

# NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

## NEW BUSINESS ITEM A

### ADOPTED AS AMENDED

NEA will develop and implement an action plan in collaboration with targeted state and local affiliates, and in service to the Association's Mission and Vision, to inform and influence President Obama's proposal to turn around 5,000 schools with \$5 billion in five years beginning in the fall of 2010. The plan shall include but not be limited to the following actions:

1. Advance the seven criteria adopted by NEA for great public schools; these refer to the seven elements needed for closing achievement and other learning gaps and improving learning and achievement for all students, which are: readiness to learn, high expectations, quality conditions, qualified staff, accountability, parental involvement, and funding;
2. Develop success indicators beyond standardized tests while making sure that curricula promote the development of 21st Century Skills;
3. Provide full inclusion of all staff affected in decision-making on policy and fiscal matters and that the local Association must be involved in any discussions regarding school reorganization, including but not limited to, charter school conversion;
4. Protect contractual and legal rights of NEA members;
5. Advocate the staffing of priority schools with fully certified, experienced, and caring teachers, education support professionals, and administrators;
6. Develop and invest in high quality professional development in priority school sites that includes National Board Certification;
7. Build the capacity of local affiliates to partner with higher education institutions and others to assure success for all in strengthening our nation's priority schools; and
8. Tell the story to America of the importance of unions in assuring great public schools for every student.

## NEW BUSINESS ITEM B

### ADOPTED

The NEA will review and revise where appropriate the NEA action plan for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). NEA urges Congress and the Obama Administration to enact new federal educational policy with a new name. Legislation is needed that embodies the spirit of the original ESEA under President Lyndon Johnson which focused on equitable programs and funding for the education of poor children in America. The NEA will support a plan that moves beyond a "one-size fits all" model of accountability and provides support to schools serving our most at-risk students. Additional consideration should be given to expanding the support of both urban and rural poor

children beyond education programs by connecting community services and resources to negate the effects of poverty on learning as well as recognition of the additional needs of English Language Learners.

## NEW BUSINESS ITEM C

### ADOPTED AS AMENDED

NEA will zealously advocate for national health care reform that is consistent with the policies, resolutions, and legislative programs of the NEA and its state affiliates. In the current political context, this advocacy will stress the urgency of quality, comprehensive, affordable health care for all that includes a public health care plan option and does not tax employer- or government-provided benefits for actively employed and retired residents. Furthermore, NEA will educate its affiliates and members on the necessity and value of comprehensive health care reform as described above.

## NEW BUSINESS ITEM D

### ADOPTED

The NEA affirms the crucial importance of Census 2010. As a national Census partner, NEA shall play a leadership role in ensuring a fair and accurate census through such actions as:

1. Working with allied coalitions such as the Learning First Alliance to foster national partnerships among the Census Bureau and its constituent groups so as to expand coverage of Census 2010 across the major education association Web sites, print media and online social networks to encourage joint projects and local event coordination.
2. Providing model Web site templates with links to key Census Bureau information such as talking points, articles, fact sheets, regional office and partnership program contacts, and access to the Bureau's Census In Schools and employment Web sites.
3. Targeting assistance to schools in or near "hard to count" census tracts and identifying resources to ensure that home language materials and technical assistance are available in communities impacted by poverty and concentrations of minority group or non-English speaking populations.
4. Encouraging NEA's state and local affiliates to become Census partners and work to ensure that all educators, current and retired, are represented in local Complete Count Committees and have the opportunity to become employed as enumerators.
5. Coordinating the provision of Census Bureau materials and speakers at NEA regional conferences and state summer leadership meetings and through the NEA booth at national partnership organization conferences.
6. Conducting a midterm evaluation of NEA's Census 2010 partnership activities to provide the basis for adjusting Association assistance

to align with the Bureau's post-enumeration work, this concludes in December 2010.

## NEW BUSINESS ITEM E

### ADOPTED

Resolutions B-13 (Racism, Sexism, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identification Discrimination) and I-13 (Civil Rights) set forth NEA's opposition to the discriminatory treatment of same-sex couples and its belief that such couples should have the same legal rights and benefits as similarly-situated heterosexual couples. The Legislative Program is in accord: NEA supports "obtaining, preserving, and strengthening basic civil and human rights under law," and specifically calls for "passage of a federal statute prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression." Section IV(b). In implementation of the foregoing policies, the Representative Assembly adopts the following action plan with regard to same-sex couples:

1. NEA will support its affiliates seeking to enact state legislation that guarantees to same-sex couples the right to enter into a legally recognized relationship pursuant to which they have the same rights and benefits as similarly-situated heterosexual couples, including, without limitation, rights and benefits with regard to medical decisions, taxes, inheritance, adoption, and immigration.
2. NEA does not believe that a single term must be used to designate this legally recognized "equal treatment" relationship, and recommends that each state decide for itself whether "marriage," "civil union," "domestic partnership," or some other term is most appropriate based upon the cultural, social, and religious values of its citizenry.
3. NEA will support its affiliates in opposing state constitutional and/or statutory provisions that could have the effect of prohibiting the state and its political subdivisions from providing the same rights and benefits to same-sex couples as are provided to similarly-situated heterosexual couples.
4. NEA will take such actions as may be appropriate to support efforts to (a) repeal any federal legislation and/or regulations that discriminate against same-sex couples, and (b) enact federal legislation and/or regulations that treat same-sex couples and similarly-situated heterosexual couples equally with regard to social security, health care, taxation, and other federal rights and benefits.
5. NEA recognizes that the term "marriage" has religious connotations and that same-sex marriages may not be compatible with the beliefs, values, and/or practices of certain religions. Because of its support for the separation of church and state and the right to religious freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, NEA supports the right of religious institutions to refuse to perform or recognize same-sex marriages.

The Executive Committee will monitor the implementation of this New Business Item, and keep NEA affiliates informed of actions taken to achieve its objectives.

## NEW BUSINESS ITEM 1

### ADOPTED

NEA will continue to inform its members of the repercussions of cyber bullying.

## NEW BUSINESS ITEM 2

### ADOPTED

That NEA Congresses support federal administration of the National Immunization Survey on vaccinated and unvaccinated children to support or refute the correlation between the cumulative effects of vaccinations and learning problems and any associated health problems.

## NEW BUSINESS ITEM 3

### ADOPTED

Move to direct the NEA Board of Directors to develop a suitable commemoration for the decades of service and brilliant legal advice of Bob Chanin.

## NEW BUSINESS ITEM 4

### ADOPTED

The NEA will collect information about the promotion of NEA UniServ staff preparation programs to the state affiliates and strategies for promotion within the state affiliates. This information will be distributed to at least the NEA Board, State Presidents, and State UniServ Managers or their equivalents.

## NEW BUSINESS ITEM 5

### ADOPTED AS AMENDED

The NEA, in cooperation with other appropriate organizations, will continue to develop recommendations and materials on preparation for and responses to the possible spread of H1N1 virus and other communicable diseases, including the use of hand sanitizers in classrooms and school buses and voluntary flu shots available at schools.

## NEW BUSINESS ITEM 6

### ADOPTED

NEA shall provide \$50,000 to support member attendance at the EPA Indoor Air quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools National Symposium in January 2010. These dollars will provide scholarships for NEA members to attend the 3½ day training which includes a pre-symposium day. During the pre-symposium day leadership training will be

Support for gay marriage and for federal gay marriage laws

Support for state gay marriage laws

Opposes state amendment for traditional marriage