



## American Education Week Proclamation

*WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and*

*WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and*

*WHEREAS, all education employees, be they teachers, counselors, teacher librarians, instructional coaches, curriculum specialists, paraprofessionals, school secretaries, custodians, nurses, maintenance and grounds personnel, technology specialists, bus drivers, food service, building principals, business services, human resources, district administrators, school boards, or substitute ESPs and teachers, work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and work together to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students"*

*WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, we as Representatives of the Cedar Falls Educational Support Professionals and the Cedar Falls Education Association do hereby proclaim November 14-18 as the 93rd annual observance of American Education Week.*

*Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.*

## **American Education Week History**

The National Education Association was one of the creators and original sponsors of American Education Week.

Distressed that 25 percent of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit, representatives of the NEA and the American Legion met in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education.

The conventions of both organizations subsequently adopted resolutions of support for a national effort to raise public awareness of the importance of education. In 1921, the NEA Representative Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa, called for designation of one week each year to spotlight education. In its resolution, the NEA called for: "An educational week ... observed in all communities annually for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs."

The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and American Legion as the cosponsors. A year later, the then U.S. Office of Education joined the effort as a cosponsor, and the PTA followed in 1938.

Other co-sponsors are the U.S. Department of Education and national organizations including the National PTA, the American Legion, the American Association of School Administrators, the National School Boards Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the American School Counselor Association, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National School Public Relations Association, the National Association of State Boards of Education, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

American Education Week is always celebrated the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving.