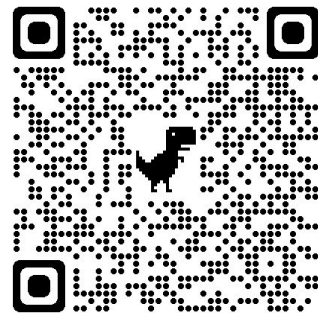


IEA-NEA  
Special  
Education  
Committee  
2023-2024

Questions  
throughout the  
session? Use our  
padlet



# IEA Special Education Committee Members

Victoria Mikos (Speech–Language Pathologist)– Committee Chair,  
Region 35

Jennifer Curran (Social Worker, NEA Disability Rights Resource Cadre–  
Region 20

Jennifer McCormick (Special Education Teacher)– Region 54

Jenelle Cleveland (School Psychologist)– Region 59

Donald Kimura (Special Education Teacher)– Region 3

# IEA Special Education Committee Members

Megan Dusing (Speech–Language Pathologist)– Region 50

Erin Roche– (Learning Behavior Specialist)– Region 38

Bridget Anderson (Adapted Physical Education Teacher)– Region 34

Susan Nicholas (Adapted Physical Education Teacher & CTE Hospitality, IEA–NEA Director)– Region 21

Elsbeth Alvarado (ELL Self–Contained Teacher)– Region 24

Dr. Diana Zaleski (IEA Education Policy and Agency Relations Director)

# Review of Committee Charge

#1

Serve as a resource to IEA locals via the IEA Special Education Committee Resources website

(<https://ieane.org/about/leadership/committees/special-education-committee-resources/>). This website will include, but not be limited to:

- a. Federal and State laws that impact the aspects of special education;
- b. Resources to support educators working in the field of special education.

# Review of Committee Charge

# 2

**CHANGE-** Continue to provide resources pertaining to ~~PA 990456 (SB 100)~~ for the appropriate use of ~~restorative justice and~~ restorative practices and inclusionary ~~regarding~~ student discipline.

# Review of Committee Charge

#3

Continue to advocate and recommend changes in the IEA Resolutions and IEA Legislative Platform for the purpose of updating policy relating to special education school code and administrative rules.

# Review of Committee Charge

#4

Collect and provide IEA locals with strategies and programs designed to provide practical life experiences for students with special needs as they transition to post-secondary opportunities.

# Review of Committee Charge

#5

Collaborate with IEA Lobbyists on issues related to special education.  
how special educators are identified and categorized within the IEA data systems.



# Review of Committee Charge

#6

Use electronic resources to complete the committee's work whenever possible.

# Review of Committee Charge

#7

Communicate regularly with the IEA president, provide the IEA president with minutes of each meeting, make recommendations as deemed appropriate and submit a year-end report.

# Review of Committee Charge

#8

The committee will look at all of its work through an equity lens.

# WHAT ARE RESOLUTIONS?



- The Associations formal expression of opinion, intent belief, or position.
- The Associations Philosophical Statements of Belief
- Resolutions carry over time without Specificity.

Questions throughout  
the session? Use our  
Padlet



# 23-24 Proposed Resolution Amendment #1

## B-4 Services for Students with Disabilities



# 23-24 Proposed Resolution Amendment #1

## B-4 Services for Students with Disabilities

- The term services refers to, “specially designed instruction and such related services as are necessary for a [student] to benefit from education.”
- This change would allow for the intent by the Resolutions document to address Services for students with disabilities instead of placement options.
- If approved in both the Resolutions and Legislative Platform, language would support each other moving forward.

# 23-24 Proposed Resolution #2

[B – # Placement\(s\) for Students with Disabilities](#)



# 2023–2024 Proposed Resolution #2

## B – # Placement(s) for Students with Disabilities

- This proposed Resolution adds a new statement that is actually about “placement” not “services”.
- The term placement refers to, “the range or continuum of educational settings available in the district to implement a [student’s] IEP...”
- These changes would be consistent with the common placement options listed in the ISBE Educational Rights and Responsibilities Understanding Special Education in Illinois, [‘The Parent Guide’ \(Aug. 2020\)](#).



# 23-24 Proposed Resolution #3

B-5 Least Restrictive Environment: Regular Education Initiative to Inclusion



# 23-24 Proposed Resolutions Amendment #3

Articles: B. Advance the Cause of Education for All Individuals

B-5 Least Restrictive Environment: Regular Education Initiative to Inclusion

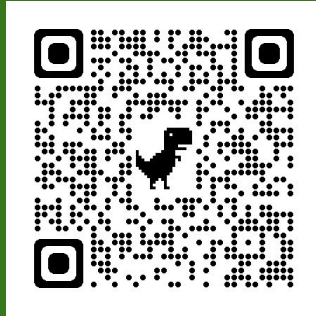
- Proposed changes to this section (and there are many) reflect the use of current terminology within the field (e.g., workload and caseload).
  - Change “children and youth” to “a student”
  - Change “general education classroom” to “environment”
  - Change “classroom” to “setting”
  - Add “legal guardians” to “parents”
  - Change “special needs” to “disabilites”
  - Add “caseload”
  - Add “workload”

# 23-24 Proposed Resolution #3

## B-5 Least Restrictive Environment: Regular Education Initiative to Inclusion

- It is also important to ensure the appropriate inclusion of students with disabilities in the general education environment and delivery of services to these students.
  - The appropriate inclusion of students with disabilities in the general education environment does not jeopardize the education of general education students but improves educational opportunities and feelings of belongingness and community for all students.

