

## THE COUNCIL CONSIST OF:

Education Support Professional Council consists of thirteen (13) voting members and three (3) alternates all of whom are ESP school employees and members of the Illinois Education Association. The ESP council's goal is to represent and support ESP's throughout Illinois.



## ★ ESP STAR AWARD ★

The ESP Council created the ESP STAR program to allow IEA Local leaders, members and board of directors to recognize and publicize the good work of their ESP members across the state.

## CONTACT US

[ieaespcouncil.com](http://ieaespcouncil.com)

**Jill Scarcelli (51)**  
Chairperson (2026)

**Debra Ward-Mitchell (27)**  
(2023-2026)

**Cheryl Jones (56)**  
(2024-2027)

**Kristie Fidler (54)**  
(2025-2028)

**Ray Greenberg (6)**  
(2024-2027)

**Gina Lozano (34)**  
(2023-2026)

**Nandini Asar (39)**  
(2025-2028)

**Rashida Bonner (27)**  
(2025 - 2026)

**Nathan Williams (26)**  
(2024-2027)

**Tina Alexander (56)**  
(2025-2028)

**Amanda Wood (39)**  
(2023-2026)

**Tracey Caldwell (56)**  
(2024-2027)

**Sandy Drafall (Retired)**  
(2024-2027)

**Sheri Bochman (54)**  
(2025-2028)

**Julie Spaargaren (57)**  
(2023-2026)

**Nicole Nichols (14)**  
(2024-2027)



## EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL

It is the mission of the Education Support Professional Council to uphold the Illinois Education Association-NEA's mission to effect excellence and equity in public education and to be THE advocacy organization for all education support professionals in public education.

[ieaespcouncil.com](http://ieaespcouncil.com)

ILLINOIS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION





**RESPECT:**  
Raising Education Support Professionals  
by Elevating Careers Together

Support staff are typically the first to arrive at school as they unlock doors and turn on lights. They are some of the first people to greet students when they arrive at school in the morning, who give students the academic support they need to become successful scholars, who carefully assist with their health, safety, and nutritional needs, and are the last people who see students safely home at the end of the day. The value of their work is priceless.

RESPECT: is a statewide effort by ESPs, with the support of IEA staff, to improve working conditions by focusing on four areas:

**WAGES** – A minimum salary, fair substitute teaching compensation and unemployment insurance

**HEALTH INSURANCE** – Affordable health insurance for the currently employed and the retired

**PENSIONS** – Making the Tier 2 pension system equitable for all education employees

**RETENTION, RECRUITMENT AND JOB DUTIES** – Tuition reimbursement, Grow Your Own Teacher from ESP to certified, paid family leave, licensing fees relief, quality job-related professional development, “hold harmless” language for assigned duties, appropriate access to IEPs and suitable job duties for ESPs. education employees

**Bring your voice to our table as we work to:**

- Pass legislation that improves living and working conditions of our education support professional members
- Create Model Contract Language to support members as they bargain
- Organize, Organize, Organize!

Visit our website for more info

[ieaneaa.org/respect](http://ieaneaa.org/respect)

**RESPECT Virtual Meeting Dates**

Second Thursday of each month

5:30-7pm



September 11  
October 9  
November 13  
December 11  
January 15  
February 12  
April 9  
May 14

**2025-2026  
Meeting Dates**

**October 19**

One Conference | Oak Brook | 9am – 2pm

**January 10**

Virtual Meeting | 9am – 2pm

**April 18**

Edwardsville | 9am – 2pm

**June 6**

Naperville | 9am – 2pm



**ESP Roundtable**

September 27

February 25

April 25

**ONE  
CONFERENCE**



**October 17-18th**

Oak Brook, IL

[ieaneaa.org/one](http://ieaneaa.org/one)



**ESP Celebration**

November 19

6:30 – 8pm

[Register Here](#)