



ME
Capitol
Comments

Nov. 20, 2017



Six Ways to Take Action This Weekend

After the Lions football and turkey with trimmings, in between holiday shopping and Christmas decorating, take a few minutes over this long Thanksgiving weekend to raise your voice in defense of public education – an institution we’re all thankful for.

Here are six ways to get involved in the fight to preserve and protect great public schools for all children:

Give Input on Race for Governor

Provide input regarding the candidates for governor ahead of a Dec. 9 meeting of the Statewide Screening and Recommendation Committee to interview the candidates.

Learn more about the candidates by watching a [video](#) of their speeches at MEA’s Fall Representative Assembly, or listen to a recording of a [telephone town hall](#) we

conducted with several declared and potential candidates.

Then make your voice heard in [this survey](#) about your level of excitement about the candidates. (You will need to provide your MEA member number in order to access the survey.)

Contact State Reps – No Guns in Schools!

Use this [Action Network page](#) to write a letter opposing guns in schools and instantly send it to your state representative.

A package of bills, [Senate Bills 584-586](#), that allows concealed weapons in schools and other gun-free zones is headed to the State House for consideration after Senate Republicans recently passed them along mostly party lines, with all Democrats voting against.

Speak Up About GOP Tax Plans

Voice your opposition to federal tax plans put forward by Republican leaders in Congress, which attack educators and threaten funding for public school students. These proposals amount to a \$5 trillion tax giveaway to the wealthiest and corporations, paid for on the backs of working families and public schools.

In a [press release last week](#), MEA shared specific impacts these proposals could have on public education, including the loss of the popular \$250 tax deduction for educators buying supplies for their classroom and the loss of school revenue stemming from the elimination of state and local tax deductions.

[You can email your U.S. representative and senator right now through this simple form provided by the NEA Legislative Action Center.](#)

Join the Opposition to School Millage Diversion to Charters

Add your emails to the digital stack of opposition from parents and community members against [SB 574](#), which would give money from school enhancement millages to for-profit charter schools

Again, using our simple Action Network form, all you have to do is write a note and push send. [Contact your representatives today](#), and encourage other parents and community members to get involved.

Overall, this controversial change to school funding is opposed by numerous school groups and many parents, who argue that 90 percent of Michigan school children attend traditional public schools, which are held to higher standards of financial

transparency and performance.

Oppose Weakening of Teacher Certification

Push back against efforts to de-professionalize teaching by opposing a bill to create an alternative path to teacher certification in Career and Technical Education (CTE). [Click here to share your story with lawmakers about what's needed to reach and teach students and the professional preparation you went through in order to be a successful educator.](#)

[HB 5141](#) would allow anyone to teach CTE courses if they have a high school diploma or equivalent and a professional license in a subject matter or field, such as plumbing or electrical.

Add Your Input to MEA Legislation Priorities

Share concerns and proposals for the direction of MEA's legislative program for the next two years by filling out the Legislation Commission's input form. The Commission is developing our organization's 2018-2020 Legislative Priorities with input from members and staff.

[Go here](#) to fill out and submit the form online or to print a hard copy and mail to MEA Public Affairs, PO Box 2573, 1216 Kendale Boulevard, East Lansing, MI 48826-2573.

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