

Michigan Education Association
Commitment to Membership Agreement 2022-23

Member Name

Email Address

Street Address

Phone Number

City, State, Zip

Local Association

Note: Program enrollment will be open through October 31, 2022. After that date, no additional participants will be allowed to enroll in the 2022-23 program. If you are rejoining the MEA, a new Membership Application is required. New enrollment is limited to first-time participants.

As a current or former MEA member that wants to rejoin the Association or participate in this program, by completing and submitting this form to the Michigan Education Association ("MEA"), you ("Member") agree to become a member in good standing ("MIGS") by either:

- Paying your dues monthly (payments will be electronically deducted from your bank account or credit card on the 25th of the month every September–June while you are an active member in a bargaining unit);

or

- Making a lump sum payment for the MEA membership year in full by October 31, 2022.

If there are no missed payments by the end of the membership year, MEA will provide a \$200 credit to your outstanding balance for your membership dues, paying down your arrearage for every year you participate in the program. If the amount owed is less than \$200 and you comply with the requirements of the program, the balance will be eliminated, but you will not receive a credit for the difference between the \$200 and the balance owed. Additionally, you will not receive a credit on your past due balance if you do not maintain membership and meet your financial obligations under the Dues Transmittal Policy from the date you sign this agreement until the conclusion of the 2022-23 MEA membership year. Balances subject to a court judgement are not eligible for the program.

If upon your retirement or resignation from employment a balance remains, the MEA Executive Director will review your membership record and make a determination at that time regarding the best practice to address your arrearage going forward.

If you opt out of membership while you are still eligible for active membership in the MEA, your participation in this program will be nullified, and MEA will resume billing for your outstanding balance. You will be ineligible to re-enroll in the program.

By signing this form, you agree to the terms set forth herein.

Printed Name

Signature (REQUIRED)

Date

Please mail this completed and signed form to MEA Headquarters at:

MEA, ATTN: Commitment to Membership, 1216 Kendale Blvd., PO Box 2573, East Lansing, MI 48826-2573

****To be completed by Membership Department ONLY****

Member ID#

Past Due Balance

Michigan Education Association
COMMITMENT TO MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 8-1-2022

1. Why did the MEA Board pass the Commitment to Membership Program?

The MEA Board realizes that the MEA is stronger when all potential members become members of the MEA. They hope that this program will help to bring many of our potential members back into the MEA family.

2. Who is the Commitment to Membership Program open to?

The Commitment to Membership Program is open to:

- Members who were on a payment plan or not in good standing on June 30, 2022, and who have not regained good standing status since that date.
- Anyone who has opted out of membership in the past that has an outstanding balance.

Please note that this program is available to first-time enrollees only.

Contact your local MEA UniServ office (www.mea.org/directories) or the MEA Help Center at 866-MEA-HELP (866-632-4357) or help@mea.org if you have any questions about your eligibility.

Requests for eligibility review can also be submitted to CTM@mea.org.

3. I signed up for the Commitment to Membership Program last year. Should I sign up again?

If you already signed up for the Commitment to Membership Program, there is no need to sign up again. You will remain in the program as long as you maintain your membership and continue to carry a back-dues balance.

4. I was unable to maintain my membership under the Commitment to Membership Program last year. Can I sign up again?

The Commitment to Membership program is available to first-time enrollees only.

5. What are the benefits of the program?

The greatest benefit of this program is that while you are paying your dues you will be considered a member in good standing. Additionally, you will receive a \$20 credit per month for any outstanding dues that you may have on your account for every full membership year that you participate in the program. In other words, each full year (10 months) that you pay your dues, you will receive a \$200 credit that can only be applied to your outstanding balance.

6. How do I enroll in the Commitment to Membership Program?

If you are currently a member, you must complete the Commitment to Membership agreement and return it to your local MEA office. Alternatively, the form can be filled out and submitted online at www.mea.org/ctm/. If you are not currently a member, you must complete a new application for membership along with the Commitment to Membership agreement.

7. If I opted-out of membership in the past can I still enroll in this program?

Yes, if you opted out of membership in the past you can still enroll in this program. We welcome you back into the MEA family.

8. If I am on a payment plan do I need to enroll in the program or will I be automatically enrolled?

If you are currently a MEA member on a payment plan and would like to enroll in this program you will need to complete the Commitment to Membership agreement to be removed from the payment plan and entered into this program.

9. If I am in collections (LIW) right now can I still participate in the program?

If you are in collections with LIW right now you can still participate in this program, provided there is no court judgement against you. Your outstanding balance with LIW will be brought back to MEA. No further legal action will be taken on this balance while you are enrolled in the program.

10. What if I owe less than \$200 in back dues?

If you owe less than \$200 in back dues you can still enroll in the program and receive a credit in the amount of your back dues.

11. When will I see the credit on my account?

The appropriate amount will be credited to your account after the end of June of each full membership year that you participate in the program.

12. If I am an ESP member will I get the same credit as EA members?

You will receive the same credit as an EA member if you are an ESP member. This is a \$20 credit per month for anyone enrolled in the program.