# What is the Legislative Platform?



- Preamble
  - IEA will advance the Legislative Program to the maximum degree possible and work to improve current laws governing all levels of education.
- IEA Goals
  - Legislative platform is written as a living document
- Written
  - Flexibility and clarity to provide guidance to our members and lobbyists.

# What is the Legislative Platform?

The IEA Legislative Program is grouped in the following manner:

- High Quality Public Education
- Supporting Student Success
- A Voice in the Workplace
- Education Finance/Funding
- Good Public Policy

# What is the Legislative Platform?

The Legislative platform provides guidance on:

- How the IEA address education policy
- Issues facing our students and educators
- School funding
- Collective bargaining
- Educational opportunities
- Employee rights

# What is the Legislative Platform?

## Yearly IEA Members & IEA Committees

- Opportunity to review
- Opportunity to make changes

## IEA-RA Delegates

- Discuss
- Vote

# 23-24 IEA-RA Proposed Legislative Platform Amendments

## Legislative Platform

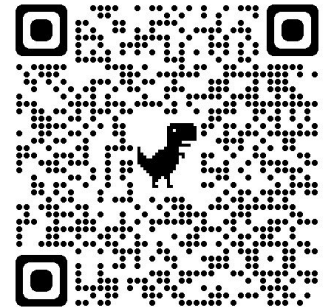
The Legislative Platform provides guidance on how to address education policy and those issues facing our students and educators, including school funding, collective bargaining, educational opportunities, employee rights and more. The Platform was written and developed by members of the IEA to provide direction for the Association on issues important to educators. Each year members have an opportunity to review and make changes to the Platform at the IEA Representative Assembly.

### ■ [Legislative Platform \(2023-2024\)](#)

#### Legislative Platform Amendments

- |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ <a href="#">LPA #01</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #06</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #11</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #16</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #21</a> |
| ■ <a href="#">LPA #02</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #07</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #12</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #17</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #22</a> |
| ■ <a href="#">LPA #03</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #08</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #13</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #18</a> |                           |
| ■ <a href="#">LPA #04</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #09</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #14</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #19</a> |                           |
| ■ <a href="#">LPA #05</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #10</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #15</a> | ■ <a href="#">LPA #20</a> |                           |

Questions  
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# 23-24 Proposed LP Amendment # 18

## IEA Legislative Platform Glossary II: Placement



- Similar to proposed Resolution #2

# 23–24 Proposed LP Amendment # 18

## IEA Legislative Platform Glossary II: Placement

- These changes would be consistent with the common placement options listed in the ISBE Educational Rights and Responsibilities Understanding Special Education in Illinois, ['The Parent Guide'](#) (Aug. 2020).
- If approved in both the Legislative Platform and Resolutions, language would support each other moving forward.

# 23-24 Proposed LP Amendment #21

## IEA Legislative Platform Glossary IV: Special Educator



- This language clean up allows for utilization of the correct terminology in the IEA Legislative Platform Glossary

# 23-24 Proposed LP Amendment #22

## IEA Legislative Platform Glossary V: Workload



- This language clarifies the extent of the term collaboration as it applies to the definition of “workload” as writing in proposed Resolution #3
- If approved in both the Legislative Platform and Resolutions, language would support each other moving forward.

# Government Relations (GR) Collaboration

- Committee receives regular updates about association initiatives from our committee's assigned Lobbyists
- Lobbyists ask for input from the committee.

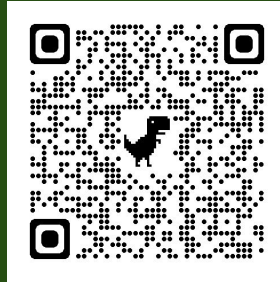
# GR Collaboration

- IEA Initiatives and Education Legislation  
<http://bit.ly/485jaf2>



# GR Collaboration

- School Caseload Review (SJR 49)



- A proposed study to try and obtain more information about the impact of hypothetical changes to practitioner caseloads on school finances

# GR Collaboration

- School Caseload Review (SJR 49)
  - Caseload numbers utilized in the resolution language were based on national caseload numbers recommended.
  - Has not passed yet!
    - Requests the Professional Review Panel and the Illinois State Board of Education to submit their findings in a written report to the General Assembly and Governor by December 31, 2025.
    - However, there is an opportunity for local bargaining when it comes to workload/caseload



# GR Collaboration

- Learn more about IEA's Grassroots Political Activists (GPA) Program!



