

# Introduction to the Second Edition

The National Education Association (NEA) believes that great public schools are a basic right for every child. And we know that when the people who work in our nation's public schools are treated as professionals, and given the support and tools they need to succeed, magical things can happen for our children.

These are the guiding principles that led to NEA's development of the Keys to Excellence for Your Schools (KEYS) Initiative. This high-quality tool allows educators to measure the conditions and climate in their schools to support effective teaching and learning and improve student achievement. In order to more fully describe the conditions a school needs to have in place for students to achieve at the highest levels, NEA proudly presents *The Keys to Effective Schools*.

The contributors to this volume include many of the most respected education researchers in the country. Their expertise is well established—they have spent countless hours in public schools, they understand how schools operate, and they value the point of view of school employees. They offer practical insight and wisdom, based on the philosophy that quality schools are created and sustained by those who work in them.

We hope you will gain many benefits from having this book as a resource.

Sincerely

Reg Weaver  
President  
National Education Association