

# NEA and DSEA EMAC History

Interactive Timeline- click on \* for more information

**\*1857**

August 26th: NEA is founded by a group of school superintendents in Philadelphia

**\*1867**

Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of the Colored People founded; aids in building colored schools and paying teacher salaries. Schools are maintained with revenue raised among colored people themselves

**\*1899**

NEA establishes a Department of Indian Education.

**\*1919**

Delaware State Colored Teachers Association formed due to legislation passed by Governor John G. Townsend and a generous monetary gift of \$400,000 from Pierre S. DuPont for "adequate and modern school buildings for Negro schools"

**\*1924**

Delaware State Colored Teachers Association submits a bill to General Assembly asking for equal pay with white teachers, as well as pension and salary

**\*1945**

DSEA votes 76-75 to uphold the ban on black teachers from joining. Most of the dissenting votes came from Kent and Sussex Counties

**\*1951**

Delaware Attorney General, H. Albert Young, declares segregation is not unlawful as long as there are educational opportunities and facilities for all races

**\*1956**

Delaware State Teachers Association, who represented black teachers since 1919, votes to disband at their 37th annual meeting

**\*1961**

Court order requires state board of education to enforce school desegregation. The U.S. Department of Health Education and Welfare holds workshops in Sussex County to help newly merged faculties adjust to the changes

**\*1966**

In June, ATA delegates vote to merge with NEA;

DSEA elects first woman president, Marion Bickford of Dover, and first black president-elect, Fred Thomas of Lewes

DSEA's civil rights arm was the Interracial Committee, run by Assistant Superintendent James Hardcastle

**1970**

NEA creates Minority Involvement Program

**1974**

NEA adopts Bylaw 3-1(g), NEA's most effective and comprehensive measure for encouraging racial and ethnic diversity in leadership at all levels of the organization

**1975**

NEA creates the Special Committee on Minority Affairs

**\*1980**

Minority teachers meet in Dover to discuss issues they are encountering, especially in Kent and Sussex, including districts not hiring Black and Hispanic teachers, with some schools having all-white faculties. These issues and recommendations are given to the MAC committee to address

**1866**

National Teachers Association admits women to active membership

**1883\***

State Institute of Colored Teachers in Delaware meets in Milford

**1904\***

National Association of Colored Teachers formed by teachers in black schools during Jim Crow, led by J.R.E. Lee. In 1907, name changed to National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools

**1921\***

Delaware Colored PTA formed, and Delaware public education system established. Designed as a statewide system (organized around State Board of Education and a strong state superintendent) and 99.9% of funding came from the State

**1926**

NEA and American Teachers Association forms joint committee, led by H. Council Trenholm, to help gain accreditation for black schools, encourage U.S. Office of Education to study the schooling of black students, and promote fair treatment of blacks in textbooks.

**1948**

DSEA opens its door to Negro members. There were few Negro members until the Negro teachers' organization, the Delaware State Teachers Association, was dissolved in 1956

**1954\***

Violent opposition breaks out in Milford (Del.) to the integration of 11 students at Milford High School;

FBI probe sought to investigate the racially-fueled violence;

Attorney Louis L. Redding files injunction to allow 10 of the students to return to Milford High

**1958\***

Delaware teacher unions fully integrate. The Sussex County Teachers Assoc., the only remaining all-Negro arm of the Delaware State Teachers Association, dissolves after 35 years

**1964**

The NEA Representative Assembly passes a resolution requiring racially-segregated affiliates to merge;

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, outlawing racial discrimination in public accommodations, public education, employment, apprentice programs, union membership, and to some extent, voting

**1967\***

Desegregation of schools is achieved in Delaware;

DSEA, led by Fred Thomas, forms its first political action arm

**1971**

The NEA Black Caucus is formed. Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus forms the following year. NEA establishes a task force on First American and Hispanic Education

**1974\***

In November, DSEA Representative Assembly approves an ethnic minority guarantee proposal to mirror the NEA, which adopted a similar plan earlier that year

**1994**

NEA establishes a Diversity Cadre and the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC)

**2006**

Minority Affairs Committee changes name to Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee