

# I am Missouri NEA



Missouri NEA and NEA deliver the support you need to be successful in your career. Whether your interest is professional development, education policy, legal protection, or national discount programs, you are covered through your MNEA membership. Don't take our word for it. **Read what MNEA members have to say.**

[mnea.org](http://mnea.org)



**Frank Vovk**  
teacher, Lee's Summit NEA

"I have been in education for more than 25 years and have always been part of the NEA. The union has worked hard to fight for my benefits and has kept me up to date on teaching. We work for districts that care for education and children, but there are times as employees that we are at odds with the

district. This happened to me, and the NEA stepped up immediately and helped put me on equal footing with the district and made sure my voice was heard. It is foolish to assume that you will be heard just because you are in the right. I carry insurance for what is important for me. The NEA has not only been a partner in education but an insurance policy for my primary source of income. I have benefitted every year I belonged to the NEA."



**Dennis Tabb**  
Transportation, Ferg-Flor NEA  
*2023 Horace Mann Award - ESP*

"I'm a proud member of Missouri NEA because MNEA advocates for students and public school employees. MNEA provides mentorship and leadership training opportunities so we can all be strong advocates for our students and coworkers."



**Kira Collins**  
social worker, Special School District NEA

"The best part about being a Missouri NEA member is the advocacy for students and each other. I enjoy how we work together to improve the lives of students every day. MNEA is all about working together to support one another professionally—so that our students are inspired to learn in the best possible environment."



**Shelly Parks**  
teacher, Francis Howell NEA  
*2019 Missouri Teacher of the Year*

"I definitely became an NEA member at the start of my career because that was just what the majority of people in my district joined, and I knew it was important to be part of a union. Over the years, I continue

to be so thankful I joined NEA. They have defended our working environments, helped teachers earn fair pay and good benefits, and have done all of this while keeping the focus on attracting and retaining quality teachers because our kids need them. And my local NEA has worked tirelessly to help inform the public about tax levies. I'm so thankful to be part of such a great group that values teachers and students and works to ensure the best for both."



**Darrion Cockrell**  
teacher, Lindbergh NEA  
*2021 Missouri Teacher of the Year*

"I believe we must be a positive influence for our students and our fellow educators. Missouri NEA helps educators, parents and students advocate for positive change at the local, state and national levels so every child,

regardless of zip code, can attend a great public school. I'm proud to be a member of MNEA and work alongside dedicated professionals."



**Colleen Malone**  
teacher, Affton NEA

"I am a Missouri NEA member because teachers need a voice. NEA is that voice. NEA provides resources and support to teachers no matter where they are in their careers. NEA fights for the rights of educators and works hard to protect the integrity of education professionals."

# UNITE. INSPIRE. LEAD.



**Troy Fredde**  
teacher, North Kansas City NEA

"Missouri NEA has helped support my local district NEA organization by making sure teachers have a voice for years. MNEA helped support me through my National Board Teacher Certification process as well and is providing me a way to help give back and support others who are starting

the NBTC process through the association's NBC facilitator training program. I appreciate that MNEA helps me stay knowledgeable about legislation and policy changes that will directly affect me as a teacher."



**Erin Cramer,**  
teacher, Hazelwood NEA

"My first weekend at a Missouri NEA Representative Assembly was eye opening for me. I'd never been in a room full of so many people who were passionate about education and passionate about standing up for what is right for kids and teachers. Prior to that, I'd paid my dues, and I'd known that,

theoretically, there were people in the wings waiting to help me if I got in trouble. That weekend, I found out that NEA and MNEA are real people donating their time and money and expertise advocating for my students and me."



**Carmen K. Hill**  
school nurse, NEA St. Louis

"The benefits of Missouri NEA membership have been phenomenal. As a member, you can receive discounts on car purchases, hotels, travel, and so much more. You also have comfort in knowing if you need legal representation due to job-related incidents, it's available to you at no additional cost.

There are also programs available to you in case of life crisis. I could go on and on about the benefits of being a member of MNEA. I made a GREAT decision and invite all educators and education support professionals to join me."



**Christina Melly**  
teacher, Ritenour NEA  
*2023 Missouri Teacher of the Year*

"There is nothing so challenging and rewarding at the same time as teaching. So much of what helped me in the classroom and to affect change out of the classroom has come from Missouri NEA. I've received training, attended representative assemblies,

and met with other educators to learn what they are doing to form support networks. There is a sense that we can affect change, and the union is a resource to help. Missouri NEA has helped me learn to be an advocate and supported me in that journey. "



**Carol Weatherford**  
MNEA-Retired

"As a member of Missouri NEA Retired, I am more aware than ever that it is OUR association that is the true protector of our retirement system. Although it is vitally important for legislators to hear from their constituents, our MNEA staff does a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work

to assure protection of the PSRS/PEERS. Whether through coalitions with other groups, personal contact with legislators, private conferences with bill writers, or daily contact with members through the MNEA Legislative Update, our professional staff is working diligently to make sure that our defined-benefit plan is protected."



**Therese Shain**  
teacher, Special District NEA

"I have been a member of Missouri NEA for the past 14 years as I joined my first year of teaching. I have always felt it was important to join to support the rights of teachers."