

# National Teacher Day

*Bring out the Best: TEACH!*

## FACT SHEET

**Message:** The NEA is pleased to announce this year's nationwide celebration of National Teacher's Day as a day to honor and remember teachers, as well as to promote the profession of teaching. The theme for this year's celebration is *Bring Out the Best: TEACH!* The celebration will have two goals, the first being to recognize all teachers in America for their contributions in "making public schools great for every child," and secondly, to attract more people to the complex, and intellectually demanding profession of teaching. It is our hope that in celebration, we can all join together to envision a teaching profession that is highly qualified and reflective of America's diversity.

**When:** National Teacher Day is always the Tuesday of the first full week of May. So on Tuesday, [May 6, 2003](#), the nation is going to salute its school teachers by thanking them for what they do best: teach!

**History:** National Teacher Day came into being through the leadership and persistence of Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1953, she persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim May Seventh that year as [National Teacher Day](#). With further lobbying by the NEA in the 1980s, National Teacher Day found an official permanent home on the first Tuesday of every May.

**Activities:** The NEA National Teacher Day celebration will make available (online at [www.nea.org/teacherday](http://www.nea.org/teacherday) and through traditional mail) to local and state affiliates, celebration materials which will include information on effective teacher recruitment strategies, web-links and related literature, as well as National Teacher Day posters, buttons, and other suggested activities such as sample-letters to the editor, proclamations and Swiss-cheese press releases, etc. to compliment their respective celebrations.

Finally, the *Bring Out the Best: TEACH!* celebration will focus on attracting prospective educators, ranging from high school and college students, as well as mid-career individuals seeking a career change

**NEA/ D.C.:** Here at NEA headquarters, we plan to celebrate National Teacher's Day with several teacher recruitment activities on May 6th, including playing host to a group of high school students from Prince George's County (Maryland) Public Schools, who belong to the Future Educators of America.

**CONTACT:** To find out more about NEA's National Teacher's Day celebration plans, contact [lqmartinez@nea.org](mailto:lqmartinez@nea.org) or visit [www.nea.org/teacherday](http://www.nea.org/teacherday).