



“NEA’s Read Across America” 2022-23 State Affiliate Grant Criteria

Please note: Only NEA State Affiliates may apply for these grants.

Application Deadline: Monday, November 14, 2022

Applicants will be notified by: Friday, December 16, 2022

Description

NEA State Affiliates may apply for a "Read Across America Grant" to enhance state affiliate coordinated Read Across America events and/or activities based on the theme of “Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers.” Acknowledging that book and curriculum bans are challenges that NEA members across the country face, this grant program encourages proposals that use funds as a way to get diverse books into the hands of students. By diverse books, we mean books that feature diverse characters and recognize all diverse experiences, including (but not limited to) diversity of race, culture, language, setting, beliefs, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, income, ability, religion, family structure.

While event(s) or activities may occur or launch on or about "NEA's Read Across America Day," Thursday, March 2, 2023, proposals that increase awareness of Read Across America’s year-round focus on the importance, value, and fun of reading and sharing diverse books, are encouraged.

Affiliates may apply for any amount up to a maximum of \$7,500. A total of \$50,000 will be awarded.

Examples of appropriate events and/or activities highlighting diversity include:

- Host a statewide reading tour that makes school visits to conduct reading events and distribute diverse books.
- Make your state the place where Read Across America is on everyone’s calendar. Use the [2022-2023 Read Across America Calendar](#) which features three diverse books each month for young, middle grade, and young adult readers, as a guide for regular guest readers to read aloud and do book related activities.
- Partner with Little Free Library and install, fill, and maintain association-branded little free libraries to support and improve student literacy and community exposure to diverse books.
- Provide resources for members and K-12 public school educators to host a diverse book club in their classroom or school challenging members and educators to host at least one book club per county.
- Bring diverse authors and illustrators to schools or to communities for special virtual or in-person visits and provide students with copies of their books.

Read Across America Resources

- Find [ideas and other resources](#) to help you brainstorm an appropriate event or activity.
- Find activity ideas related to specific books in the [2022-23 RAA Digital Calendar](#) and for [previously recommended titles](#).

Application Deadline

Please [submit your application](#) by **Monday, November 14, 2022**.

What NEA Will Provide

- NEA staff will be available for consultation with the grant application process via phone calls and e-mail. NEA will not provide staff "on the ground" to coordinate the event or activity.
- Recommendations for potential partners like [First Book](#) for reduced cost books and contacts with publishers for quantities of books or for author visits.

Affiliate's Role and Responsibilities

- Implementation of the proposed program, event, or activity outlined in the State Affiliate Event Grant application. RAA event grant should supplement funding, resources, and staffing from the State and/or Local Affiliates involved. Events should target schools with student populations in greatest need.
- Promotion of "Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers" and NEA's Read Across America program on State and Local Affiliates' online and social media, publications, news releases, and other member and external communication vehicles. NEA and RAA logos should appear alongside/near the state and/or local affiliate's branding.*
- While the focus will be on member-driven, student-focused reading-related events, the State Affiliate should also pursue earned media opportunities at the local and state level, utilize member communications vehicles, and online/social media to promote NEA's Read Across America to both members and the public.
- Use your RAA event to help recruit and organize members by providing information in "meet and greet" type breakfast or lunch open houses and/or lit tables.
- Purchase books and other giveaways, such as "goody bags" and other appropriate items.
- Recipients of previous RAA grants **MUST** submit progress report before a 2023 application will be considered.
- Grant recipients are required to adhere by and implement [RAA logo standards](#).

For More Information

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