

AFT's Teacher Leaders Program **ENDEAVORS**

RESEARCH STUDIED:

- The effect on school budgets when students are under-subscribed in the free and reduced-price lunch program;
- Ways to implement the Common Core State Standards with diverse learners;
- Homework policies and completion rates;
- A district's inclusion practices;
- The effects of pre-K on student achievement;
- The effects of mentoring on teacher efficacy and attrition;
- Graduation requirements for career and technical education students; and
- Flipping the STEM classroom.

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES PERFORMED:

- Working with their students, colleagues, school officials and the community to successfully persuade a local school board to reconsider its design plans for a new building;
- Uniting students, teachers and parents to fight inappropriate and excessive testing;
- Collaborating with a community agency to draw attention to the undertaxed properties on the city's tax roles; and
- Serving as chapter leaders, delegates and building stewards, and becoming more involved in the legislative work of teaching.

OUR MISSION

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

Randi Weingarten
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AFT Teacher Leaders Program

TEACHERS AFFECTING POLICY

IMPACTS MADE TO CURRICULA AND INSTRUCTION:

- Putting into practice the Socratic seminar and creating a professional development module;
- Piloting a model classroom focused on inclusion for students with disabilities and English language learners;
- Providing citywide professional development on working with ELLs;
- Analyzing ACT scores through a comprehensive item analysis that resulted in significant test score gains for students;
- Analyzing benefits of a fine arts program for elementary students;
- Using interactive notebooks in an arts-based approach to physics instruction; and
- Co-teaching AVID and honors physical science.



The AFT Teacher Leaders Program (TLP) brings together a select group of teachers throughout the school year to learn how to take active leadership roles in their schools, unions and communities. Participants in the TLP help to strengthen the union and its connection to the community building greater support and understanding of public schools.

The AFT Teacher Leaders Program supports the goals of the local unions and provides:

- A strong tie to community organizations and community leaders;
- An informed teacher voice;
- A vehicle for positive messaging about public schools and their unions; and
- A pipeline for future school and union leaders.

Participating teachers develop skills related to:

- Creating a collaborative culture;
- Accessing, using and presenting relevant research;
- Reaching out to families and communities;
- Becoming advocates for teachers, students and their families, and for public education; and
- Understanding policy issues and making recommendations to and through their unions.

Through their participation in the AFT Teacher Leaders Program, teachers:

- Become conversant with and participate in both the local and national dialogue on education;

- Develop relationships with local policymakers and community leaders;
- Connect practice, research and policy; and
- Serve as a sounding board and advisory group for union leaders.

To support implementation of the TLP by local affiliates, the AFT provides orientation for the local president and facilitator; technical assistance/ ongoing support; stipends for participating teachers and facilitators; and access to a nationwide online community of teacher leaders from all locals engaged in this work.

For more information about the AFT Teacher Leaders Program, contact Marjorie Brown at mbrown@aft.org.

Participating Affiliates

15 locals have participated in the Teacher Leader Program since its inception in 2011-12.

California	United Educators of San Francisco
District of Columbia	Washington Teachers Union*
Florida	United Teachers of Dade
Massachusetts	Boston Teachers Union*
Maryland	Baltimore Teachers Union*
Missouri	Kansas City Federation of Teachers & School-Related Personnel*
New Hampshire	Nashua Teachers Union*
New York	North Syracuse Education Association* United Federation of Teachers*
Ohio	Cincinnati Federation of Teachers* Cleveland Teachers Union Toledo Federation of Teachers*
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers*
Texas	Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers* Houston Federation of Teachers*

*Locals currently in the program.