

FTEA Newsletter

November 2021

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*Use your NJEA Pin and Password to access our new site.



NJEA Convention - November 4-5

Both in-person and remotely, members will have access to what has become the convention's signature feature—professional and career development workshops and programs for every member. While keynote speaker Bill Nye will appear remotely both for in-person attendees and those attending remotely, the convention's three in-person keynotes—Henry Louis Gates, Sonia Manzano and Eric Liu—can also be attended remotely.

The massive exhibit hall, featuring Main Street NJEA, education vendors, publishers, field trip opportunities, colleges and universities, NJEA Member Benefits sponsored vendors, the Member Showcase, the Nicky Fifth series author Lisa Funari-Willever, and so much more will return for the in-person convention only.

Workshops that are presented remotely will be optimized for the virtual environment and will generally not be broadcasts of the in-person workshops.

Safety Protocols for the 2021 NJEA Convention

All attendees at NJEA events, including the 2021 NJEA Convention at the Atlantic City Convention Center, are required to show proof that they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have had a negative result on a PCR test within 72 hours prior to the beginning of the convention. Rapid tests are not permissible. Photo identification, such as a school ID or a driver's license, will also be required.

Acceptable proof of vaccination includes your fully completed vaccine card, a photo of your card, or online verification on Docket, an app that verifies vaccination status for those who were vaccinated in New Jersey.

Acceptable proof of testing includes a printed or online test result with your name that shows a negative result a PCR test administered no earlier than Monday, Nov. 1.

In addition, to protect the health and safety of all persons attending the 2021 NJEA Convention, the practices will be in place for all attendees, regardless of vaccination status.

- Every attendee must wear a mask.

- No one under 18 years of age will be admitted. Childcare is suspended for the 2021 NJEA Convention.
- Food and beverages will be available but must be consumed in designated areas. No food or beverages will be permitted in any other area of the convention center. There will be an expanded area for dining adjacent to the Exhibit Hall.
- Capacity in workshops and meeting rooms will be reduced from previous years to enable social distancing. As currently envisioned, workshop presenters will be permitted to unmask at the beginning of their presentation but must remain at the front of the room and maintain an appropriate distance from the audience.

[Register to Attend.](#)

Follow the link found here to register.

You will need:

- An email address.
- Your NJEA personal identification number (PIN). You'll find your PIN on your membership card. Your PIN has six characters in a two letter-two number-two letter combination.

How do I register for specific workshops?

[Click here](#) to see the Convention Program with a list of workshops being offered.

All convention workshops require preregistration. No walk-ins will be permitted. When you register for the convention, you will also be guided through the workshop selection process.

Once I arrive at the Atlantic City Convention Center, where do I pick up my badge?

Registration will take place on the second floor of the convention center in Hall B, which you can access after completing the safety protocols as outlined below. As a member, when you pick up your badge you will also receive a \$10 lunch voucher that may only be redeemed in the convention center.

How will I get my certificate of attendance?

In-person attendees will receive a certificate of attendance when they receive their Convention Badge upon registration at the Atlantic City Convention Center. Virtual attendees must log into the NJEA Convention on Nov. 4 or Nov. 5 and attend at least one session. At the end of first day on which you log in, a certificate of attendance will be emailed to you.

Questions? Write to convention@njea.org.



New Jersey leads the nation in education for the third year in a row

Education Week once again has named New Jersey's public schools the best in the nation, calculating that achievement based on K-12 achievement, school finance and the chance for success.

New Jersey has been neck-and-neck with Massachusetts for several years, but has topped them once again in the race to be number one.

In March 2021, New Jersey's pre-K through 12th grade public schools were named the best in the nation by U.S. News and World Report in their annual survey which analyzed preschool enrollment, high school graduation rates and college tuition cost. New Jersey's public high school graduation rate is 90 percent.

Learn more about Education Week's rankings at bit.ly/3nM9GAR.



MCEA Events

November 15 - Ed Puzzle Workshop (Virtual)

Ed Puzzle is a video creation platform. Please note that this is an in person workshop. This workshop will be held from 4:15pm to 6:15 pm.

[Click here](#) to register for this workshop.

November 16 - Wealth Steps Workshop (In Person)

Please join MCEA and Brian Cuniff, financial planner about ways to start saving for retirement. Please note that this is not the NJEA XYZ's of Retirement Workshop. This workshop will be held from 4:15pm to 6:15 pm at the MCEA Office. The address is 3301 Route 66 Building A, Suite 103 Neptune, NJ 07753

[Click here](#) to register for this workshop.



NJEA Workshops

November 10 - Accessing your Member Benefits

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Learn about the benefits of membership through NJEA and NEA Member Benefits and how to save time and money. Our presentation will include money saving and debt reduction tips and more from partners, including: Prudential Disability and Life Insurance, California Casualty Auto and Home Insurance, Buyer's Edge (appliances, cars, furniture and more), AID-NJEA, NEA Member Benefits, NEA Retirement Program, Optical Academy, and more.

[Click here](#) to register for this workshop.

November 20 - FAFSA 101: Ways to Pay for College

10:00am - 11:00am

The FAFSA-Free Application for Federal Student Aid — is a necessary first step in determining financial aid opportunities for college, including eligibility for FREE tuition through a Community College Opportunity Grant.

If you're a parent of a high school student or a new or returning student in need of a refresher on the financial aid process, join Yanela Tejada, from Visions Federal Credit Union, as she reviews the process and timelines of the FAFSA application and helps you to prepare for your financial aid journey. You will leave this session with helpful tools and resources to help you complete the FAFSA form and pay for college with confidence.

[Click here](#) to register for this event.

November 22 - Degrees Not Debt: Student Loan Debt Relief

There are two times offered: 5:00pm-6:00pm and 7:00pm-8:00pm.

This free NJEA webinar is meant for members who have federal student loan debt and want to know more about their options. Members will learn about loan consolidation, different repayment options and public service loan forgiveness programs. As a public service employee, you may qualify for a program that can significantly reduce or completely eliminate your federal student loan debt.

Join us to see if you qualify for programs such as:

- Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF)
- Teacher Loan Cancellation (TLC)
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)



Participants will be introduced to free student loan debt relief resources. Following the presentation, members will be guided to a new member benefit program that allows members to connect directly to nationally-accredited student loan counselors to assist them in making or implementing student loan debt solutions.

After the presentation portion, members may ask questions. Webinars are held in a small group format. These webinars are typically given after school throughout the year.

[Click here](#) to register for the 5:00pm - 6:00pm workshop.

[Click here](#) to register for the 7:00pm - 8:00pm workshop.

November 30 - Holiday Hacks With Your Member Benefits
4:30pm - 5:30pm

We've compiled the best deals and discounts from our member benefits partners to help you do your holiday shopping! Learn how to use Rakuten during your holiday shopping and earn cash back on all of your online shopping.

[Click here](#) to register for this event.

