

# LEA is celebrating Educational Support Professional Day



## ESP Day

November 16, 2022

We celebrate National Educational Support Professionals Day every year on the Wednesday during American Education Week, falling on November 16 this

year. These professionals play a vital role in forming a healthy community as they help students inside and outside the classroom. There are nine services under the Education Support Professionals umbrella, including clerical, custodial and maintenance, food, health and student, para-educators, security, skilled trades, technical, and transportation services.

## History of National Educational Support Professionals Day

Educational Support Professionals Day was established to honor and recognize the contributions of Education Support Professionals (ESPs) to public education institutions. It takes place during American Education Week, a week-long program of holidays and celebrations to honor the ESPs. The National Education Association (NEA) founded the day in the U.S.

The Association recognized ESPs as playing a significant role in public education and allowed them to access full membership rights in the NEA in the 1980s. In 1987, the NEA Representative Assembly announced its initiative to declare a special day to celebrate and honor the contributions of the educational support staff at public schools. The announcement led to the celebration of National Education Support Personnel Day, which became a recurring annual celebration.

The name 'National Education Support Personnel Day' changed to National Educational Support Professionals Day in 2002 to give the support staff the much-deserved respect and dignity for the professional work they do to ensure our public schools run effortlessly and that learning happens.