



In the Loop

MNEA News | Professional Development | Member Benefits



GPO-WEP Hurts Missouri's Retired Educators

Missouri is one of 27 states where teachers are affected by Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO).

What does that mean? It severely reduces the social security retirement benefits and/or spousal benefits for retired educators. For some retired teachers, the reduction is so great that they are left to pay out of pocket for Medicare premiums.

The Social Security Fairness Act (S. 597/H.R. 82) would fully repeal both the GPO and WEP. Email Congress and tell them to #RepealGPOWEP.

Help us repeal GPO-WEP.

READ MORE

Missouri NEA's
I CAN DO IT
Beginning Teacher Assistance Program

2023-2024
PROGRAM DATES

Missouri
NEA
Unite. Inspire. Lead.

REGISTER TODAY

www.mnea.org/ICanDoIt

Virtual
or
In-Person

Beginning Teacher Assistance

Space is limited.

MNEA's "I Can Do It" Beginning Teacher Assistance Program has in-person and virtual options available. The virtual option is highly interactive and requires participants to complete each component of the On-Your-Own tasks AND a 4-night virtual series. Advance registration is required.

Choose from In-Person or Virtual Training

- Virtual: Mondays (6:30-8:30 p.m.) Nov. 6, 13, 20, and 27.
- St. Louis: Sat., Dec. 9, 2023, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Virtual: Thursdays (6:30-8:30 p.m.) Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22.

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MNEA CONNECTS
PODCAST
ARE YOU LISTENING?

www.mnea.org/podcast

Missouri
NEA

Podcast: MNEA Connects

Have you started listening to the MNEA Connects Podcast yet? MNEA Teaching & Learning Director Samantha Hayes is your host. Her guests include leaders in public education, MNEA Staff, educators and Member Benefit partners. Guests discuss a range of topics such as policies and laws that affect education, professional development, classroom resources, and money-saving benefits.

Tune in on your favorite streaming service. Find more information at www.mnea.org/podcast.

READ MORE

CONGRATULATIONS!

MISSOURI TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



DAVID CHOATE
ROCKWOOD NEA



MARIA F. DERNER
BELTON NEA



GREG KESTER
POTOSI NEA

FROM YOUR **MISSOURI NEA** COLLEAGUES



Congratulations to the 2024 Teacher of the Year finalists!

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education announced the finalists for the 2024 Missouri Teacher of the Year award on Aug. 31. Missouri NEA is proud to represent three of the seven finalists, now part of an elite group of educators.

- **David Choate, Rockwood R-VI** — English Language Arts, Lafayette High School
- **Maria F. Derner, Belton 124** — English Language Development, Belton High School
- **Greg Kester, Potosi R-III** — Social Studies, Potosi High School
- **Other finalists:** Kaylin Bade, Washington School District; Sabria El-Kurbu, Moberly School District; Heather Helle, Scott City R-1; Kathryn Victoria Inman, Greenville R-II

Congratulations to all the finalists! They will be honored at an event on Oct. 16, when the 2024 Teacher of the Year will be awarded.

[READ MORE](#)



MNEA launches Online Learning Management System

Sign Up to Get Started

Missouri NEA delivers the training you need to be successful in your career and as a local association leader. Backed by the 3 million-member NEA, MNEA offers more to support your professional growth than any other professional association.

MNEA Learns online course library is just one aspect of helping educators grow within their chosen profession. MNEA Learns allows you to take courses and short trainings at your convenience. It even saves your progress, so if you did not complete your training, you can pick it up where you left off.

[Flyer: Learn how to get started](#)

Contact MNEA Teaching & Learning at (800) 392-0236 for more information.

READ MORE



Blue Springs NEA leader named The NEA Foundation's Global Learning Fellow

Congratulations, Ashleigh Bertrand!

The NEA Foundation, a public charity founded by educators for educators, names Blue Springs NEA president, Ashleigh Bertrand, a high school teacher at Blue Springs South High School as one of The NEA Foundation's 2024 Global Learning Fellows. Bertrand and 47 educators from across the country will participate in a year-

long professional learning experience focused on educating and empowering students for global citizenship, culminating in a **10-day field study in Costa Rica**.

[READ MORE](#)



NATIONAL BOARD
for Professional Teaching Standards®

I thought I could just figure this all out, but after diving into each component and standard, I realized I couldn't navigate this half as easy without the expertise of the awesome MNEA/NBC facilitators.

-- NBC CANDIDATE

mnea.org/nbc

Missouri NEA

National Board Certification Assistance

Obtaining your National Board Certification 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.

MNEA has a line-up of proven trainings to help you from start to finish.

NBC Candidate Boost Days: Nov. 4, Feb. 24, and April 6

Exploring NBC: Jan. 29 and April 22

Jump Start to NBC: July 8-10

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)



EDUCATORS RISING
State Coordinator Missouri NEA

Fall 2023 Conferences
Students in grades 7-12

- Oct. 4** - UCM, Warrensburg
- Oct. 11** - UMSL, Saint Louis
- Oct. 25** - MSU, Springfield

[REGISTER](#)

Missouri NEA

Educators Rising Fall Conferences

Cost: \$15 per person

Educators Rising, sponsored by PDK International, helps students in grades 7-12 explore careers in education. MNEA coordinates the state events.

Sign up your students for one of the three fall Educators Rising Conferences. Students will also receive a college campus tour and meet faculty from the College of Education.

