

# Why We Need an Educators' Bill of Rights: A Corps of Educators Tell Their Stories

*As Vermont-NEA members roll out their Educators' Bill of Rights, it is important for everyone to hear directly from those of you in our schools to tell your stories. Based on the immensely popular "Story Corps" series on National Public Radio, this endeavor seeks to collect the real-life experiences of the people who put Vermont's students first every day. Here's how to share your stories with your fellow members – and fellow Vermonters.*

## **First, familiarize yourself with some prompting questions:**

1. How and why did you become an educator?
2. How is it different from what you thought?
3. What advice would you go back and give yourself?
4. What will it take for you to stay in education?

Next, decide whether you want to leave an audio story or want to snap a video.

## **To tell your story in audio:**

First, dial 802-224-2403. When prompted, please just speak into your phone. Start by giving us your name, your school, what you do, and when you joined the profession. Then tell us your story: answer as many of the prompting questions as you wish but try and keep your submission to under two minutes. When you're through, simply hang up. We will be monitoring and using stories regularly.

## **To tell your story in video:**

The simplest way is to use your smartphone. Set up the video function. If you're alone, please use selfie mode. If you're with someone or using a tripod, keep it in regular view mode. Additionally, please hold the phone vertically, as that provides the best resolution and angle for sharing. Hit record, then tell us your name, your school, what you do, and when you joined the profession. Then tell us your story: answer as many of the prompting questions as you wish, but please try and keep your submission to under two minutes. When finished, send the video to Vermont-NEA Communications Director Darren Allen as a text message to 802-839-8618.

**We appreciate your taking the time to share these valuable stories. Please note that submissions are subject to editing for clarity and time and will be shared on various channels including, but not limited to, [www.vtnea.org](http://www.vtnea.org); the union's social media channels (Instagram, Facebook, X); and our email newsletters.**

*If you have any questions, please give Darren a call at his cell, 802-839-8618, or send him an email at [dallen@vtnea.org](mailto:dallen@vtnea.org).*