



Back to School Orientation Sample Talking Points

Our Local is excited to be here to meet each of you as you begin your journey as an educator in our School District! **Describe Local (who they represent, their recent victories, challenges, etc.) to NEO attendees.**

Today we want to learn about your interests and concerns – and importantly, how we (Affiliate/Local) can best support you as an educator – whether you are a new educator, or simply new to our district.

It's important for us to communicate to all of you the following:

1. **You are never on your own.** As a member, you would part of a family of over 45,000 educators in Connecticut and over 3 million in the United States.
2. **You voice can be heard.** Through Local/CEA/NEA, educators can offer our expertise and knowledge when policy decisions are made. Together, our voices give us power.
3. **You can grow in our profession.** You can access people and resources and make connections at your school, in your state and throughout the nation among NEA's more than 3 million members. As an Local/CEA/NEA member, you have access to high-quality professional development and education experts to help when you need it.
4. **You have friends in powerful places.** When it comes to bargaining, negotiating and advocating for our students we have a seat at the table and we support each other. As a new educator, you want your voice to be heard.
5. **As Affiliate/Local member you part of the CEA family that works to give students the education they deserve.** When you join CEA you are part of a family filled with some of the brightest, most dedicated, passionate, energetic, optimistic people you will ever meet.

We have staff and member leaders (*have these individuals raise their hands*) present today to speak to each of you. Your interests, your concerns, your needs – that’s what we’re here today to discuss, and also to identify where we can respond to these issues.

To aid us in capturing this information so that we can support you are our Affiliate/Local Interest Card (*have staff and member leaders hold up interest cards*). You’ll see that the interest card asks about your professional interests including classroom conditions, social justice, parental and community engagement, and education policy – there’s also space for you to add another interest, in case we missed one.

We also want to know what support tools you’d like us to provide – whether it’s student debt workshops, professional development trainings or opportunities to tackle social and economic justice issues in our classrooms and communities. Filling out an interest card allows us to best support you!

Talk about NEA Member Benefits. List some of the key benefits membership offers.

Lastly, we are stronger together – when we work together to support one another and our students. We look forward to speaking with each of you today, listening to each of you today, and learning from each of you today about what you need and want, and what motivated you to enter the classroom. Thank you.