

Self-Assessment of Union Engagement

Assessing my strengths and areas of opportunity for engagement in my Union

What do you know about your Union?

Contract: (Select which best describes you)

- ☐ I know where to locate my local union contract
- ☐ I know some items listed in my local union contract
- ☐ I have a copy of my local union contract; I highlighted and tabbed items related to my role in education
- ☐ I am well-versed in my local union contract, and I often share highlights of the contract with other members to ensure that their rights are being upheld

Local Union Structure: What do you know about the structure of your local union? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ I know the various jobs titles that are eligible for membership
- ☐ I know the names of the members who make up the executive team
- ☐ I know the names of several building representatives
- ☐ I know the names of several members in my building or department
- ☐ I know where to find the constitution and by-laws

State Union Structure and Involvement: (select all that apply)

- ☐ I know my regional union council or my local
- ☐ I have attended a meeting with my union council or my local
- ☐ I am a delegate for the state Representative Assembly
- ☐ I hold a position or serve on a committee for my union council or my local
- ☐ I have attended an union conference or local union event this year



How involved are you as a Union member?

Union Engagement: (select the answer that best describes you)

- ☐ I serve in a leadership position, as a building representative or on another committee in my local union
- ☐ I attend regularly local union meetings, trainings, or events
- ☐ I attend at least one local union event this year
- ☐ I have not attended an event; Yet, I read my local union's newsletter or follow social media platforms
- ☐ I pay my dues. However, due to other priorities, I am unable to add much else to my plate right now

Union Activism: (select all that apply)

- ☐ I have helped to plan an event for my local
- ☐ I have led a meeting for members in my local
- ☐ I have learned who the union members and potential members are in my building or department
- ☐ I have had one-on-one conversations with members to discuss concerns in my local
- ☐ I have participated in new member recruitment events in my local
- ☐ I have shared the importance of being a member with at least one other person in my local

Union Organizing (select all that apply)

- ☐ I have worn a button, T-shirt or other insignia to show solidarity with my local
- ☐ I have concerns about my rights or working conditions that I have shared with other colleagues
- ☐ I have attended a small group, community, or board meeting to support my local or an education issue
- ☐ I have or can get at least 5 other people to join me in a meeting to support an issue or event

Political Activism: (select all that apply)

- ☐ I helped with phone banking or canvassing for a political candidate or legislative educational issue
- ☐ I have written letters, emails, attended a rally, or provided testimony on an education related issue
- ☐ I have/ currently donate to the my state or local PAC fund
- ☐ I keep up-to-date with issues and legislation that affect public education
- ☐ I am a registered voter. I vote in the primaries; not only for presidential candidates on the ballot

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Who are you as a Union Leader?

Union Expectations (which best describes why you decided to join your local)

I joined because _____

- ☐ Someone who I knew asked me to join.
- ☐ It's a family thing – everyone in my family understands the power of our collective voice
- ☐ Unions give members voice and collective power.
- ☐ Unions protect workers' rights and provide safe working conditions.
- ☐ Unions are like an insurance plan to keep members from being fired.
- ☐ Everyone was a member in my school district and I did not want to be left out.
- ☐ NEA member benefits would help me save the money that my union dues cost me.

Union Dreams (which best describes what you want out of your future engagement with your local)

I most want to engage in _____

- ☐ Continuing the work that we currently do.
- ☐ Building the base of our membership to include outside partners.
- ☐ Creating local leadership structures that have power enough to drive a local agenda and win.
- ☐ Establishing the practices of coalition across a number of partnerships on a number of issues.

What are your core beliefs?

Core values are the fundamental beliefs of a person or an organization. These guiding principles dictate behavior and can help people understand the difference between right and wrong. These can often be expressed in one or two words. We are taking a moment to consider our core values because they can provide a basis for solidarity in the midst of struggles. (What are some of your core values expressed in one or two words?)

What is your union story?

Now that you have reflected on your beliefs, knowledge and experiences as a union member, take a moment to write a short summary that highlights your story. Why you're a union member? What are your strengths and your goals as an emerging union leader? *(Think of this as your 30-second elevator speech)*