

September 2024

PAC Work in the Union

The job of an educator is never-ending: new curriculum to master, new students to get to know, and new expectations to meet. Much of it is out of your control, but who does control it? How can we change the decisions they are making to benefit the work being done in classrooms for students? That is where the political action committee (PAC) part of the union comes into play!

A political action committee, or PAC, is an organization who collects donations from members and strategically directs those funds toward campaigns, ballot initiatives, or legislative efforts. For educators, the MSEA Fund for Children and Public Education PAC collects voluntary contributions from association members and uses those funds for political purposes that support candidates that support public education. Your dues money is never used for politics-it is not allowed-so that is why a separate, voluntary fund has been established.

So why do we have to be political? The bottom line is so much of what impacts your day-to-day work in the classroom is tied to decisions made by elected officials. Look at who is making the decisions that impact YOU!

Local Board of Education	Salary, Contract, School Budget, Class Size, School Calendar, Duty-Free Lunch, Length of Workday, Health/Dental Insurance, Employee Collective Bargaining Rights, Due Process, Superintendent of Schools
County Commissioners	School Budget, Employee Collective Bargaining Rights, Superintendent of Schools
General Assembly	Retirement Benefits and Pensions, School Budget, Employee Collective Bargaining Rights, Due Process, Health and Safety Standards, Workers' Compensation, Unemployment Compensation
Congress	Health and Safety Standards, Workers' Compensation, Unemployment Compensation

The MSEA PAC gives you a chance to choose the people who are making the decisions-and who would not want the opportunity to impact the hiring of their own boss? It allows you to contribute to pro-education candidates and support the work being done by the union to advocate with people who are going to support you and not vote in their own self-interests. The job of an educator is intertwined with politics as you can see from the chart above, and the PAC in coordination with your local leaders helps to take one burden from your already over-filled plate. Consider giving to the MSEA Fund for Children and Public Education PAC to have a greater investment in the work being done for you!