

**HOT RESOURCES for
Teacher Appreciation Week 2026
May 4-8, 2026**

Updated 4/21/2026

This year's **National Teacher Appreciation Week** (TAW) will take place **May 4-8, 2026** (National Teacher Day is Tuesday, May 5, and National Black Teacher Appreciation Day is Thursday, May 7). Throughout the week, we are **transforming our appreciation into action** that protects students, strengthens public schools, and ensures educators are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

RESOURCES TO USE

Teacher Appreciation Week [page](#) *(being updated regularly!)*

Sample Teacher Appreciation Week [Proclamation](#)

Teacher Thank You E-cards - [Send an E-card to Your Favorite Teachers | NEA](#)

Educator Spotlight Stories:

- [As Fear Grips Schools, Minnesota Educators Mobilize to Protect Students and Families | NEA](#)
- NEA [Member Spotlight List](#)
- NEA [Member Stories](#)

Black Teacher Appreciation Day [Social Media Toolkit](#)

Teacher Appreciation Week Message Guidance & Talking Points (scroll down to the end of this document)

TAW's EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATORS

During Teacher Appreciation Week, we encourage you to spotlight the remarkable educators in your state who go above and beyond for their students and communities.

These may be teachers who:

- Organize food drives or other essential supports for students
- Create welcoming, safe environments for students and families
- Build union strength
- Mentor fellow educators
- Develop innovative programs or teaching practices
- Work tirelessly to support special education students

Share their inspiring stories across your website and social media channels. Consider hosting a special event to surprise and honor an outstanding teacher in your state. Here are some tried and tested tips:

- **Recruit a corporate or community sponsor** to help support and elevate your event.
- **Partner with a media outlet or elected official** to co-host your event with your state or local leaders and help secure strong media coverage.
- **Capture photos and video** during your event to share with members and the public across your communication platforms (be sure to use our #thankateacher hashtag).

Sample Social Post Copy

Facebook/Instagram Post Copy:

1 It's Teacher Appreciation Week! Let's show our dedicated teachers how much we appreciate them by transforming appreciation into ACTION. That means respect, fair wages, and a voice at the table when decisions about our schools and students' futures are made.

Here are some ways to turn your APPRECIATION into ACTION!

- 🎯 Support collective bargaining rights in your state. Educators earn more --- 24% more, on average --- where they have strong unions and the freedom to bargain collectively.
- 🎯 Vote for pro-public education candidates for the schoolboard, state house, and U.S. Congress. Let's fully fund our public schools!
- 🎯 Speak up for teachers at school board meetings. Ensure their voices and needs are heard by local leaders who decide funding, salaries, benefits, class sizes, and more.

2	<p>This year for Teacher Appreciation Week, show your gratitude to educators by showing up and speaking out.</p> <p>You can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Tell teachers how much you care about their work, AND tell lawmakers to protect and fund public schools ♥ Drop off a gift card AND drop by a school board meeting ♥ Shout out your appreciation on social media AND vote for pro-public education candidates <p>Learn how you can turn your appreciation into action for educators this week and every week >></p>
3	<p>Dear Educators: We're so grateful for everything you do. Today, and every day, we're not only saying THANK YOU, we're turning appreciation into action! Learn more >></p>

Bluesky/X/FB Reels/ Instagram Stories & TikTok Post Copy:

1	<p>Share your gratitude for educators by showing up and speaking out for Teacher Appreciation Week. Learn more >></p>
2	<p>This Teacher Appreciation Week, turn appreciation into action for educators. Learn more >></p>
3	<p>Appreciation ♥ Action. Appreciation goes beyond kind words and means fully funding public schools, protecting union power, and voting for pro-public education candidates >></p>

HASHTAG

#ThankATeacher

#TeacherAppreciationWeek

#AppreciationMeansAction

ACCOUNTS TO FOLLOW

- [NEA Facebook](#)
- [NEA Instagram](#)
- [NEA Bluesky](#)
- [Becky's Bluesky](#)

KEY MESSAGES

Every day, public school teachers show up for their students, schools, and communities. From inspiring our students' curiosity to igniting their love of learning, we are grateful for their patience and we appreciate their dedication. But we know appreciating their hard work goes well beyond kind words. True appreciation means respect, competitive wages, and a voice at the table where decisions about our schools and students' futures are made.

The quality of a student's education depends on the quality of their educators. When we respect educators and demand our leaders pay them a competitive wage, students benefit most. Fair wages mean students get qualified, dedicated teachers who can afford to keep teaching, building a meaningful career dedicated to the thousands of students they teach, inspire, and help to reach their full potential.

Too many teachers aren't being paid what they are worth, and it's even worse for teachers who don't have the ability to bargain together. Public school teachers nationwide are paid less than other professionals with similar levels of education, and that pay gap is widening. We know the educators who help our students reach their full potential deserve better.

That's why this Teacher Appreciation Week, **we're transforming our appreciation into action** where it matters: at the bargaining table, in the rooms where decisions are made, and at the ballot box. Because our appreciation lasts well beyond this one week---our teachers deserve respect all year long.

In too many states, leaders are more interested in giving tax breaks to the wealthiest than in fully funding our schools. These anti-public education politicians try to push educators out of the room when decisions are made. Then they fail to invest in public schools and the teachers who help our students thrive.

That's why, as a union, we advocate together for our students, for our public schools, and for educators to have the seat at the table they deserve. Because educators earn more — 24% more, on average — where they have strong unions and the freedom to bargain collectively. That's respect and appreciation in action.

Every student deserves the support and resources they need to thrive. That means every teacher needs not just appreciation but action in school board meetings, at the state house, and during the upcoming elections. We'll honor the educators who make a difference in our students' lives by taking action for better learning and working conditions in our schools.

Talking Points

- **Teachers deserve more than gratitude.** The quality of a student's education depends on the quality of their educators. Fair pay means students get qualified, dedicated teachers who can afford to keep teaching and build meaningful careers.

- **The pay gap is real, and it's growing.** Public school teachers are paid less than other professionals with similar education levels. Too many educators are working more than one job just to get by. That has to change.
- **Unions make a difference.** Educators earn 24% more, on average, where they have strong unions and the freedom to bargain collectively. Collective bargaining is respect and appreciation in action.
- **We asked 1,000 educators what appreciation really means to them.**
 - More than a third said better pay would be most meaningful, followed by greater respect and support.
 - 77% said higher pay would make the biggest difference in their daily lives.
 - More than half of educators are working multiple jobs. That's not appreciation, that's a crisis. We need leaders who will fully fund our public schools and pay educators what they're worth.
- **Anti-public education politicians are standing in the way.** In too many states, leaders give tax breaks to the wealthiest than fully funding our schools. They push educators out of the room when decisions are made and fail to invest in the teachers who help our students thrive.
- **Appreciation lasts beyond one week.** We honor educators by taking action: at school board meetings, at the state house, and at the ballot box. Every student deserves a fully funded school and a great teacher.

Shareable Lines

- "Billionaires don't need another tax break; teachers need a bathroom break."
- Drop off a gift card and drop by a school board meeting.
- Appreciation into Action. True appreciation means fully funding public schools, protecting union power, and voting for pro-public education candidates.