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Message from the President

Teaching is the only profession with a "New Year's Eve" and a "first day" each and every school year. It is with great pleasure to welcome you to the Dallas Independent School District. As educators, we know how difficult the first year can be, and we stand ready to support your efforts in any way we can.

The National Education Association (NEA) is by far the greatest educational organization in the United States. We not only provide the best member advocacy, but we also do so much more to help educators improve their skills and their students' skills alike. We are also the **only active organization** in Dallas that uses dues dollars to improve student achievement and develop minority community outreach programs. We have been advocating for **better salaries for all employees**. Because of this, NEA-Dallas along with Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA) was able to get DISD employees a step PLUS a pay raise. We are member-driven and we want to hear from you. If there is anything we can do to make your job easier, do not hesitate to call us! We encourage you to join our organization for your benefit! Have an awesome school year!

About the National Education Association

The National Education Association – Dallas (NEA-Dallas) is more than an organization. We are committed to ensuring that we have Great Public Schools for every child!

It is the vision of NEA-Dallas to unite the education family (education professionals, students and parents) and the community to positively impact public schools, from the teacher to the custodian, to advance and promote quality education.

The NEA-Dallas is about **POWER**, **PROTECTION**, and **PROFESSIONALISM** and is here to help you to **EDUCATE**, **EMPOWER**, and **ENCOURAGE**.

POWER

No other educational organization can offer you political clout at the local, state, and national level. Real political power is writing the laws we need, and defeating the laws that will be devastating to you and our students.

PROTECTION

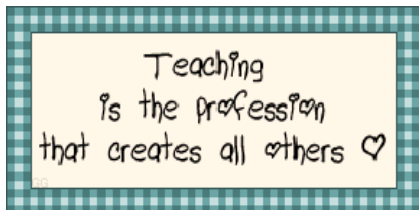
No other education organization provides a better legal defense! In today's society, no education employee should walk onto a worksite without legal protection.

PROFESSIONALISM

We chose an education career because we care about kids. As an NEA-Dallas member you belong to the largest democratically run (2.8 million), member-controlled, professional organization in the world. We have the resources to help you do your job well. Get connected to the powerful NEA-Dallas/TSTA/NEA network! When we join together, we will control our own DESTINY!

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*Some make it happen,
some watch it happen,
and some say,
"What happened?"*

Reason to Join NEA-Dallas

Power – Protection – Collaboration – Professionalism
Together through the lobbying efforts of the Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA), NEA-Dallas was able to get DISD employees a step plus a pay raise.

We are the **ONLY local association affiliated with the National Education Association**. We have the ability to represent you on three levels: LOCAL (NEA-Dallas), STATE (Texas State Teachers Association-TSTA), and NATIONAL (NEA). Once you belong to the local association, you belong to all three!

Benefits

There is a great advantage to joining the National Education Association – Dallas. Our member benefits are designed specifically to help stretch the buying power of every dollar you earn. Our unique products and services are offered as an economic benefit to **thank you** for joining NEA-Dallas and to **assist you in achieving your financial goals**. Because the National Education Association is 2.8 million members strong, we offer member discounts of up to **50% off products and services at over 100,000 locations across the US**, and much more!



Legislative Update

Governor Tells TRS to Cut the State's Contribution

The TRS Board this week received a number of reports regarding future funding requirements. Currently, the state is paying the constitutional minimum of 6% to TRS and employees are paying 6.4%. The Governor of Texas and the Legislative Budget Board told TRS to cut their Legislative Appropriation Request to 5.6%. That is below the minimum required by the constitution and would require a constitutional amendment. The TRS Board will be asking for 7.19% contribution rate.

TRS reported that if the state contributes 1% of public education payroll for retiree health care, no supplemental funding should be necessary before 2010. **TSTA will be working hard to increase the state's contribution to at least 7.19%.**



NEA-Dallas Representatives in D.C.

More Than 9,000 Educators Tackled Tough Education Issues

NEA's 85th Representative Assembly in Orlando, Florida concluded its hard work this year by celebrating members' commitment to public education and by addressing themes that impact teaching and learning including immigration, diversity, legislative action, and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Among many actions, delegates overwhelmingly approved a nationwide grassroots campaign to fundamentally reform the so-called No Child Left Behind Act.

Throughout the four-day RA, the Legislative Action Center sent about 11,000 messages from delegates to Congress and collected over 1,000 personal NCLB stories. Amanda Knowles, a high school science teacher from Washington, won an iPod in a drawing among the story tellers. She cried when she heard the news, but not because she was so happy to win. The story Knowles submitted was that she was quitting the teaching profession.

"I love my job," she said, "but can't stand the pressures that grow out of the state tests", which she finds mostly useless in helping her teach. Stories like Knowles' will be key to NEA's efforts to change the law.

Other Information

NEA-Dallas has monthly membership meetings where members discuss issues vital to education and the importance of improving student learning.

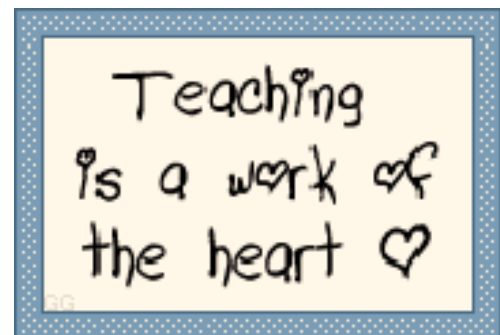
This is an excellent way to see your organization at work!

Our next membership meeting will be held August 15, 2006 at 5PM in the NEA-Dallas auditorium. We are located right across from the DISD Administration Building(3816 San Jacinto St. Dallas 75241).

Your ideas and thoughts are appreciated; come prepared to share! We hope to see you there, bring a friend or a fellow co-worker!



Delegates Ann Heuberger and Joseph De La Garza confer about issues on the floor of the Representative Assembly.





Other Information

Teacher Freebies!

Sometimes we teachers are often frustrated by a lack of funds to help our students learn. Check out this website for free materials, resources and services for educators.

<http://freebies.about.com/od/teacherfreebies/>

Back to School Ideas

Believe it or not, it's time to get ready for back to school! Check out this website to provide with some great tips for a smooth first day.

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com>

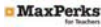
Upcoming Events



Staple's Teacher Appreciation Day July 29
(9am-1pm)



Office Max Appreciation Day July 29
(9am-1pm)



Mayor's Back to School Parade Aug 3



Teachers return Aug 7

Office Depot Appreciation Day Aug 7
(9am-12pm)



Classes begin Aug 14

NEA-Dallas Membership Meeting Aug 15

DFW EXPO for Educator Aug 19/20

Staff Development/Student Holiday Sept 22

July 2006

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Phases of the moon: 3:☾ 10:☽ 17:☾
25:☾
Holidays and observances: 4:
Independence Day

August 2006

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Phases of the moon: 2:☾ 9:☽ 15:☾
23:☾ 31:☾

September 2006

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Phases of the moon: 7:☽ 14:☾ 22:☾
30:☾
Holidays and observances: 4: Labor Day

Mark Your Calendar!



Aug. 19th & 20th
@ Dallas Market Hall

- Hundreds of Educational & Consumer Related Exhibitors
- Info. Sessions & Demos
- Prizes & Giveaways
- Tons of Savings for Educators!

We'll See You There!