NEA ESP K-12 Career Families: A Closer Look

**SKILLED TRADES K-12 ESP MEMBERS**

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. NEA skilled trade members perform a wide variety of jobs that require specialized expertise—and often licenses or certifications—in specific vocations. We work behind the scenes to repair, maintain, and operate machinery that is essential to the smooth functioning of the school.

Skilled trades is one of the nine ESP career families. NEA ESPs make up nearly a half million of NEA’s 3 million members. As a critical part of the education workforce, NEA skilled trade members meet the needs of the whole student, ensuring students and schools succeed.

**FAST FACTS**
- 34% work district-wide
- 16% work out of a central maintenance facility
- 25% work in a school building
- 96% work full-time
- 81% male
- Average age is 50
- 2% of the total K-12 NEA ESP membership

**SKILLED TRADE CAREERS:**
- ELECTRICIANS
- CARPENTERS
- PAINTERS AND GLAZIERS
- HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING
- MECHANICS AND SPECIALISTS
- MACHINE OPERATORS, ASSEMBLERS, AND INSPECTORS
- PRINTING SERVICES PERSONNEL
- NON-MANAGERIAL SUPERVISORS

**Committed to students and their career.** On average, NEA skilled trade members have been working in the ESP field for 14 years. 87% currently plan to stay in the ESP field, and 66% plan to stay in their current position until retirement. 47% have given money to purchase food or school supplies for students.

**Well-trained and experienced.** Almost half (40%) have a 2-year or higher college degree. 60% have completed specialized coursework. 71% have specialized certificates and 69% have licenses.

**Active in the school community.** A majority (60%) live in the communities where they work. 41% have supported a parent organization and 32% have coached or supported a sports team.

**Focused on safety.** A large majority (78%) have responsibilities that involve promoting school safety.