The NREA exists to be an advocate for all rural students, their schools, communities, providers, and the entire adult network that surrounds them.

The NREA shall adhere to the highest professional standards and expectations as it works with elected and appointed officials directly and through its professional lobby.

The NREA shall maintain highest professional standards relative to accounting and decision-making in its financial organizational responsibilities.

The NREA shall seek positive and productive relationships with business and government toward meeting its objectives on behalf of rural education, educators, and students wherever rural exists.

The NREA shall work on behalf of, and in cooperation with, NREA state affiliate organizations.

The NREA shall be made up of such bylaws, policies, and procedures that create opportunities for leadership and involvement and are consistent with the advocacy mission on behalf of rural education.

The NREA shall recognize and support each state affiliate organization in their adherence to their state statutes, rules, regulations, and unique expectations.