# National Council of Urban Education AssociationsFri/Sat Morning Informational Sessions [www.nea.org/policyresourcecenter](http://www.nea.org/policyresourcecenter)NEA Resolutions, ****Legislative**** Program & Policy Statements

**WHY THE POLICY RESOURCE CENTER WAS CREATED**

* Welcome to this morning’s session on NEA’s newly launched Policy Resource Center. NCUEA members are in essence getting a first look at this new tool on nea.org, which was launched just prior to Thanksgiving.
* What you essentially see located at [www.nea.org/policyresourcecenter](http://www.nea.org/policyresourcecenter) is the ability for the first time ever, for NEA to automatically receive and route proposed amendments and policy questions from NEA leaders and members to the standing committees on Resolutions and the Legislative Program for their consideration.
* This informational session is intended to introduce you to the site and its features, much of which you are likely to find highly intuitive. Anything from:
	+ Downloading the policy documents you’re interesting in taking a closer look at;
	+ Sending a question or other feedback to the Resolutions or Legislative Committees;
	+ Drafting and directly submitting your amendments to any of the policy documents.
	+ Ed Insider (federal legislative update) plus the overall Legislative Action Center
* While this is not a hearing in the traditional sense… no gavel, no stopwatch for timing your remarks… your access to this resource center, in effect, gives you a direct line to these programs and the committees that coordinate them throughout the year’s review and adoption cycle.
* This new online presence has the potential to revolutionize the Association’s annual process…
	+ For several years, Legislative and Resolutions hearings had been regularly held at each of NEA’s national conferences, and at NCUEA, toward the middle of the membership year – from December to March. Traditional policy hearings have been successful in providing a reliable forum for committee leaders to present and discuss the Association’s national policies with attendees, though in terms of participation, they often provided a limited timeframe, generating about 10 to 20 proposed resolutions amendments per year *combined*, a dozen or less proposals for the Legislative Program, and virtually zero amendments to policy statements.
	+ When the leadership conferences were postponed as a result of the budget adopted by the 2012 Representative Assembly, NEA immediately looked for viable alternatives that would allow members to continue to participate in the open and democratic policymaking of the Association, which has been one of the great hallmarks of our annual process.
	+ The resulting new approach delivers a far more universally accessible tool…. with a far broader timeframe for member input.
	+ The Resolutions and Legislative Committees might soon find out what this transition will mean for their workload!

**GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE POLICY RESOURCE CENTER**

* **Build Your Own Library**
	+ The automated submission process is a pretty solid innovation that the online resource center has going for it, but another is the resources themselves, the Resolutions, Legislative Program, and Policy Statements for 2012-2013 are available on the Policy Resource Center too.
	+ If you’re traveling with a laptop or tablet or some other gizmo, download all three for easy reference, search, and refer later when needed, especially if you don’t have any particular amendment or proposal you want to set in motion today.
	+ Research, *WORD*search – combined with a far more generous timeframe for proposing your amendment, rather than until the end of this session – lets you review the documents for areas of NEA policy that may be compatible or incompatible with your particular idea. The Resolutions document alone is more than 100 pages long, contains some 360 resolutions and more than 60,000 words. There’s a lot to look at in there!
* **Fill Out All Fields Completely**
	+ Especially the required ones, since you’ll soon discover that the resource center won’t let your submission go through without them.
	+ The committees need your contact information for a couple of reasons:
		- To verify that you’re a member, first and foremost. After all, there’s a lot of kooks out there! And although the landing page for the resource center is situated in the member-only section of nea.org, the URL is actually openly configured for easier access. But nothing will make it a committee for its consideration without member verification.
		- Second reason is in case a committee has a question for you, clarifying a proposed addition, or a deletion, and their locations to make sure your idea is given proper consideration.
	+ After completing all fields for your amendment or question, remember to click SUBMIT. You’ll receive a notice on screen indicating that NEA has received your submission.
* **No Question is Too Big or Too Small**
	+ Seeking clarification on a particular resolution or legislative provision?

Wondering about the history behind an RA action on a particular issue?

Want to get in touch with the committee chairperson about an issue or concern?

Curious about the timeline for a committee’s consideration of your amendment?

Need a copy of your proposed amendment and rationale?

Interested in other resources or information available from the committee?

* + Send your question, comment, or feedback immediately to the committee. Questions on NEA Policy Statements are routed accordingly.
* **Save It for the Summer**
	+ Are you planning to be in Atlanta, GA, for the 2013 NEA Representative Assembly?
	+ While the Policy Resource Center is accessible throughout much of the year for all members, the open hearings on Resolutions, the Legislative Program, and proposed new Policy Statements (if any) at the Representative Assembly provide an additional opportunity for elected NEA delegates to meet their committee representatives and participate further in the Association’s policymaking processes.