<https://bit.ly/3SOsxu2>

# GR Collaboration

- Please complete IEA's Education Policy Survey!



<https://bit.ly/3SNLKvL>

# NEA Disability Rights Resource Cadre

**Vision:**

**To support all members as  
they serve diverse students**

# MISSION

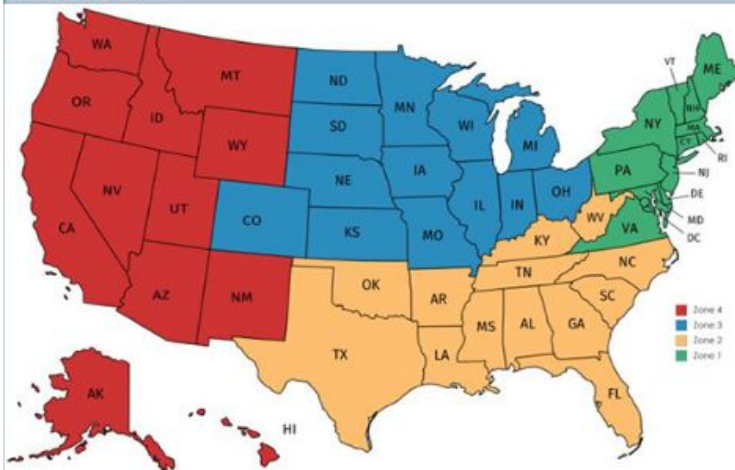
To communicate and work collaboratively within the NEA Disability Rights Resource Cadre to develop and disseminate evidence and/or research-based knowledge, strategies, and practices, as well as evolving laws and regulations, as they relate to students and personnel with disabilities (both apparent and non-apparent) within the school/district/state/nation.

Senior Director, Center of Organizing: Jim Testerman  
 Associate Director of Local Growth and Strategic Field Opportunities: Nathan Allen  
 Director of State Affiliate Growth and Strategic Field Opportunities: Tom Israel  
 Field Manager of Growth, Leadership and Union Engagement: Matthew Bennet  
 Field Manager of My School, My Voice: Michael Schoettle  
 Manager for Business Affairs: Yolanda Curtis

## NEA Zone Offices

Zone / States Served	Staffing
<b>Zone 1 Office</b> 1201 16th St. NW, Suite 516 Washington, D.C. 20036 202-258-6026 Phone 202-822-7624 - Fax <a href="mailto:MOBrien@nea.org">MOBrien@nea.org</a>	Interim Associate Director: Maralyn O'Brien
<b>States Served:</b> CT, DE, DC, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA and VT	
<b>Zone 2 Office</b> 1201 16th St. NW, Suite 516 Washington, D.C. 20036 205-249-4229 - Phone 202-822-7624 - Fax <a href="mailto:pwilliams@nea.org">pwilliams@nea.org</a>	Associate Director: Phadra Kee
<b>States Served:</b> AL, AR, Federal, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, OK, NC, SC, TN, TX, and WV	
<b>Zone 3 Office</b> 1201 16th St. NW, Suite 516 Washington, D.C. 20036 202-394-2126 - Phone 202-822-7624 - Fax <a href="mailto:jburns@nea.org">jburns@nea.org</a>	Associate Director: Jason Burns
<b>States Served:</b> CO, IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MO, MN, NE, OH, SD, ND and WI	

## NEA Zones by State



## Additional notes:

UT includes UEA and USEA

Federal Education Association is included in Zone 2.



Work to  
support  
Special  
Education  
Cooperatives

# CO-OP ROUND TABLES

## Past Topics:

- Member Engagement
- Bargaining
- Financials & Salary Schedule
- Working Conditions
- Violence and Student Behavior
- Co-Op Meet & Greet
- Issues Related to Timeout and Restraint Rules and Reporting Procedures

## Next Roundtable:

- April 24, 2024 @ 4:00 PM
  - School Finance
- Register Here:



<https://bit.ly/3wbaiX2>

# HOW TO USE YOUR VOICE TO ADVOCATE

- Congrats!! You're already a delegate for the IEA-RA
- Delegate for NEA-RA
- Attend Summer Leadership
- Put your name in to be considered for a committee
- Be a representative for your local, Region
- Contact your Region GPA and become a member of the Go Team



Questions?? Feel free to contact us!

[SEC@ieanead.org](mailto:SEC@ieanead.org)

[Committee  
Participant  
Recommendation  
Form](#)

Our padlet will be closed at the end of today. Any questions after that should be directed to our email.

[IEA Special Education  
Website](#)