13. What if I am late making my monthly dues payment?

If you are late making one monthly payment that is okay, however, you will not be able to continue with the program if you are late for the second monthly payment. Unfortunately, you will fall into our revocation program. If you have extenuating circumstances for one month, please contact your field office and they will be able to assist you.

14. Do I have to enroll in auto-pay to participate in the program?

Auto-pay is required for enrollment in the program unless you opt to pay your entire MEA membership year dues in advance by October 31, 2022.

15. When is the last date that I can enroll in the program?

The last date you can enroll in the Commitment to Membership program is October 31, 2022.

16. When will I be back in good standing?

The Commitment to Membership program requires that you maintain your membership by paying your monthly dues. You will be in good standing when you sign and submit your Commitment to Membership agreement, provided you have paid your current month's dues, if any.

17. What if I retire at the end of the school year and still owe a past due balance?

If you retire at the end of the school year and still owe a past due balance, the MEA Executive Director will evaluate each individual situation and make a decision as to what will occur with that balance.

18. What if I resign from my district during the school year and still owe a past due balance?

If you resign from your district during the school year or at the end of the year and still owe a past due balance the MEA Executive Director will evaluate each individual situation and make a decision as to what will occur with that balance.

19. What if I move districts during the school year and am enrolled in this program?

If you move from one MEA district to another MEA district during the school year, we can move the program with you to your new district. You would need to complete a new application for membership and Commitment to Membership agreement (with the new local association information) and send it to your field office.

20. What if I choose to opt-out during this program?

We certainly hope you do not opt out of membership as you know the value of membership in the MEA. If you choose to opt out of membership during this program, you will not receive a credit towards your outstanding balance. The program requires a full year of paid membership in order to receive the \$200 credit.

21. Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

If you have additional questions about the program, please contact your local UniServ office (www.mea.org/directories) or the MEA Help Center at 866-MEA-HELP (866-632-4357) or help@mea.org.

Michigan Education Association
COMMITMENT TO MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions, Member-Friendly Version

1. What is the Commitment to Membership program?

Your Board of Directors adopted the program a few years ago. The idea of the Commitment to Membership program (CTM) is to give members in arrears a pathway to getting back in good standing with MEA, and hopefully staying that way.

2. Arrears? When a member is behind on dues?

Yes. When that happens, they are not in good standing, so they lose out on a lot. If this lasts for too long, they risk having their membership revoked.

3. Why do we have the CTM program?

MEA understands that the road back to good standing can be tough for some who owe a lot in dues, so this program helps them, to ‘commit to membership’ in a positive way. Our hope is that this one-time offer will bring in and keep members where they belong—with us.

4. What do you mean, ‘a one-time offer?’

This program is available to first-time enrollees only.

5. What first-time enrollees are eligible?

If you were not a member in good standing as of June 30, 2022, and you are not in good standing since then, you’re eligible. If someone opted out of membership with a past-due balance, they are eligible too. People in collections are also eligible as long as no judgement has been made against them.

6. Collections? What’s that all about?

Some members in arrears have been sent to collections with the LIW law firm. If they don’t have a court judgement against them, and they meet the other eligibility requirements mentioned already, they’re eligible for the CTM program.

7. What are the benefits of this program?

You are in good standing as long as you keep up with your current dues. And at the end of the year, you earn up to \$200 (\$20 per month) credit applied to your back-dues balance, provided you’ve paid your dues each month.

8. Do I need to sign up for auto-pay to be eligible for the program?

Members in the CTM program have two options for paying their dues:

- Enroll in auto-pay to have your payments deducted automatically each month. Or,
- Pay your dues for this year in full before October 31. By paying your dues up front, you’re also eligible for the \$30 rebate!

9. I'm not a member right now. Can I still participate in this program?

Absolutely! You'll need to fill out a Continuing Membership Application (www.mea.org/join) in addition to the CTM Agreement (www.mea.org/ctm).

10. A \$200 credit on my dues each year sounds like a good thing. What if I owe less than that when I start CTM?

The credit you get after paying your dues on time all year will be in the amount of your remaining back-dues balance.

11. What happens if I miss a payment after enrolling in CTM?

Catch up the missed payment to stay in the program. If you fall two payments behind, you won't be able to continue in the program. If you need help getting back on track, contact your local MEA UniServ office and they will assist you.

12. When will the credit show up on my account?

CTM credits will be applied in the summer after the end of the school year.

13. Is there a deadline for me to enroll in CTM?

The deadline for enrollment is October 31, 2022.

14. What if I was already in CTM in one district, and I moved to another one?

We'll need you to fill out a new Continuing Membership Application and a CTM agreement (with your new local association info) and send it to your local MEA UniServ office.

15. What happens to people who opt out while they are in CTM?

They do not get a credit toward their outstanding balance.

16. What if someone retires or resigns during or after the school year and they still have an outstanding balance?

The MEA Executive Director will review what to do with that balance.

17. This program sounds perfect for me! How do I enroll?

Fill out the CTM agreement (www.mea.org/ctm) before October 31, 2022. You'll also need to fill out a Continuing Membership Application (www.mea.org/join) if you are not currently a member.

18. I still have questions. Who do I contact?

Reach out to your local UniServ office (www.mea.org/directories), the MEA Help Center at 866-MEA-HELP (866-632-4357), or help@mea.org.