

ISEA

May Day

2026

Toolkit



ISEA
Iowa State Education Association



www.isea.org



What are school walk-ins

Walk-ins are positive collective actions that build solidarity and relationships and help highlight important issues and concerns.

During school walk-ins, educators, parents, students, neighbors, and community supporters gather in front of their school 15-30 minutes before the school day begins.

Rally, listen to a few speakers, discuss your school's priorities, and then the staff walks into the school together. Walk-ins can celebrate your school, collaborate with school officials, or demand action to improve school conditions and policies.

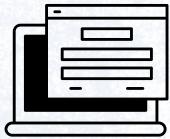
This year, we are highlighting our ISEA Educator Bill of Rights, which outlines the values and priorities we want our public schools to embody. If we wish to great public schools for every child, we must ensure that the people who teach, support, and care for Iowa's students have the respect, resources, and working conditions they need to do their jobs well.

Why May 1st? It's International Workers' Day, and we will join NEA members and allies around the country on this National Day of Action, making a powerful statement about what's essential to our community: strong public schools where students, no matter their background, can succeed. This includes support for our ISEA Educator Bill of Rights.

Plan your local walk-in



Set a time and location for your walk-in: We encourage all school buildings to participate. If that's not possible, consider holding a walk-in at buildings with strong building reps and community relationships. We recommend setting your walk-in start time to 20-30 minutes before your contract hours begin. Find a specified location outside your building(s) for people to meet.



Set the details for your event, such as the time and location, and submit them to ISEA (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ISEAMayDay>). ISEA staff will send an RSVP link for your walk-in event once this step is complete.

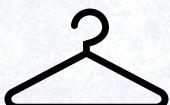


Draft an agenda for your walk-in: (20-30 minutes)

1. Arrive at school at the designated meeting location(s) and sign in.
2. Welcome everyone and introduce speakers if needed.
3. Explain the importance of May Day and why we are holding walk-ins today.
4. Share the ISEA Educator Bill of Rights, and if your local is bargaining or has a campaign centered around one of the rights, share your local story.
5. Ask attendees to sign the ISEA Educator Bill of Rights Petition (QR Code for electronic sign-up page).
6. Hold signs, wave, and greet people going into school.
7. Staff only walk into the school building in solidarity.



Create homemade signs: "We Support Our ISEA Educator Bill of Rights"; "We Love Our Public Schools", "Support Our ISEA Educator Bill of Rights"; "Honk for Your Public School," etc.



What to wear: Encourage attendees to show solidarity by wearing one color for the event. School colors, your local association or ISEA gear, or Red for Ed – anything works!



Invitation: Invite your colleagues, potential members, friends, family, and community supporters! Sample draft invitations to share with colleagues and allies are on the next page.

Sample Invites

SAMPLE Invite to union members

Dear _____,

Our local association is participating in a National Day of Action in honor of International Workers' Day on Friday, May 1st. We are hosting a local walk-in where we meet before school in solidarity and share our support for our public schools and our ISEA Educator Bill of Rights. Find the details below!

WHAT: Join colleagues, friends, family, and supporters in a National Day of Action.

WHEN: Friday, May 1, before school begins at _____.

WHERE: (Designated location) outside 20-30 minutes before contract hours start.

WHY: We support our public schools and demand our ISEA Educator Bill of Rights.

WEAR: (Insert your color choice here)

WALK-IN: Staff-only walk-in to the school in solidarity.

RSVP: ISEA will share a link for use, or you can have people RSVP directly to you.

SAMPLE Invite to friends, family, potential members, and community supporters

Dear Friends,

Our local educators are hosting a National Day of Action in honor of International Workers Day and in support of our ISEA Educator Bill of Rights on Friday, May 1. We are planning a local walk-in where we meet before school in solidarity and share our support for our public schools and our ISEA Educator Bill of Rights. We want to involve friends, family, parents, and community supporters! Find details below:

WHAT: Join colleagues, friends, family, and supporters in a National Day of Action.

WHEN: Friday, May 1, before school begins at _____.

WHERE: (Designated location) outside 20-30 minutes before contract hours start.

WHY: We support our public schools and demand our Educator Bill of Rights.

WEAR: (Insert your color choice here)

WALK-IN: Staff-only walk-in to the school in solidarity.

RSVP: ISEA will share a link for use, or you can have people RSVP directly to you.

Sample Planning Calendar

-  **January 14** | Local Leader Zoom to announce May 1 Walk-ins.
-  **February 2** | Hold the first local association planning meeting.
-  **February 16** | Identify school sites and confirm.
-  **March 2** | Select speakers, inform administration, & complete ISEA Survey.
-  **March 16** | Create an email list of colleagues, potential members, friends, & supporters.
-  **April 1** | Send first email invitation.
-  **April 15** | Finalize and prep speakers, find volunteers to take photos, and help with sign-in.
-  **April 20** | Send second email invitation reminder.
-  **April 27** | Reminder texts & calls. Make posters with positive messages.
-  **April 30** | Confirm speakers & volunteers.
-  **May 1** **WALK-INS!** Share photos & media.
Send to: Communications@isea.org 
-  **May 4** | Send thank-you's & the Action Link.

Sample Script on ISEA Educator Bill of Rights

Good morning. Thank you for gathering with us on International Workers' Day!

We stand together in our fundamental belief that our children deserve the best possible future, and education professionals deserve dignity and respect for their work. We support the ISEA Educator Bill of Rights, a non-negotiable set of requirements that uphold these beliefs.

We believe in the right to be acknowledged, respected, and valued.

We believe in fair compensation; one job should be enough.

We believe in the right to a secure retirement with IPERS.

We believe in the right to a safe, healthy, and secure working and learning environment.

We believe in the right to a workload that is sustainable and manageable.

We believe in the right to select and use high-quality resources and equipment to do our jobs.

We believe in the right to meaningful collaboration and input on policies, curriculum, and decisions that affect our students.

We believe in the right to a school environment that reinforces student learning and is supported by administrators, the school board, and the community.

We believe in the right to high-quality professional development.

We believe in the right to a Labor Management Committee in every workplace that fosters collaborative problem-solving.

[add what you are doing in connection to the ISEA Educator Bill of Rights.]

We are not powerless. We must stand together, unite in our resolve to protect our public schools, defend our students, and support our profession. Please join us by signing our ISEA Bill of Rights Petition!

Thank you for your unwavering commitment, for joining us today, and for being an integral part of supporting all our students.

Sign In and Call to Action

Sign in to your May Day Walk-In Event and Sign-On to our ISEA Educator Bill of Rights Petition!



<https://secure.ngpvan.com/etdoPux5Z0O1bdYH3egalg2>

Thank you for joining our National Day of Action!