



Public education needs a voice from the frontlines

3 Facts About MSEA

1

One of every 83 Marylanders is an MSEA member.

2

MSEA is the largest union of public employees in the state.

3

MSEA is led by educators elected by its membership.

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 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.

We believe in the power of education

These groups of educators—72,000 members in Maryland and 3 million across the country—lead on issues that affect public education, our professions, and our students, their families and communities.

In Maryland, we fight for funding that provides the resources students need for success, for less testing and more learning and reigniting the joy of learning in our classrooms and schools, and class sizes that make meaningful one-on-one interaction possible. We're committed to supporting educators at every stage in their career—from navigating the challenging first years to planning for a secure retirement. We believe that no matter where a child lives, the promise of a quality public school education is theirs. We advocate for high quality professional development that is rich, deep, and targeted to the needs of educators and the diversity of their students.

Making the connection: politics and education

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 that matter where those decisions are made in your county, Annapolis, and Washington D.C.

In the past year, MSEA members lobbied their representatives in Washington D.C., spoke out about education issues in national and local press, testified to support a bold less testing, more learning agenda in Annapolis, and rallied with parents and community members at county council and board of education hearings for increased funding and fairness. Without their fellow members and associations providing a solid infrastructure of support, experience, connections, and strength such a show of unity and power just wouldn't be possible.

Without MSEA, you're on your own. As a member, you know that 72,000 members and MSEA have your back. Learn more about MSEA and how you can support your profession—visit marylandeducators.org, or ask your school representative.

MSEA's 72,000—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 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 SLOs, Common Core, closing opportunity gaps, classroom management, restorative practices, your contract, lobbying your county council, state legislators, and more.	No access
You're one of more than 72,000 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 72,000-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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