

Teacher peer review

John  
↓

## NEA peer review vote signals a new direction

7-03-97  
USA Today

By Tamara Henry  
USA TODAY

The National Education Association, the largest teachers union in the USA with 2.3 million members, is set to vote this weekend on a proposal for peer review so teachers can help colleagues improve or help them get fired if necessary.

Peer review is a concept opposed by the NEA since 1986, but officials admit new NEA president Bob Chase is trying to take the organization in different directions.

NEA spokeswoman Kathleen Lyons denies that the proposal is an attempt to head off efforts by states to dismantle tenure laws.

"We think there should be qualified teachers in every classroom," Lyons says. "It's more than just getting

rid of bad teachers. It's getting teachers the skills they need, certifying teachers and finding ways to help them become better."

Lyons says the proposal will be among a laundry list of resolutions to be debated by the 10,000 delegates at the annual NEA meeting in Atlanta. Wording of the peer review resolution still is in draft form, but Lyons expects a vote on Saturday.

"If it passes, it would encourage NEA affiliates to develop mechanisms to improve teaching," she says.

NEA's rival, the American Federation of Teachers, pioneered the notion of peer review in Toledo, Ohio, 12 years ago. Columbus has had peer review for 11 years and Cincinnati has had it for 10 years. Other cities also are trying it, officials say.