



## How do I hold an NEU meeting about school funding cuts?

The Government's cuts to education spending are affecting schools across the country – check [schoolcuts.org.uk](http://schoolcuts.org.uk) to find out about cuts in your local area. Now is the time to get your members more involved and if you're a new NEU rep, this is the perfect time to publicise the Union's presence in your school.

If you're new to holding a Union meeting, here are some practical steps to help you get started.

### 1. Decide who you want to involve.

Is this a meeting for members? Do you want your head teacher present? Do you want to involve school governors? Remember, you can always have an initial members' meeting before talking to management or governors.

### 2. Publicise your meeting.

Be as clear and visible as possible to ensure all your members know about your meeting. Emails and staffroom announcements are quick and easy but staff noticeboards also raises the profile of the NEU in school. Don't forget the personal touch of simply talking to members about your meeting.

### 3. Make the aims of your meeting clear and concise.

You should aim to educate and activate your members at this meeting.

**Educate** your members about the realities of cuts, both locally and on a national level. Visit [schoolcuts.org.uk](http://schoolcuts.org.uk) to find out how your school is being affected.

**Activate** your members by deciding on the action you will take. There are numerous ways you can spread the message that education needs fair funding. Decide on one or more course of action and ensure that it is followed through collectively.

Possible action points to suggest at your meeting:

- Have members sign a petition for a revised and fairer funding formula in schools
- Email or write to your local MP, calling on them to demand a better deal for education. You could also ask your head teacher or governors to write on your school's behalf.
- Get parents involved – use the resources at [www.neu.org.uk/funding](http://www.neu.org.uk/funding) and the [school cuts website](http://schoolcuts.org.uk) to show the cuts that will affect their child's education.
- Organise a school-wide or local event to publicise how cuts are affecting schools in your area.
- Encourage members to share the outcomes of your meeting as widely as possible, through word of mouth as well as social media.

#### 4. The next step...

Keep the momentum going by getting your members involved in the campaign. Join with NEU regional meetings and get in touch with political or community groups fighting for fairer funding.

A number of unions will be taking part in a National Weekend of Action on 21-22 April – use this date to build on the successes of your first meeting and as a focal point for taking action.

If your area is holding local elections in May, this could also be a great opportunity to get your community talking about education and the pressures schools are facing. Follow this [link](#) to find out about upcoming local elections.

#### Tips:

- DO encourage members to share personal experiences of how a tighter school budget has affected them. Remind them that teachers have not always had to cope with these conditions.
- DO keep your meeting focused on the issue of funding cuts – if members raise other subjects, note them for the future but remember you will have limited time to decide on action.
- DON'T be worried about talking to parents or school leaders – the cuts to education are affecting management and parents alike and neither wants to see pupil's learning suffer. Encourage them to make their voices heard.
- DON'T forget that the Government has already been forced to accept the need to invest in education. Last July, the then Education Secretary Justine Greening announced a £1.3 billion boost for core school funding as the result of Union pressure. Although more needs to be done, this shows what's possible through focussed, collective action. This is not a losing battle.
- DO remember to check out the resources available for Reps and members at [www.neu.org.uk/fundingkit](http://www.neu.org.uk/fundingkit)

Good luck!