PREFACE

The National Elementary Honor Society was established in 2008 with two primary purposes: to recognize students who have achieved academic excellence and demonstrated responsibility within and outside the classroom, and to engage those students, through the work of the chapter, in service and leadership development activities. Along with National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society, National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) provides K–12 schools a national recognition program as a means of cultivating leadership and honor achievement.

But no organization in a school can exist without a professional educator at the helm—an adviser who is dedicated to stewarding the unique needs of the membership and someone who believes in the value of the NEHS program. Each NEHS chapter adviser has been selected by their principal to fulfill the obligation of providing a significant new experience for student members. To assist each adviser in these efforts, the national office has created a variety of resources, starting with this publication.

This *NEHS National Handbook* is the essential and official guide for all NEHS advisers. The NEHS National Constitution, found in Chapter 1, outlines the fundamental guidelines for all chapters. It is followed by explanations of policy and procedures based on experiences and precedents in the area of student activities from NASSP and NAESP. Some text explains specific policy requirements; other text offers suggestions and recommendations where options are available. In addition, this book is designed to provide resources and answer commonly asked questions, all provided to help you manage your NEHS chapter and its activities. Read this book, use it as a guide, and review it each year as your chapter grows.

NASSP and NAESP believe that the National Elementary Honor Society will make a positive difference in the lives of students and in the spirit of the school and the community. We commend the principals and advisers in our member schools for their commitment to recognize outstanding student achievement and to involve young people in meaningful experiences. Finally, we thank you for your commitment as professional educators to serving youth through the sponsorship of a chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society.



Nara Lee
Director, National Honor Societies