

"Great Public Schools for All Children", who can argue with that? This is the message being delivered at all levels, local, state and national, across the country. Why isn't this the case now? Why do we need an organized effort to bring this to public attention? How do we achieve it?

As your local professional education association, HCEA has advocated this position from its beginning. Our concern with working conditions, whether they are related to workload, compensation, professionalism, safety or environmental factors, is at the forefront of this argument. We know that in order to achieve greatness for all public school students there must be great teachers in all of our schools. Nationally acclaimed curriculum, high levels of technology, and modern, up to date buildings cannot deliver greatness without hiring and retaining caring and dedicated professionals.

We recognize the challenges associated with attracting and retaining quality teachers. We have worked hard to gain increases in teacher pay while maintaining valuable benefits. Each year we enter negotiations with the Board of Education we do so with the goal of making improvements in the negotiated agreement. We promote professional development through MSTA and locally. Our affiliation with the NEA and MSTA gives our members timely and important information on issues affecting them as educators while supplying a means of communication to utilize in voicing their opinions. HCEA stays in contact with elected officials and the Board of Education, bringing concerns and laying the foundations for improvement.

HCEA is proud to represent you and the 3100 professional educators in Harford County. Whether it is on the state, national or local level, we will continue our push for great public schools by educating the public and by representing the teachers who lie at the heart of the Great Public School campaign.