



# 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

“ESP Peer Mentoring fosters friendships, promotes often dormant talents, and makes for a healthy community. By sharing proven procedures, policies and practices, we support our students, ourselves, and all the adults in the room!”

— Olive Giles  
Child Study Team Secretary,  
New Jersey

## ESP Professional Growth Continuum (PGC)

Grounded in eight universal standards of what ESPs need to know and be able to do, the PGC provides a clear pathway for professional growth throughout ESP careers. Learn more about strengthening your skills and gaining recognition through PGC-aligned independent study courses and micro-credentials.

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

## ESP Learning Network Webinars

Join ESP colleagues from across the country in monthly professional development webinars and quarterly **ESP Community Conversations** on a variety of topics designed to support your professional growth. Missed a webinar? No problem! View past webinar recordings online.

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

## ESPs: Supporting Our Own Through Peer Mentoring

Design and build impactful and sustainable ESP peer mentoring programs to support ESP professional excellence. Available formats include independent online learning path courses, in-person events, 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 LEARNING FOR ESPs?

Everyone who works in public education 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](https://nea.org/espli)

**“ESPLI gave me the opportunity to grow as a leader and the skills to continue advocating for racial, social, and economic justice. It not only helped me professionally, but it also gave me the best union family.”**

— Yahaira Rodriguez  
Paraeducator, Massachusetts

## ESP of the Year Award Program

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

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

## NEA ESP Bill of Rights

Pledge your support for the ESP Bill of Rights and learn how to build strategic campaigns to advocate for a living wage, fairness, and respect for ESPs all across the country.

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

## NEA Micro-credentials

Amplify your practice, boost your résumé, and show your district and school that you are a skilled professional. Micro-credentials are competency-based recognitions that can be earned through independent and group professional learning experiences.

[nea.certificationbank.com/ESP](https://nea.certificationbank.com/ESP)

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

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

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

## 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)

## 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](https://nea.org/espjobsecurity)



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

**SCAN ME!**

