May 2023 Rishanda Richardson, Editor





You Deserve a Raise

According to the NEA 2021-2022 Teacher Salary Benchmark Report published in May 2023, **Missouri beginning teachers rank 50th in the nation**, with average starting pay of **\$34,052**. Even with the Missouri Baseline Salary Grant the Missouri Legislature passed in 2022, which raised teacher pay to at least **\$38,000 for one year**, it still leaves teachers **behind the national average of \$42,844 and under the national living wage of \$46,944**. Furthermore, not all eligible Missouri school districts applied for the grant, choosing not to raise teacher pay to the \$38,000 minimum.

Help us raise teacher salaries to \$60K.





Up to 9 Graduate Credits for \$200

Enroll in summer courses

For one low annual fee of \$200 (valued at \$750), Missouri NEA members may take one course each term (fall, spring, and summer) to complete up to three graduate courses in 12 months. Or you may take two courses in the summer and skip either the fall or spring semester. Each course is two or three graduate credit hours, so educators can earn from six to nine graduate credits.

Choose from 35+ self-paced, online courses for professional growth or salary advancement. MNEA partners with Avila University and Virtual Education Software to offer these courses.

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Don't stop reading!

Just because school is out and the summer sun is calling your name, don't stop reading. Add the Read Across America books to your summer reading list. You just might find a couple of gems you would like to share with your students.

Already read them all? Check back in August when NEA will post a new Book-of-the-Month calendar for suggested reading at elementary, middle, and high school grade levels.

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Legislative Session Ends

Few Education Bills Pass

The 2023 regular session of the General Assembly ended on Friday, May 12. MNEA Legislative Director Otto Fajen reports what bills passed and did not pass. The House and Senate will re-convene for technical sessions to sign the final versions of approved bills and send them to the Governor for his signature or veto.

The Association appreciates the support of the many members who participated in Missouri

NEA's legislative advocacy throughout the session during this challenging time.

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Congratulations to the 2023 retirees!

Thank you for serving public education.

View the 2023 list of retirees.

Are you retiring?

Join MNEA-Retired

You may be retiring from your career in education, but we know that many of you are still living the good fight for public schools. Public education and educators face challenges that require the resolve and support of our members—all of our members, both active and retired. Join MNEA-Retired before Sept. 1, and rest assured that you will be covered by \$4 million liability protection and the 3 million member NEA while working in the public schools post-retirement.

Retiring this school year? Let us know >>

Did you know you DO NOT need to be retired to join as a lifetime pre-retired member? Join anytime during your career, pay now, and just let us know when you retire. Your lifetime Retired membership will kick in, so you never lose your benefits.

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It's time to apply for The NEA Foundation Grants

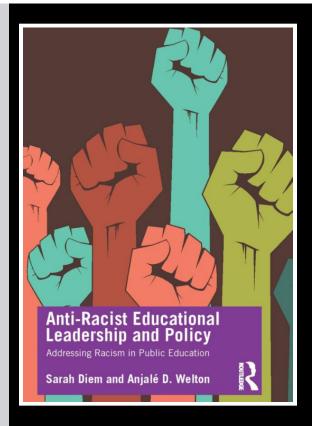
Deadline: Sept. 15, 2023

For more than five decades, The NEA Foundation has funded more than 62,000 grants to support the work of educators from every state in the country, impacting more than 1.5 million students. The NEA Foundation supports NEA members' innovative ideas and professional development through three different grants.

The NEA Foundation Educator & Student Success Grants

- Student Success Grants for initiatives to improve academic achievement.
- <u>Learning and Leadership Grants</u> for high-quality educational professional development activities.
- <u>Envision Equity Grants</u> enable educators to test creative new ideas and innovations, demonstrating exemplary teaching and learning.

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3-Part Virtual Training Anti-Racist Educational Leadership and Policy

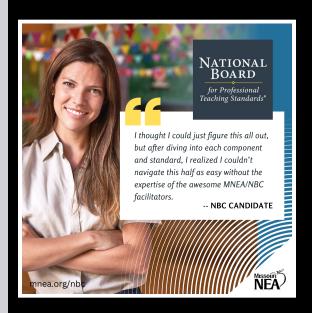
June 12, July 10, and Aug. 7 Free

We are all policymakers, and it is vital that each of us has a critical lens through which to create, interpret, and practice the policy that impacts students every day. Now is your chance to begin developing a sharper vision to analyze policy that shapes learning environments in our schools.

Join Dr. Sarah Diem and Dr. Anjalé Welton for a training based on their work, *Anti-Racist Educational Leadership and Policy*, for three synchronous, virtual training sessions, along with asynchronous on-your-own work to develop a lens for which to analyze policy.

Registration Deadline: May 31
This training is open to MNEA members only.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER



Jump Start to National Board Certification

July 17, 18, 19, 2023 | Jefferson City, MO
Teachers report obtaining National Board
Certification is one of the most rewarding
experiences in their careers. It is a journey filled
with self-exploration and examining practices that
leads to more success as an educator. Let MNEA
help support you on your journey.

