



# WHAT K-12 EDUCATORS CAN DO

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

Every day you show what teachers are made of. Now show the students who need you the most!

NEA's Priority Schools Campaign needs the commitment of K-12 educators to help make real and lasting change for Priority school students and their teachers. Many of today's students face tremendous challenges to academic success. The Priority Schools Campaign is the work of NEA members in struggling schools to meet these challenges and close student achievement gaps for all students.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Whether you're an elementary, middle, or high school teacher—in an urban, rural, or suburban school—there are many ways to take action:

**Learn strategies that help you reach students more effectively.** Students from diverse backgrounds bring their varied cultural, racial, and socio-economic characteristics with them to school. Culturally competent teaching is increasingly important to making fundamental connections with students and learning teaching strategies that better match students' ways of understanding and interacting with the world. Training in culturally competent teaching is often available from NEA's state and local affiliates.

**Pursue National Board Certification.** National Board Certification is proven to strengthen teaching knowledge and skills, which, in turn, enhances student learning. Support for your candidacy may be available from your local Association, school district, and local universities.

**Offer your support to new teachers.** Step up and offer your assistance to new teachers through formal and informal support methods. The

principles of adult learning, cognitive coaching, and appropriate feedback are the building blocks of expert mentoring and can be acquired from your district, local association, and local universities.

**Learn more about closing achievement gaps.** Access high-quality professional development workshops and conferences offered by NEA and your state Association on closing achievement gaps among students. Explore the emerging research on the brain, the needs of urban learners, and special needs students.

**Get funded.** Apply for a grant from the NEA Foundation. The Foundation provides grants, practical expertise, and a variety of resources to improve on-the-job learning opportunities for educators nationwide. Visit [www.neafoundation.org](http://www.neafoundation.org).

**Join with other activists to influence policy.** Work with your local government relations committee to influence legislation and/or school board policies that directly affect high-needs schools. Access the sample legislation and bargaining language developed by NEA to address these issues.

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/priorityschools](http://www.nea.org/priorityschools).



Priority Schools Campaign