



WHAT EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS CAN DO

You drive, feed, nurse, teach, and protect them. No wonder they depend on you!

NEA's Priority Schools Campaign is the work of NEA members in struggling schools to raise student achievement and transform public education. That's where you come in: about 75 percent of education support professionals (ESPs) live, work, shop, and vote in the same school district as their students. NEA's Priority Schools Campaign needs your commitment and community connections to help close achievement gaps for all students.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Whether you're a school bus driver, custodian, secretary, food worker, or paraeducator, your work impacts student success. Here's how your colleagues across the country are helping:

Link every school job to student achievement. A bus driver in Texas makes completed homework the "price of admission" for students who ride her bus to school. A school nurse in Missouri offers annual immunization clinics and health fairs for children that allow early detection of health problems that might interfere with learning.

Share job skills and knowledge with students. At a Maryland high school, ESPs serve as mentors for student interns at the school bank, in the nurse's office, and in the school maintenance department. Students earn academic or community service credit toward graduation as well as valuable on-the-job and life skills.

Join a site-based decision-making team at your school. An attendance officer in New Jersey plays a key role in identifying at-risk students through site-based support services. Paraeducators in Florida run a mediation center in school to work with students in resolving conflicts.

Identify ways to improve your school. A custodian in Alabama used a \$500 grant from a local bank to set up an after-school beautification project that engages students in building birdhouses and planting flowers around their elementary school.

Connect with parents and community members. Virginia hired "liaisons" to visit student homes. The trained liaisons provide support on issues ranging from health care to housing and boost parental involvement in schools. A Virginia paraeducator runs an after-school tutorial program, a teen gospel choir, a gardening group, and a violence prevention program.

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.



Priority Schools Campaign

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