This workshop is for first-time, returning, and advanced candidates who plan to submit any components of National Board Certification in the 2023-2024 school year.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER



Summer 2023 Micro- Credentials PLC

Developing LGBTQ Anti-Bias Curriculum

Nothing great is ever done alone so MNEA is offering a Micro-Credential Professional Learning Community (PLC) to work on developing LGBTQ anti-bias curriculum.

This PLC will meet virtually 5-6 times in the summer months to collaborate. An MNEA facilitator will help guide your work through the micro-credential.

Register by May 31.
View the entire NEA Micro-Credential library.

READ MORE



Apply for the California Casualty Music & Arts Grant

Apply to receive \$250 for your school's program. The California Casualty Music & Arts Grant was established to provide support for K-12 public schools negatively impacted by reduced budgets.

California Casualty understands the importance of music and arts education for children. As a member of MNEA, you can apply for a grant award of \$250 for a music or art need at your school.

MISSOURI UNITE. INSPIRE. LEAD.



Are you retirement ready?

These days, you're probably thinking about the future more than ever. It may seem that saving for retirement has become incredibly hard. Are you following your retirement strategy, or do you even have one?

Sign up for Thurs., May 25 virtual session >

READ MORE

Do you like podcasts?

We have one for you...Listen to MNEA Connects. MNEA Teaching & Learnng Director Samantha Hayes interviews the people worth listening to. Get the low down on the issues facing education, learn something new to help you in the classroom, or volunteer to be a guest on the show.

MNEA wants to CONNECT with you.

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Get the most out of your NEA membership

NEA Member Benefits offers a variety of insider benefits designed to help members at any stage of life. Check out some of the essentials, from travel and budgeting everyday items to retirement and





MNEA Reports

What are you missing?

MNEA leaders and staff are dedicated to informing you. Don't miss these important reports. If you insurance, NEA Member Benefits has you covered.

What are you missing?

TAKE A LOOK



didn't have time to read them during the school year...we understand. Take the time over the summer to catch up.

- State Board of Education
- MACCE
- PSRS-PEERS

MNEA RA & 50th Anniversary

Delegates from local associations gathered this spring to attend the MNEA Representative Assembly. They voted to approve MNEA's budget, update the Resolutions, hear reports, and celebrate MNEA's 50th Anniversary. READ MORE



Get Involved

Are your ready to take the next step to become a leader in your local association or drive political action? Missouri NEA has plenty of opportunities for you to become more involved in the Association.



Summer Leadership

KANSAS CITY JUNE 12-13, 2023 ST. LOUIS JUNE 15-16, 2023

Registration Deadline: May 26

Missouri NEA will have two, in-person, 2-day Summer Leadership trainings in 2023—Kansas City June 12-13 and St. Louis June 15-16. They will focus on helping build strong locals with an emphasis on team building through strategic planning. Locals are encouraged to invite a team of leaders such as the local president, treasurer, membership chair, bargaining chair, and anyone who is interested in becoming more involved in the union.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER



Political Academy

OLD KINDERHOOK LODGE July 24-25, 2023

Registration Deadline: July 7

Political Academy is a two-day training that will help members of all skill levels become better advocates in their communities. The training will include learning how best to communicate a message, recruiting volunteers, and how to use data to improve your local's advocacy efforts. Seating is limited.

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Request a Backto-School Visit

Missouri NEA leaders and staff would love to come to each and every school district to help with membership drives, discuss issues that matter to you, and show all the great benefits that come with membership, but there are just not enough days in the year. If you are a local leader, planning your fall schedule, add making a request for a visit to your To Do list.

Volunteer for a State Committee

Deadline: July 15

Are you a Missouri NEA member or leader who would like to serve the state association? Consider volunteering for a committee assignment. MNEA has seven standing committees and three advisory committees—each with specific functions to help develop and/or carry out Missouri NEA's programs.

Applications are due July 15. Committee appointments will be made this summer.

- Back-to-School Event Request (due July 1)
- <u>President's Tour Application</u> (due Aug. 15)

MNEA Member Benefits Save You Money.



Silver Dollar City & Branson attractions

"Fire in the Hole" is taking its last ride this year. Don't miss your chance to be part of the legend. MNEA members and their immediate families are entitled up to a 15 percent discount on Branson theme parks and attractions.

Use the MNEA promo code: 22588

BUY TICKETS



NEA Member Benefits Memorial Day Travel Sale

This Memorial Day, we are celebrating by offering our well-deserving members up to 60% off hotel stays! It just takes a few minutes to enroll in the NEA Member Benefits Travel Program, so click now to lock in your summer holiday plans at www.neamb.com
NEA Travel: Hotels | NEA

Member Benefits

Pro tip: Get car rentals &

Pro tip: Get car rentals 8 flight deals, too!

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My Deals App

Access discounts easily on your smartphone with the My Deals mobile app.

Download. Register. Save.

Register using your NEA

Member ID:

Need help with My Deals? Call (800) 331-8867

START SAVING



Sign In MNEA

NEA Member ID: Last Name: Zip Code (5-digits):

MEMBER SIGN IN

Having trouble logging in? Call (573) 634-3202.







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Missouri National Education Association

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