



2020/2021

**MARYLAND STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

# Educators working together for students, schools, communities

**Educators are committed to the success of every student. To reach that goal, they need reasonable class sizes and workloads, high quality resources and professional development, a modern and safe working environment, fair and sensible evaluation and testing policies, and protected and improved salaries and benefits. Your union—your local, state, and national education associations—are democratic organizations of school employees that fight to achieve these common goals so you and your students can be successful.**

## **Common education interests, common education goals**

These groups of educators—75,000 members in Maryland and 3 million across the country—lead on issues that affect public education, our professions, and our students. We believe that no matter where a child lives in Maryland, the promise of a quality public school education is theirs. We use our strong, united voice to fight for equitable funding and the resources students need for success, for class sizes that make meaningful one-on-one interaction possible, and for professional pay, a clean and safe work environment, autonomy, and respect for all educators. We advocate for high quality professional development that is rich, deep, and targeted to the changing needs of educators, the complexity of their work, and the diversity of their students. And we're committed to supporting educators at every stage in their career—from their very first years through a secure retirement.

## **Educators taking back the power on education policies**

We know that what happens in the classroom is directly related to the public policies that come from federal, state, and local leaders. In our democracy, every voice matters, but history has proven that organized voices—louder and more powerful voices—are the ones lawmakers respond to. MSEA and your local association make sure your voice is heard and respected by education policymakers. MSEA members lead on education issues where decisions are made in your county, Annapolis, and Washington, D.C.

MSEA has been a vocal advocate for ending Maryland's \$2.9 billion annual education funding shortage and delivering the resources and educator-informed policies that schools need. Our activism led to the passage of the 2020 Blueprint for Maryland's Future adding billions in new funding to increase staffing levels, expand pre-k and community schools, and raise educator pay. We will now fight to override Gov. Hogan's misguided veto of this bipartisan bill and ensure that it is implemented well. We know that students need the support of the Blueprint now more than ever as we work to close the educational inequities that deepened as a result of the coronavirus crisis and work to end the relentless effects of institutional racism that continue to ravage our Black and Brown families and their communities. MSEA will remain at the forefront of the fight to ensure that every student in every zip code gets the funding, support, and opportunities that they deserve.

Without MSEA, you're on your own. As a member, you know that 75,000 members and MSEA have your back. Learn more about MSEA and how you can support your profession—visit [marylandeducators.org](http://marylandeducators.org), or ask your school representative.

MSEA's 75,000—and NEA's 3 million—members carry powerful influence and buying power that supports exclusive member benefits. Leadership training and professional development, professional advocacy and organizing on education policy, legal protection and representation, and collective bargaining protect and enhance your career. Discounts at local businesses and national chains, exclusive access to top-rated financial programs, discounted home and car insurance, and members-only savings programs for college, retirement, and more provide opportunities and financial flexibility for your family.

LOCAL, MSEA, NEA MEMBER	POTENTIAL MEMBER
You vote to support or reject your employment contract. You can be a part of your local member-led negotiating team.	You have no vote on the issues that affect your salaries and wages, working conditions, or profession
Legal assistance by attorneys who specialize in education issues on non-contractual issues such as appeals of suspension or discharge	No legal assistance
\$1,000,000 professional liability protection from NEA	No liability coverage
Professional assistance and representation on non-contractual work-related issues	No assistance or representation
Access to exclusive discounts on car purchases, home financing, and more	Not available
First-year members receive NEA's Complimentary \$15,000 Life Insurance free	No complimentary coverage
Access to MSEA and NEA leadership training and professional development on distance learning, restorative practices, closing opportunity gaps, SLOs, classroom management, your contract, lobbying your county council and state legislators, and more.	No access
You're one of more than 75,000 educators in the state working together on common policy goals to improve public education and the education professions	You're alone
You're able to join the leadership team at MSEA as a school representative, delegate to the local, state, or national representative assembly, or local or state governance	You are unable to take part in the decision-making where educator-driven policies are debated and set



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MSEA is the 75,000-member Maryland affiliate of the National Education Association, which represents 3 million education employees across the country. MSEA is the state's largest professional employee organization. Members include elementary and secondary teachers, education support professionals, certificated specialists, school administrators, retired educators, higher education faculty, and students preparing to become members. MSEA supports 39 local affiliated associations throughout Maryland.

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