

Skilled Trades

We ensure school safety and comfort. We make school buildings attractive. We keep machinery and equipment working.



Education support professionals (ESPs) ensure students and schools succeed. We maintain and improve the physical quality of school buildings, offices, and facilities, ensuring that they are safe, comfortable, and attractive for students, staff, and the community. We do a wide variety of jobs that require specialized expertise — and often licenses or certifications — in specific vocations. We also work behind the scenes to repair, maintain, and operate machinery that is essential to the smooth functioning of the school.

FAST FACTS:

- 25% of us work in school buildings, 22% are assigned to a central maintenance facility
- 99% work full-time
- 91% are male
- 81% are married
- The average age is 52
- We are 1% of the total NEA ESP membership

OUR JOBS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Electricians
- Carpenters
- Painters and Glaziers
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
- Mechanics and Specialists
- Machine Operators, Assemblers, and Inspectors
- Printing Services Personnel
- Non-managerial Supervisors



National Education Association
Education Support
Professional Quality
1201 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
esp.program@nea.org
www.nea.org/esp

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NEA'S SKILLED TRADE ESPs ARE:

Well-trained and experienced. Fifty-three percent have attended college, and 30 percent have a two-year or higher college degree. Forty-three percent have completed specialized coursework. Forty-two percent have specialized certificates and 54 percent have licenses.

Committed to students and our careers. Thirty-six percent have given their own money to purchase food or school supplies for students. Ninety-three percent plan to stay in the ESP field, and 83 percent plan to stay in their current jobs until retirement. On average, NEA's skilled trade ESPs have been working in the ESP field for 16 years.

Active in the school community. Fifty-eight percent live in the communities where they work. Twenty-two percent support activities of a parent organization and 25 percent have supported a sports program.

Focused on safety. Seventy-six percent have job responsibilities that involve promoting school safety. Eighty-eight percent believe bullying is a problem at their school. Seventy-one percent believe it is their job to intervene when bullying occurs and 69 percent believe they have the effective strategies for handling bullying situations.