Oct. 4: University of Central Missouri

Oct. 11: University of Missouri - Saint Louis

Oct. 25: Missouri State University

Registration for each session ends two weeks in advance.

[READ MORE & REGISTER](#)



Why Union Matters

Missouri NEA is proud to represent educators, education support professionals, and higher education faculty in Missouri public schools. MNEA helps local affiliates organize to have representation and a voice in negotiating salary, benefits, grievances, working conditions, and issues that matter to you.

It's time to celebrate some of those wins! Congratulations to the following local associations for successful outcomes:

- **Webster Groves NEA** wins exclusive representation with 91% of the vote.
- **Kirkwood NEA** wins exclusive representation with 69% of the vote.
- **Springfield NEA (Information Technology)** wins exclusive representation.
- **Springfield NEA** successfully bargained contracts for all nine of their units.

Together, we're stronger. Together, we're heard.

Collective Bargaining Conference

MNEA will host a Collective Bargaining Conference Sat. Nov. 4. If you are interested in participating, please contact your local association president.

 **UNITE. INSPIRE. LEAD.**

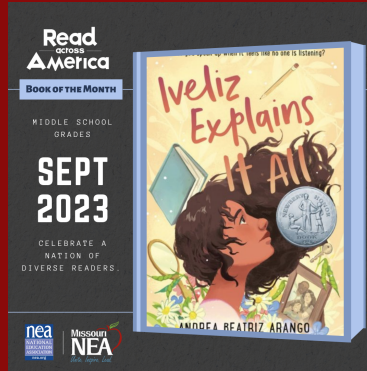
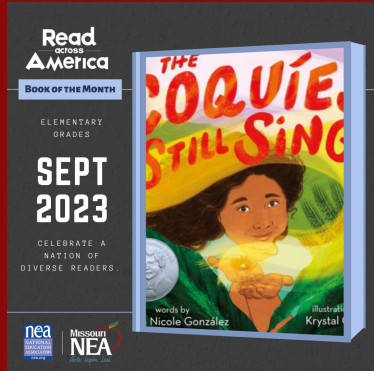
Celebrate NEA's Read Across America all year

Book-of-the-Month

Each month NEA features three books as part of the NEA Read Across America book series that explore topics related to diversity and inclusion.

Help us celebrate. Share the books you're reading this month on social media using the hashtags below.

#ReadAcrossAmerica #RAA2024



[LEARN MORE](#)



Financial wellness is defined as, "being confident in your financial situation, able to withstand unexpected expenses and enjoying a financially secure future."

It can be one of the hardest things to achieve because you have many different financial needs, such as meeting everyday expenses, paying off debt, saving for emergencies, paying for health care and saving for retirement.

Horace Mann is here to help you achieve your goals.

[LEARN MORE](#)



TOP TAKEAWAYS

Meetings of the State Board of Education and Missouri Advisory Council of Certification for Educators

MNEA now posts slides to social media of the Top Takeaways from the meetings of the Missouri State Board of Education and MACCE. Look for them on [IG](#) and [FB](#).

You can also find a longer report with links to the must-have information on the MNEA.org website, www.mnea.org/stateboard.

Questions? Contact MNEA Vice President Rebeka McIntosh, Rebeka.McIntosh@mnea.org or MNEA Teaching and Learning Director Samantha Hayes, Samantha.Hayes@mnea.org.

[READ MORE](#)

#SAVEonStudentDebt

With the new **SAVE Plan, your federal loan payment could be as low as \$0/month.**

NEA is a proud partner of the **SAVE On Student Debt** campaign with the U.S. Department of Education and other non-federal partners.

Apply at StudentAid.gov/save



Do you qualify for the SAVE Plan?

In August, the Biden administration launched the new student loan SAVE Plan. It is the most affordable student loan repayment plan ever created, and it could help you reduce your monthly payments. This plan will:

1. Cut many borrowers' monthly payments to zero.
2. Save other borrowers an estimated \$1,000 per year.
3. Prevent balances from growing because of unpaid interest.
4. Get more borrowers closer to forgiveness faster.

[LEARN MORE](#)

PSRS/PEERS

Board Report



www.mnea.org/psrs

PSRS/PEERS Board Meeting Report

MNEA Legislative Director Otto Fajen attends the PSRS-PEERS Board meetings as an observer. Read the report from the Aug. 31 PSRS-PEERS Board meeting, which includes notes about Board member appointments, investment performance, member services, GFOA Award, and how the CPI index could result in eligible retirees receiving a 2% COLA increase next year.

[READ MORE](#)

MNEA Member Benefits Save You Money.



MNEA mobile app gets an upgrade

NEW: Membership Card

Don't get a chance to visit the MNEA website to see all the new resources, trainings and news? Download the MNEA mobile app. It will notify you of new posts by adding a number to your smartphone app button, so you know when to check in to read the updates.

You can now also carry around your personalized Missouri NEA membership card, just by signing in



Kansas City Chiefs Football

Chiefs fans, we have you covered. Need game day tickets to watch your favorite football team? Use the NEA Member Benefits Discount Ticket Program to purchase your seats.

Not just for game-day tickets—use it to buy tickets to virtually everything—movies,



My Deals App

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

**Download. Register.
Save.**

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Member ID: 00000000

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

[START SAVING](#)

using the credentials listed below.

plays, theme parks, and more.



Sign In MNEA

NEA Member ID: 0000000000

Last Name: xxxxxx

Zip Code (5-digits):

[MEMBER SIGN IN](#)

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



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