



10 MINUTE MEETING ON PAC

PURPOSE – *To explain the importance of NJEA PAC to our association and why every member must become a PAC member.*

INTRODUCTION

Before you begin...

We are going to start by talking about the reasons we need NJEA PAC, and how it benefits our professional lives as public school employees.

WHY PAC?

NJEA PAC is our collective voice for public policy advocacy. PAC is the means through which we speak in one loud clear voice to inform and influence public officials of our positions on the issues that matter to our profession. It is the way that we build collective power as an organization to transform our individual voices into thousands speaking as one.

As public employees, government officials make decisions about your job and your profession every single day. Which officials have influence over the following issues?

- **Your salary** (*local board of education*)
- **Your funding your district gets** (*governor, state legislature, us congress, local board of education*)
- **Pensions and retirement** (*state legislature*)
- **Evaluation** (*state legislature, state board of education, local board of education*)
- **Health benefits** (*state legislature, local board of education*)
- **Professional development requirements** (*state legislature, state and local boards of education*)
- **Tenure / Due Process rights** (*state legislature, local board of education*)
- **Higher Education** (*state legislature, county board of commissioners*)
- **Privatization** (*state legislature, local board of education*)

MESSAGE

Speaking out for your rights and for issues that impact your profession is not politics, it's advocacy, and an important part of being a member in our union.

You benefit from NJEA PAC's efforts in advocating on these issues; adding your voice is your responsibility.

When speaking to other leaders: As leaders in the organization, it is critical that you lead on this too.

HOW DOES PAC WORK?

NJEA PAC works to elect candidates to public office who share our values on issues important to public education and labor rights.

PAC decisions are governed by NJEA officers, the NJEA Executive Committee, Government Relations and Congressional Contact Committees, and representatives from Preservice and NJREA, all of which make up the PAC Operating Committee.

PAC members join at whatever level they are comfortable with. The most common level of PAC dues is \$3.00 per month. PAC dues come out of your paycheck along with your union dues, but by law, you must sign up separately.

Benefits of PAC membership include an annual digital newsletter subscription, special badge insignia at NJEA conferences, an NJEA PAC lapel pin, and access to special PAC member-only events and promotions.

TAKE ACTION: JOIN PAC TODAY

Now that you know more about PAC, it's time to join if you haven't already.

If you are already a PAC member, it may be time to increase your participation level.

Hand out "Facts about PAC", as well as paper APD forms if you are using them. Ensure that you collect completed forms right then and there, and provide the member with their copy of the form (goldenrod).

If using the electronic form, use the QR code on the "Facts about PAC" page, or the following URL: njea.org/PAC

PAC is a voluntary part of membership, but it should not be considered optional. It is our obligation to each other to support the advocacy of our union together.