: Level 1: Foundational
- NEA Leadership Competency themes addressed in this presentation:
  - Example: Utilizes best practices in advocacy and political efforts
  - Example: Leads public education policy reform
This session addresses the following NEA Strategic Goal and NEA Organizational Priority:

• NEA Strategic Goal
  - Advancing opportunities that will identify, organize, and engage new and early career educators; amplify the voices of all educators, support our members’ professional growth, and promote social justice for our students, communities and our nation;
  - Securing a pro-public education environment for students, educators, and families; and
  - Building the capacity of the local, state and national union to ensure the success of public education.

• NEA Organizational Priority
  - My School, My Voice
Why NOW?

- **Every Student Succeeds Act** (ESSA) was signed into law by President Obama in December 2015.
- ESSA allows for state and district policy agendas to more effectively combat the effects of poverty and inequality in our public schools.
- Gives educators more say in their schools and a seat at the table to determine what really matters to student success.
Educator Voice

Educators have the opportunity to meaningfully engage and contribute to state and local plans.

This is why we are here!
Families, educators, SISPs, and community members are ALL critical stakeholders in school improvement.
You know what students in your schools need.

NEA tools can help you identify the most common issues among a variety of stakeholders so you can engage others.
ACTIVITY #1
Meet & Confer

Host your own #TMM to share the Checklist
These are all sections of ESSA that require “Stakeholder Consultation” in Consolidated State Plans. The statutory consultation requirement does not include a State to describe how it met the requirements, but a State MAY include supplemental information about these efforts. See DOE ESSA Guidance for more information.
Federal provisions that require Educator Voice

1. Title I – Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
2. Title I – LEA Plans (i.e. District Plans; Equity Plans)
3. Title I – Local Funding Pilot Program
4. Title II – LEA Subgrants for Preparing, Training, and Recruiting Educators
5. Title II – Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program
6. Title III – Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students
7. Title IV – 21st Century Schools
Ways to raise your Educator Voice

1. Participate in a school-based improvement team to develop your school’s comprehensive or targeted support and improvement plan.
2. Share your findings from a needs assessment with your schools and district leaders.
3. Ask to be part of your district ESSA implementation team.
4. Engage in family and community engagement policymaking and collaborate with the school to administer the policy.
5. Ensure Schoolwide Program Plans that dictate how Title I funds are spent authentically address the issues at your school.
6. Testify at a school board meeting or meet with your superintendent.
7. Bargain for the Common Good! Engage the community in advocating for the things students need most as part of your contract bargaining.
Gather evidence to support your cause and be part of the action!

NEA’s Opportunity Audit is a needs assessment that is built to bring education stakeholders together. By conducting an audit, you can gather the information needed to approach decision-makers and demand your seat at the table.
ACTIVITY #2
WHO WHAT WHY

Using your Checklist data and information about your school, identify:
- WHO to talk to
- WHAT to talk about
- WHY addressing your issue will make for better public schools for ALL students
Talk to others to gain consensus and spread awareness.

NEA’s Conversation Starters provide useful talking points and tips for telling your story so you can talk to any audience— from Planning Rooms to Legislative Hearings!
ACTIVITY #3
Chat to Win

Spread the word about #myschoolmyvoice and empower others to do the same!
Session Outcomes

The content from this session can be used in the following ways in your current position/role:

• Attendees will be able to discuss various provisions of federal law that give educators a stake in critical decisions about our schools.

• Attendees will actively participate in identifying and planning ways to authentically engage in local leadership.

• Attendees will use NEA’s My School My Voice tools to build a team, identify issues, and advocate for students.
Thank you for coming!

• Please complete the evaluation for this breakout session by using the NEA Summit Mobile App! (5 minutes)

• Please visit the Leadership Development Resources website at www.nea.org/leadershipdevelopment