

“GREAT” is an acronym for GRASSROOTS EDUCATION ACTION TEAM. It is the Mississippi Association of Educators’ strategy for strengthening our grassroots movement of activists who are willing to stand up for public education funding to ensure a quality education for every child in Mississippi.

“GREAT’s” fundamental goals are to build a permanent and sustainable grassroots structure with our local associations across the state to advance MAE’s legislative agenda. Additionally, we intend to use this strategy to leverage our new grassroots structure to help expand membership by demonstrating the Associations’ ability to impact policy through the direct and personal involvement of our members.

To be **“GREAT”** members make a commitment to undertake and report at least two grassroots activities annually and to contribute financially to the MAE Fund for Children and Public Education. If you have not joined, I encourage you to do so. Contact your UniServ Director for more information.

We look forward to working diligently to ensure that MAEP is fully funded, that teachers receive a pay raise and that health and retirement benefits are protected.

In order to reach our goals, we must have **“GREAT”** members actively involved in contacting their legislators before and during the session to let them know how important our issues are to the children of Mississippi.

Legislators listen to their constituents. To communicate effectively with legislators you do not have to fully understand the details of complex legislative processes in order to be effective—you do not have to be an expert in anything but what you already are. YOU know better than anyone what goes on in your classroom, your building and your district. Collective action by even five people can get the attention of legislators depending on the timing, context and nature of the contact.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, January 27th and plan to come to Jackson to join us in our annual lobby day at the Capitol—your legislators will want to see and hear from you!

Together we are working to make a difference in our public schools. If you aren’t **“GREAT”** join now! Mississippi’s children need you.