



Great Public Schools for Every Child

NEA Board Interim Report
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NEA Representative Assembly 2017:

July 2-5 - Boston, Massachusetts

The NEA Representative Assembly is the largest democratic deliberative assembly in the world. California sends more than 1,000 delegates to the NEA RA each summer. During this annual meeting, CTA members help set policy and chart the direction of NEA business through participation on various committees, constituencies, caucuses, and leadership groups. The NEA Representative Assembly for 2017 will be held July 2-5 in Boston, MA with the first caucus meeting set for June 30.

January 31, 2017, is the deadline to submit the official Declaration of Candidacy form for state delegates to the 2017 NEA convention in Boston. The Declaration of Candidacy form for state delegates is available [online](#) now and will be posted in the November/December 2016 *California Educator*. It is the responsibility of each member wishing to run for state delegate to fill out the Declaration of Candidacy form (or photocopy) and file it by the deadline.

Service Center Councils will begin accepting state delegate Declaration of Candidacy forms on Jan. 2, 2017.

Each candidate filing a declaration form will receive an acknowledgment of receipt. In order to attend the Representative Assembly, you must pay for your meals, hotel room and transportation for June 29–July 6. CTA will reimburse state delegates up to \$2,450 with appropriate receipts. If a delegate stays within the CTA meal allowance, shares a room with another delegate and purchases a super-saver airline ticket (if applicable), the CTA reimbursement should cover delegate expenses. The first caucus meeting is set for June 30, and the annual meeting of the Representative Assembly runs July 2–5. In keeping with CTA’s commitment to minority involvement, members who are ethnic minorities are urged to become candidates.

Here’s a direct link to the CTA page for the Declaration of Candidacy Form: <http://www.cta.org/racandidacy>



The NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence

The NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence recognize, reward, and promote excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession. They also honor public education and the dedicated members of the NEA. The awards are presented jointly by the NEA Foundation and the National Education Association (NEA) with support from NEA Member Benefits, the Horace Mann Educators' Corporation, and California Casualty.

CTA's nomination deadline for the 2018 Award is February 6, 2017. All current members of an NEA local affiliate or bargaining unit are eligible for this award. This includes teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff. For more information check out the NEA Foundation web site or contact me.

One of this year's 5 Horace Mann Awardees is **Dr. Al Rabanera, Fullerton, California**. Read more of his story at <http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/nea-awardees>

“My teaching *success*, as well as the success of my students, is rooted in the *positive, encouraging* foundational relationships formed each year.”

– Al Rabanera, Math educator, CTA





Protect Public Education for All Students by Contacting Your Congressional Representatives!

Just click on the link to Add Your Name: Commit to Student Success - Read our letter, then add your name to stand with us: These are our values, and I demand that our secretary of education and every elected official respect and uphold this vision for high-quality public schools for every single student.

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/add-your-name-commit-to-student-success?source=NEA>

Public education is the foundation of our 21st-century democracy. Educators strive every day to make public schools a place where we prepare the nation's young people to contribute to our society, economy and citizenry. We expect our elected leaders and policymakers, regardless of party affiliation, to value and support this American vision for a strong and inclusive public education system that ensures that all students can succeed, regardless of their ZIP code. Private school voucher programs harm students and communities, and undermine this American vision of public schools that educate 9 out of 10 students.

► **Oppose the nomination of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education and the Trump administration's plans to implement an anti-public education agenda.**

- For the first time, our Secretary of Education could be an individual whose sole "qualification" for the job is the two decades she has spent attempting to dismantle the American public school system and has zero personal experience in a public school either as a student, educator, administrator or even as a parent.
- DeVos has used her extraordinary wealth to promote failed private school vouchers and unaccountable for-profit charter schools while working to destabilize and defund public education. This is a dangerous direction that will do nothing to help our most vulnerable students and will exacerbate glaring opportunity gaps.
- Betsy DeVos is an anti-public education activist. A true leader for all students must reject the ideological demands that isolate, outsource and abandon, and instead commit to this American vision for public education and ensure equal access – part of the mission statement for the Department of Education.

► **Regardless of what they're called, vouchers, tuitions tax credits and education savings accounts rob public schools of vital funding and resources that help all children, not just a select few.**

- Vouchers take dollars from our public schools to fund private schools at taxpayer expense.
- Instead of taking funds away from public schools and handing them over to private schools, we should enhance opportunities that help equip all students for success and close opportunity gaps.

- Vouchers do not create choice for parents, but rather choice for private schools — they can reject students based on economic status, academic achievement, disabilities, or even gender.

► **Vouchers harm students who are most in need by taking critical resources away from our neighborhood public schools.**

- Vouchers can undermine federal education programs that help level the playing field for those most in need — students who live in poverty or face other barriers to academic success.
- Students with special needs who use vouchers lose many rights granted by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and may not have the protection of an individualized education plan.
- Vouchers deprive students of the rights and protections they are awarded at public schools. Despite receiving public money, private schools that participate in vouchers programs are not subject to the same civil rights laws, and do not face the same accountability and transparency standards that must schools must meet, including those in Title VI, Title IX, and IDEA. (Policy Matters Ohio, *Analyzing Autism Vouchers in Ohio*, Mar 2008)

Make sure your voice is heard and sign the petition opposing the DeVos nomination by going to:

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/add-your-name-commit-to-student-success?source=NEA>



Every Student Succeeds Act

ESSA Implementation Begins

The opportunities of ESSA will only become real if educators lead implementation. Take steps now to build a strong ESSA Team from your Local, so when the District forms its ESSA Stakeholder group (as required by ESSA), your members can be included and make their voices heard.

Check out www.getessaright.org for a toolkit to help!

