



Great Public Schools for Every Child

The Truth about NEA

With any organization that has power through the voice of many, it's understandable that entities with power outside of the organization are threatened. Today it's common to use falsehoods, disguised as truth, to "spin" a negative message on a person(s) or organization(s) in order to damage the organization's good work. As education professionals, we have seen this happen to our profession, and our collective associations. You have, undoubtedly, heard a colleague say they were not interested in joining our Association because of its affiliation with the National Education Association (NEA). Colleagues quote myths as reasons why they do not want to belong. NEA would like to take a moment to dispel some of those myths.

Myth: NEA opposes parental choice and is out to destroy charter, private, and parochial schools.

Truth: NEA supports schools that are held to the same standards of accountability and access as traditional public schools.

Myth: NEA favors banning all guns and disarming citizens.

Truth: NEA supports common sense limits on the use and distribution of certain kinds of guns—including handguns and semiautomatic rifles. NEA cares deeply about student safety and supports policies and programs that protect students from weapons and violence.

Myth: NEA encourages curriculum that promotes homosexuality and supports hiring preferences for homosexual teachers.

Truth: NEA believes that schools should be safe for all students and teachers regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Association opposes discrimination against any group of students or employees.

Myth: NEA supports abortion.

Truth: NEA supports reproductive freedom without government intervention. NEA does not have a pro-abortion policy. Period. NEA's policy statement reads: "The National Education Association supports family planning, including the right to reproductive freedom."

Myth: NEA members who become involved in politics are unprofessional.

Truth: NEA encourages its members to become effective advocates for students by participating in politics. Politics influence all aspects of education—school budgets, curriculum and textbook content, class size, and other pressing educational concerns. Considering what’s at stake, school employees can’t afford not to be politically active.

Myth: NEA protects incompetent teachers.

Truth: NEA wants a qualified teacher in every classroom. While NEA supports due process in cases involving the dismissal, transfer, or demotion of employees, it also promotes the use of peer assistance and mentoring programs to help retain promising teachers and maintain high standards of teaching.

Engage in conversation about what is true about our national association.

