



# Supporting ESP Professional Excellence

NEA is leading and strengthening efforts to elevate Education Support Professionals (ESPs) as respected professionals essential to the success of all students, educators, schools, and communities through relevant, Association-convened, ESP-led programs and supports.

Learn more at [nea.org/esppd](https://nea.org/esppd)



**“We must be in the room where decisions are made. And we must provide educators with the professional supports they need to be culturally competent and active leaders in their communities.”**

— Andrea Beeman, 2020 NEA ESP of the Year, Special Education Paraeducator, Maple Heights, Ohio

**“Any time you give people the opportunity to learn it gives them a voice. But when you give ESPs a voice and an opportunity to help other support staff know their value, then mentoring becomes invaluable.”**

— Judy Near, Health Technician (retired), Cañon City, Colorado

## ESP Professional Growth Continuum (PGC)

Develop your professional knowledge and skills using the ESP PGC to positively impact your students, your worksites, and your communities. Grounded in eight universal standards of professionalism, the PGC provides ESPs with clear pathways for professional growth throughout their careers.

[nea.org/pgc](https://nea.org/pgc)

## ESP Learning Network Webinars

Join ESP colleagues from across the country in a monthly professional development webinar on a wide variety of topics to support your professional growth. Missed a webinar? No problem! Many past webinar recordings are available now.

[nea.org/esppdwebinars](https://nea.org/esppdwebinars)

## Professional Development Offerings in Spanish

The ESP Professional Growth Continuum and the ESP Learning Network include Spanish language options. Learn more at

[nea.org/pgc](https://nea.org/pgc) and [nea.org/esppdwebinars](https://nea.org/esppdwebinars)

## NEA ESP National Conference

Attend the largest national conference for ESPs to develop the skills and knowledge to support student and school success, strengthen your educator voice through the Association, and network with the largest community of ESPs.

[nea.org/esconference](https://nea.org/esconference)

## ESPs: Supporting Our Own Through Peer Mentoring

Design and build effective workplace ESP peer mentoring programs to support ESP professional excellence. Available formats include in-person events, blended learning, independent learning path courses (coming soon!), and a manual to guide program development.

[nea.org/esppdmentoring](https://nea.org/esppdmentoring)

## Building Winning Teams: Effective Paraeducator-Teacher Teams

Develop strong paraeducator-teacher partnerships critical for student learning and success by engaging in this eight-session in-person professional learning opportunity.

[nea.org/bwt](https://nea.org/bwt)

## WHY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ESPs?

Everyone who works in schools plays a critical role in supporting student success. Learning occurs throughout the school day, in the cafeteria, the hallways, school playgrounds, athletic fields, and school buses. ESPs create experiences and conditions for healthy, safe, supported, engaged, and challenged students.





### ESP Leadership Institute (ESPLI)

Join the next generation of ESP leaders to develop leadership attitudes, skills, and knowledge that will enhance your ability to be visible, vocal advocates at the local, state, and national levels of the Association.

[nea.org/espli](http://nea.org/espli)

### ESP of the Year Award Program

Learn about the annual awards program that recognizes ESPs for the contributions they make in their schools, communities, and the Association, and their role as leaders and advocates for ESPs across the country.

[nea.org/espoty](http://nea.org/espoty)

### NEA Micro-credentials

Demonstrate your knowledge and skills and earn a micro-credential! A micro-credential is a short, competency-based recognition that ESPs can earn in a range of topics, from applying the ESP PGC standards to your role and responsibilities to working effectively in paraeducator-teacher teams.

[nea.org/micro-credentials](http://nea.org/micro-credentials)

### Student and Educator Mental Health

Learn how to support the mental well-being of your school community through blended-learning courses, webinars, and resources on social emotional learning, grief, and trauma-informed education.

[nea.org/sel](http://nea.org/sel)  
[nea.org/grief](http://nea.org/grief)  
[nea.org/trauma](http://nea.org/trauma)

**“As a school nurse, I know the health of my students also includes their social and emotional well-being. As a school community, everyone has a critical role to play in ensuring that we meet the needs of the whole student, and the more we know, the better the outcomes for our students.”**

– Sheila Caldwell, BSN, RN, CSN-NJ,  
 School Nurse, New Jersey



### Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Protect the health and safety of students and educators by learning how to control pests without harmful pesticides. IPM training and certification is now available from the IPM Institute of North America.

[contact tbarchak@nea.org](mailto:tbarchak@nea.org)

### Be Like Water: ESP Empowerment and Activism

Work for change in your school communities and beyond! Attend this two-hour virtual or in-person training for ESP activists.

[contact tbarchak@nea.org](mailto:tbarchak@nea.org)

### Protect Against the Privatization of ESP Jobs

Fight to keep public education and ESP professions out of the hands of profiteers! Learn how NEA is preventing the privatization of ESP jobs and protecting the future of public education.

[nea.org/espjobsecurity](http://nea.org/espjobsecurity)

**Access or request digital and hard copies of our resources at [nea.org/esp-publications](http://nea.org/esp-publications)**

**SCAN ME!**

