



# WHAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN DO TO SUPPORT PRIORITY SCHOOLS

Think you can't make a difference in the lives of students? Think again!

NEA's Priority Schools Campaign needs the energy and passion of everyone, especially community members, to ensure every student has access to a great public school. Many of today's students face tremendous challenges to academic success. The Priority Schools Campaign is NEA members and the community working together in struggling schools to address those challenges, increase graduation rates, and close gaps in academic achievement for all students.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Educating our children is everyone's responsibility. Whether you live in an urban, rural, or suburban area, there are many ways that you can make a powerful difference in the lives of K-12 students:

**Make the Priority Schools Campaign a priority for your civic, faith and social organizations.** Facilitate the commitment of local organizations to work collaboratively with students and parents, teachers and schools.

**Create partnerships.** Identify like minded individuals and groups in the community who you can collaborate with to maximize your capacity to positively impact these schools.

**Work with local coalitions.** Join with existing efforts, including NEA and affiliates, in your community that are helping priority schools address the needs of all students.

**Adopt a school.** Priority schools have many needs. Organize your friends, colleagues, social and civic organizations and groups to support and improve these schools. (Examples: Provide new materials

and equipment, paint, landscape, repair fences, build shelves, create bulletin boards, etc.)

**Tutor and mentor a struggling student.** Many students in high-priority schools need intensive one-on-one attention to help them master the skills necessary for success. Students need tutors and mentors that believe in them, and that they can look up to. You can provide support for these students through regular tutoring and/or mentoring.

**Volunteer in a priority school.** Serve on school advisory committees and contribute your expertise to creating quality public schools. Plan and volunteer for field trips, special events, and a host of other important support roles.

**Influence policy.** Become involved in the work of your local legislative bodies to influence school board policies and other legislation that directly affect high-needs schools.

**Apply for a grant.** The federal government and many foundations will award grants to organizations with innovative ideas for improving priority schools.

P R I O R I T Y S C H O O L S C A M P A I G N

For more information on NEA's Priority Schools Campaign and how you can help, and to explore the resources NEA has developed, visit [www.nea.org/prioritieschools](http://www.nea.org/prioritieschools).



Priority Schools Campaign