

Professional Learning

The Foundation for Educational Administration (FEA), NJPSA's professional learning division, provides educators with high-quality professional learning on critical issues including shared leadership, communication, climate and culture, family and community partnerships, MTSS, equity and inclusion, professional learning communities, SEL and mental health, supporting all learners, artificial intelligence, social media, restorative practices, student engagement, and data-informed instruction. School law training addressing critical topics is also provided by FEA's LEGAL ONE program. Through its leadership academies, NJLA, the Equity Academy, and Coaching It Forward, FEA provides sustained professional learning for individuals and teams. With the endorsement of the NJDOE, FEA also offers several school leadership programs, including NJEXCEL, leading to certification for supervisor, principal, school administrator, director of school counseling services, and the teacher leader endorsement. Additionally, FEA administers NJ Leaders to Leaders, a comprehensive mentoring program for New Jersey's new school leaders.

Save money on professional learning with FEA by taking advantage of these options:

➤ NJPSA Star Advantage

NJPSA Star Advantage entitles all Premier Active, Aspiring Leader, Organizational, and Private School members to one complimentary professional learning workshop per year!

Watch your inbox for FEA's calendar of professional learning events for the 2024-2025 school year. Premier membership status is based on verification of membership for 2024-2025.

➤ FEA Professional Learning Savings Account

A district can fund a \$5,000 account to use throughout the year for FEA professional learning, including LEGAL ONE, and receive 10% off in-district programs and 10% off FEA coaching services. Plus all non-NJPSA members in the district will pay member prices for all professional learning sessions for which attendees register through FEA. This is a great way to streamline the board approval process through a single resolution rather than continuously needing piecemeal approval for each event.



Membership Comes With a Team



Karen A. Bingert
Executive Director



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Assistant Executive Director



Donna McInerney, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer, FEA



Robert Murphy
Assistant Executive Director
and Director of
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Michael Vinella, Ph.D.
Director of Membership
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NJPSA Legal Services — Your Safety Net

Premier Active and Organizational NJPSA members and affiliated bargaining units are eligible to receive NJPSA legal services for employment-related issues as part of their membership.* It's your "legal insurance" to ensure your rights of due process.

In today's employment environment, it has never been more important for you to belong to the NJPSA and have access to our legal services. The NJPSA legal team is here for you to maximize your employment legal protections, whether you have a matter that can be discussed in a few minutes on the phone or that results in extended litigation. The legal protection that comes with your NJPSA membership is a benefit you should never be without.

The services provided by the NJPSA legal team aim to maximize your job security. In addition to the advice you can receive by simply calling the NJPSA, our employment related legal services include representation before:

- Superior Court
- Office of Administrative Law
- Commissioner of Education
- State Board of Examiners
- Division of Pensions
- Public Employment Relations Commission
- Municipal Court
- Division of Civil Rights
- School Ethics Commission

Remember, being a member of the NJPSA is your legal insurance. It ensures that you have an NJPSA attorney there with you to protect your rights.

*Note: Members receiving NJPSA legal services must be Premier Active or Organizational members at least three months prior to receiving legal services and are required to continue their Premier Active or Organizational membership until the conclusion of the legal action commenced by NJPSA counsel.

Expert Field Services

Negotiations Teams

As contract negotiations become increasingly difficult and more boards of education turn to attorneys and labor relations specialists to represent them in negotiations, the availability of expert field services becomes increasingly important. NJPSA has expanded its field services staff and program to offer a range of services to

members and affiliated bargaining units. NJPSA field representatives are well trained and skilled in helping local districts address financial concerns, while at the same time maintaining job security and providing reasonable improvements in salaries, fringe benefits, and working conditions. Field services representatives are assigned to represent members when necessary.

Expert Retirement Services

Retirement planning can be daunting under the best circumstances. Understanding the benefits provided through the New Jersey Retirement System has become more complex. With assistance from our pension and health benefits specialist, you can receive expert advice to make informed decisions and plan properly for retirement.

In addition to programs and consultations, NJPSA members are eligible to schedule an individualized retirement planning appointment (in person

or virtual) and receive a portfolio containing a complete set of retirement materials.

Retirement is a major step that requires a clear understanding of the complex elements of the New Jersey public pension system. NJPSA members have access to a retirement team who will provide comprehensive information regarding the retirement allowance calculation, pension options, survivor benefits, taxation of benefits, insurance, health benefits, and employment after retirement.

Advocacy — So Your Voice Is Heard

NJPSA is YOUR voice before the U.S. Congress, the State Legislature, the Governor's Office, the State Board of Education, and other federal and state agencies on issues affecting the quality of the public education system and your professional lives. NJPSA's Government Relations staff advocates on your behalf on proposed legislation, regulations, and policies that affect our students, school leaders, public schools, and the education profession.

Throughout the year, the Government Relations Department directly engages members in the legislative process through member discussion

on legislation, through the NJPSA Legislative Committee, Critical Issues Committee and all NJPSA committees with a stake in the issues. Members are also encouraged to participate through direct meetings with lawmakers, public testimony before key decision-makers, the Annual NJPSA Legislative Conference, and support of the NJPSA-PAC, the political action committee of the association that supports pro-education candidates.

Membership Categories

► Premier Active Membership

Premier active membership is open to any practicing New Jersey school administrator or supervisor. Premier members are entitled to all NJPSA services and benefits. These include legal services, negotiations and field representation, association-paid insurance, professional learning services, publications, and much more.

► Associate Member

Associate members are those who are not practicing school administrators or supervisors, but who engage in educational pursuits. An associate member may include college or university professors. This is an excellent, cost-effective way to stay in the mainstream of the educational community.

► Aspiring Leader

Membership is open to any educator practicing in a New Jersey school district who is not currently serving in a school administrator or supervisory capacity. Aspiring leader members are not eligible to hold office or vote. Aspiring leader members are permitted to serve on standing committees as non-voting members but would not be permitted to serve as a committee chair.

► Retired Membership

Retired membership is open to former premier active, associate, and/or aspiring leaders. Retired members are not eligible to vote or hold office. Many services can automatically continue, and others are available for a fee.

► Organizational/Support Services Membership

Organizational membership is open to any person in a group or organization that provides, contributes, or promotes services to the educational community. Organizational members are not eligible to hold office or vote. They are entitled to all NJPSA services and benefits. These include legal services, negotiations and field representation, association-paid insurance, professional learning services, and publications.

► Private School Membership

Private school membership is open to any principal, headmaster, or supervisor working full or part-time in a private school, whether secular or non-secular, who is not an active member. Private school members may not hold office or vote. They are entitled to contract negotiations but not legal representation.

Please visit www.njpsa.org and log in for a list of additional member benefits.