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Hi Member,

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[Member Benefit Spotlight: VESi](#)

One of the most common questions we hear is, “What does FEA offer beyond legal support?” A strong example is our partnership with VESi, which provides members access to discounted, accredited recertification courses.

This benefit comes at no cost to FEA and delivers substantial value for members seeking affordable professional development.

Key points to share with members:

- A \$250 annual subscription covers up to three graduate-level courses, a value of more than \$900
- Courses are fully online, self-paced, and formally accepted by the DoDEA Licensure Office for recertification
- Members can earn up to nine credits per year: three in the spring and six in the summer. Missing fall registration does not mean the benefit is forfeited
- Members must register using their NEA Member ID. If they experience issues, they can locate their member number in this email

This partnership highlights the real savings and professional growth opportunities that come with FEA membership.

For example, if you are seeking to add a certification, browse the courses to see what courses can be used to qualify for that new certification. Sign up at a LOW cost- a big benefit if you are looking to add new certifications!

[VESi Page Updates](#)

[This VESi page](#) has been updated with new resources to make this benefit easier to understand and use. New additions include:

- The full VESi Q&A document
- A downloadable, current course list, with a clear disclaimer that offerings may change each semester
- Information for members to register for the program directly
- Registration cutoff dates, where available, so members know whether they can still enroll or need to wait for a future term
- A clarification that credits earned through VESi may later be applied toward a master’s degree at Augustana University, per their agreement with VESi

We encourage members to review these updates and take full advantage of this benefit.

[2027 NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence](#)

The NEA Foundation, in partnership with NEA, is now accepting nominations for the 2027 Awards for Teaching Excellence. These awards honor outstanding educators who demonstrate excellence in teaching, strong advocacy for the profession, and a deep commitment to equity, inclusion, and community engagement. Awards will be presented in February 2027 in Washington, DC.

Eligibility

All current members of an NEA local affiliate or bargaining unit are eligible, including teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff. Members may submit nomination materials to FEA for consideration. While FEA may submit only one nominee to NEA, all Active FEA members are encouraged to apply for internal review.

Awards and Recognition

Award recipients receive expenses-paid travel to Washington, DC for the NEA Foundation’s Salute to Excellence in Education Gala. Five Horace Mann Award recipients will each receive \$10,000, and one of those recipients will also receive the NEA Member Benefits Award, which includes a \$25,000 cash award.

FEA Submission Deadline

All nomination packets must be submitted to FEA by **Monday, February 23, 2026**.

How to Apply

Nomination materials and the full packet are available on our website: <https://feaonline.org/member-resources/grants-awards/nea-awards-teaching-excellence>

- Nomination letters, resumes, and endorsement letters may be submitted as Word or PDF file
- The Awardee’s Statement must be submitted as a Word file
- Incomplete or improperly formatted applications may not be reviewed

Submit completed nomination packets via email to: Adesuwa Wilson-Iguade at feaadmin@nea.org and Brian Chance, FEA Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, at bchance@nea.org

[Important Contact Update](#)

Please note that 202-822-7850 is no longer a reliable way to reach FEA staff directly. To connect with someone, we recommend emailing the staff member you wish to speak with. They will follow up by phone or provide the best number to call.

For general concerns: FEAAdmin@nea.org

For membership questions: FEAMembership@nea.org

For retired members: Federal.Retired@nea.org

Using the correct email helps us respond as quickly as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

In solidarity,
Federal Education Association

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