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March 4, 2020

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association, who rely on census data to ensure that public schools and colleges have the resources to educate and support students, we take this opportunity during “Statistics in the Schools Week” to inform you of NEA’s efforts to promote an accurate and complete 2020 Census. Additionally, NEA supports House passage of S.Con.Res. 31, the Schatz-Murkowski 2020 Census Concurrent Resolution, and we are encouraging broad participation in the census through our “We Count” campaign.

Census data help the federal government to determine how to allocate billions of dollars to states and local communities for education, health care, transportation, and other crucial public services. Undercounting young children has consequences that follow them for years; therefore, an accurate census count is the critical first step to helping educators address the needs of every student. Moreover, when educators prepare students to contribute to their communities, participation in the U.S. Census figures prominently.

Educators are in a unique position to explain the census and reassure students and families that being counted is not only safe, but also necessary. With this in mind, NEA has:

- Launched a webpage, [NEA.org/census](https://www.nea.org/census), to provide educators with resources to ensure their communities are counted;
- Created digital ads encouraging participation in the 2020 Census;
- Created a toolkit that includes lesson plans in math, history/social studies, geography, sociology, and English, flyers for students to take home in English and several other languages, colorful census-themed posters, and shareable graphics highlighting census facts; and
- Published articles in *NEAToday*, our magazine, emphasizing critical dates in the 2020 Census and explaining the importance of participation.

Having an accurate census count can change the trajectory of life in our most impoverished communities and help to foster the educational opportunities that all students, no matter where they live, deserve. NEA members are honored to encourage greater understanding of and participation in the 2020 Census.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association