



ARE YOU READY? YOUR UNION'S CALL TO ACTION!

#4: The NEA UniServ Program (Still) Matters

NEA's UniServ Program, created in 1970, was designed to "help establish and maintain effective local affiliates by making professional staff available to provide direct support and assistance to local affiliates and the Active members of such affiliates on an on-going basis." (-2008 Guidelines for National Education Association UniServ Program)

Recent NEA actions, in conjunction with its 2014 "Report of the NEA UniServ Core Competencies Task Force," indicate a desire to dilute and/or eliminate the UniServ Program. Evidence for this includes:

- Fundamentally reorienting the work of UniServ staff from one of representative and legal advocate to one of organizer. (-Task Force Preamble)
- Replacing the annual UniServ Academy training with regional and/or virtual training modules and Webinars. (-Task Force Recommendations)
- Hiring managers whose experience & background lie solely in the so-called "organizing model".

Why would NEA want to weaken or eliminate the UniServ Program?

A significant portion of NEA dues (currently \$51.07/teacher (\$30.84/ESP) or 27.91%) currently supports the UniServ Program. As NEA membership declines and it continues to restructure, the desire to divert UniServ dollars elsewhere in the budget grows.



Why does the UniServ Program matter?

- The UniServ Program preserves and promotes the core values of unions.
- The UniServ Program delivers NEA programs and implements common agendas for local and state affiliates.
- The UniServ Program builds relationships, creates loyalty, and retains members.

As threats to the UniServ Program grow, we must advocate loudly and strongly in our state affiliates for a UniServ Program that provides a balanced service/organizing model that creates and strengthens loyalty to NEA and its state affiliates.

