

NEA Micro-credentials for Professional Development

What are micro-credentials?

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Micro-credentials are a **competency based recognition** that can be issued for formal and informal professional learning experiences to support educators developing skills and acquiring knowledge to improve classroom practices that support student success. NEA offers over 175 micro-credentials to educators at no cost. These micro-credentials have been created and will be reviewed by educators.

How can you use micro-credentials?

- Individuals may use micro-credentials to complete their own personal learning goals.
- Teams or PLCs (professional learning communities) may use micro-credentials together to support their learning goals.
- The micro-credential can be shared on social media, résumés, portfolios, or shared with your evaluator.

How do you apply and get started?

- Start by visiting the micro-credentials library: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/professional-learning/micro-credentials>
- Create an account. Browse for topics (called stacks) that interest you. View the micro-credential by clicking on the image.
- Click “Apply” when you are ready to start.
- Most micro-credentials take about 10-15 hours to complete. You have six months from the time you apply for a micro-credential to finish and submit your micro-credential.

Why use micro-credentials?

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Micro-credentials offer educators **personalized, on-demand learning** experiences. The learning happens anywhere, anytime. Micro-credentials can be **shared** with evaluators, posted on social networks, added to resumes and in some cases turned into continuing education units.

How do you talk about micro-credentials?

The micro-credential includes the entire competency-based assignment for educators. Although digital badges have been around for over a decade, micro-credentials are still in their infancy. Do not use the term micro-credential interchangeably with digital badge. A digital badge is just a picture. To have value, the micro-credential requires three elements—the **issuer** (NEA, Learning Forward, Center for Teaching Quality, etc.), the **user** (the educators who earn them), and importantly, the **recognizer** (the school district or state) that gives the micro-credential its “currency” by recognizing it for advancement or professional compensation.

How does this program support NEA Goals?

By offering an entire ecosystem of over 175 micro-credentials, the NEA gives **empowered educators** an opportunity to learn and be recognized for skills and knowledge targeted to support **successful students**.



Some NEA Micro-Credentials Stacks Include:

- Diversity, Equity, and Cultural Competence (DECC)
- Adult Social Emotional Learning
- Bully and Sexual Harassment Prevention
- Arts Integration
- Working with English Language Learners
- Creating Safe School Spaces for LGBTQIA+ Students
- Classroom Management
- Cooperating Teacher
- Early Career Educator (InTASC)
- Native Education
- And many more

There are over 175 topics (stacks)!

Visit the website to get started:

<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/professional-learning/micro-credentials>

How much does it cost?

Your NEA national union affiliation provides you access to these amazing education resources at no additional cost!

Your NEA-NH connection, for questions:

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Micro-credential: short, competency-based recognition that allows an educator to demonstrate mastery in a particular area... [NEA] micro-credentials are grounded in research and best practice, designed to be:

- **Personalized:** You can create your own learning journey, based on your interests and career goals; gaps in your skills; and the specific needs of your students, school, and district.
- **Flexible:** You can study when it's convenient for you, alone or with your peers.
- **Performance-based:** Unlike "sit-and-get" certifications, NEA micro-credentials are awarded based on demonstrated mastery of the subject matter, not for showing up.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I'd like to study with a group. How can I find out if my local affiliate is actively organizing a learning community?

A: Call your local president or building rep.

Q: I work for an NEA affiliate that is interested in starting a learning community. What do we do?

A: Go to <https://www.nea.org/resource-library/micro-credentials-resources-affiliates>. Or you can click the *Contact Us* link on the Micro-credential Stack Library page. Your question will be directed to Tech Assistance or Content Support.

Q: What happens if I don't pass the micro-credential? Do I have to start over?

A: You will receive feedback from your peer reviewer and be invited to address the feedback and resubmit. You may submit as many times as needed in order to pass. The national first-time pass rate is about 40%, so you shouldn't feel bad if you don't pass the first time. It is a process and the feedback is meant to help you learn the material and improve your practice.

Get started on your own personalized professional learning journey...

If you're reading this...you're interested in taking steps to improve your practice as an educator and create better outcomes for your students. Congratulations! Your commitment to lifelong professional learning is essential in helping NEA fulfill its mission to provide a great public education for every student.

Unfortunately, not all educators have access to the strong professional development support they need. That's why NEA created micro-credentials—to make it easy for all educators to access great professional learning opportunities throughout their careers.

Still have questions?

<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/professional-learning/micro-credentials>

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For more information or to register, visit:

<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/professional-learning/micro-credentials>



Ongoing NEA Micro-credentials Program—

Enhance your career
and complete
your professional
development online!



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