



MEMBERSHIP 2021-2022 GUIDE



When members needed us most, MEA was there.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed our schools and jobs in a way no one expected. Everything from, "What will we get paid?" To, "Can we safely work in our schools?" To, "What are the rules around remote instruction?" There were so many questions and needs for support, and MEA was there to help members!

MEA made sure our members were paid at the start of the pandemic, regardless of ability to work, we advocated for safety measures and flexibility around so many issues pertaining to your jobs and our students.

Use this guide to fully understand how to access all the benefits of your membership.

MEA supports & empowers educators in and out of the classroom.

Whether you're a first-year member or veteran educator, balancing life and work is always a challenge. The help you provide children and young adults each day matters, but you can't forget to help yourself and learn what benefits are available to you as a member.

Watch for:



When you see the MEA logo read about an interesting fact or service that the MEA offers members.

Where the Journey Begins

When you are an MEA member you are not “in it” by yourself—there are nearly 24,000 members statewide. Within the union, your local association executive committee and your building representative are your first points of contact. From there, MEA staff are always available to assist you, provide resources, or defend your contract. You can rest easy knowing not only are you part of the largest union in the state but the largest in the nation. As a member of the MEA you are also part of a much larger family at the National Education Association, which has more than 3 million members nationwide—1 in every 100 Americans is an NEA member. A fellow association member is never far away!



“There are so many unique opportunities available through the MEA if you just pay attention and get involved.”

Taryn Southard
Portland EA

Access to MEA staff who are always a phone call or click away.



Your Rights

An important members-only protection you receive is your right to have a union representative present if you feel you need one in matters legal or otherwise. Know your Weingarten Rights and keep this copy close by as a reminder of this important member benefit.



MEA believes in community outreach— as a member you have an opportunity to take part in projects to improve the lives of your students and your community.

Understanding Your Collective Bargaining Agreement

Understanding your CBA (collective bargaining agreement) is necessary in your career journey. Your CBA dictates everything from how many hours you are contracted to work each day to any planning periods you may receive to the amount of money you may be eligible for if you opt-out of the health insurance plan. Everything from teacher evaluations and discipline guidelines can be found in your CBA. Your membership, in part, helps fund people who work to ensure members have fair working conditions and employers are upholding their end of the CBA. Without your CBA and the collective influence of MEA members to help shape policies, procedures and legislation your career would be at the whim of administrators, school boards and politicians.



Help with implementation of work related issues, like evaluations, dealing with administrators or discipline.

Don't forget this

Weingarten Rights

"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative, officer, or steward be present at this meeting. Until my representative arrives, I choose not to participate in this discussion."



Free death and dismemberment coverage for eligible members and liability insurance



*Advocates for Children and Education (ACE):
ME member driven
program to help students
and the profession.*

Advocating for Members

There really is no part of your job that is somehow not impacted by local, state or national policy makers. Everything from how much funding your school receives to how many hours are in a school day to the standardized test used—it's all decided by someone other than you, the educator. But that doesn't mean you can't have a voice in your work.

ME supports & empowers educators in and out of the classroom, giving them a strong voice on the issues that impact students and schools. ME helps improve members' experience in the workplace, including dealing with administrators, classroom challenges, the availability of resources, and more. ME strives to be an ally for social justice, working to stop discrimination in our schools, promote diversity, and demand education equity for all. That's why the ME also works to make sure your voice is heard in your local communities, in Augusta and in Washington D.C.

The ME is the strongest and most effective advocate for public education and the profession in the state.

As Seen on TV



Thank You!

ME launched a "Thank You" campaign for our educators to give the public a greater understanding of the efforts you all went through during a school year. The ME works hard to publicize the great things happening in our public schools to increase the public image of the profession, the association, and our members. Highlighting your work is important to help increase respect for what you do!

*Public image
campaigns to
highlight the success
of members.*



Your Voice

The power of a collective voice is far more powerful than a single voice alone. MEA voices continue to impact change. From requiring health and safety protocols during COVID-19 to prioritizing educators for vaccine access to fixing a flawed testing system, revising the rules of restraint in the classroom and charting a new direction for the teacher evaluation system in Maine, MEA members paved the way to improving our schools.

Fellow MEA members from your local association may serve on a number of different committees and groups at the local, regional or state level, including representing your interests at the MEA Representative Assembly, the decision-making body of the MEA which sets the course for the beliefs and work of the association for the year.

At its core, MEA organizes members from diverse backgrounds to stand together, support one another, and exercise our power to stand up for ourselves and our fellow educators.



Help maintaining and negotiating your collective bargaining agreement to safeguard working conditions, salaries and benefits.



Advocacy work to make sure state and national policies directly benefit students and educators.

Follow Us

You can connect with MEA online through social media. Check out the latest pins on the Pinterest page, resources on Facebook, pictures on Instagram or discover new colleagues on Twitter.

 [Facebook.com/maineea](https://www.facebook.com/maineea)

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Advancing the Profession

When you're an MEA member you automatically have access to a variety of professional development opportunities to support your professional work.

During the pandemic, MEA adapted and provided members with innovative online training and webinars to directly support educators' new teaching and learning demands. MEA offers its members multiple learning opportunities ranging from statewide conferences to smaller regional trainings on a variety of hot education topics, including social & emotional learning, surviving & thriving and working as partners with your support staff to name a few. In addition, for those interested there are multiple leadership opportunities for members to take the lead in the profession at the local, state and national level.

Through membership, you are able to apply for teaching and learning grants to help fund school projects and continue your education to better the profession.

As a member, you also have access to an online network of free lesson plans and a network of educators to discuss key issues that impact the profession.



Grants to fund education related projects for members and MEA scholarships for students



Bookmark these sites:

maineea.org

Look for the latest grants and scholarship information on the MEA website. This page is changing constantly with new opportunities for you and your students.

nea.org

From education news to action alerts to member benefits—visit the NEA's website to help you succeed in your career, advocate for your students, and support public education.

betterlesson.com

Find more than 16,000 complete Common Core-aligned lessons created by Master Teachers nationwide. Classroom-ready lessons are available for grades K-12 in multiple subjects including ELA, Math and Science.

donorschoose.org

Have a school project but don't have the money to fund it? Post it on this site and ask the public to chip in.

gpsnetwork.org

NEA's Great Public Schools network connects educators from around the nation. Any member can create a group and begin a conversation about what interests them or what they have questions about.

Award winning magazine, Maine Educator, highlights important education issues and shares member success stories.





Exclusive: Your Member Benefits

When it comes to your personal life and saving money, the MEA and the NEA have worked to secure great discounts and programs that focus on your health and the well-being of you and your family.

- MEA Benefits Trust 24/7 Nurse Line
- Discounted Home and Car Insurance
- Summer and winter amusement discounts, including Funtown.
- MEA Benefits Trust Future Moms Program
- NEA Discount Marketplace (variety of vendors, including national and local stores and restaurants)
- NEA Magazine Service (magazines for as little as \$5/yr)
- NEA Auto Buying Program (members have saved thousands)

Board of Directors, MEA Leadership & Offices

MEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Contact your board member by visiting maineea.org/contact-us



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PRESIDENT: Grace Leavitt
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