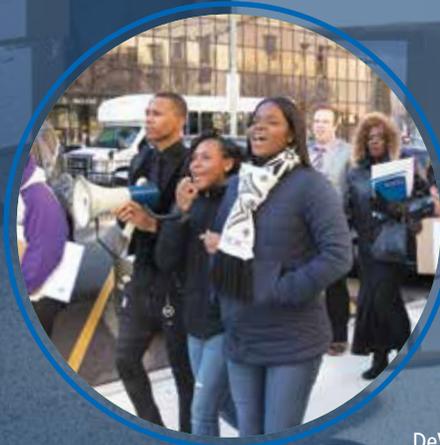


Students, Parents and Educators

Locked out by Betsy DeVos



What happened when parents, students and educators tried to talk to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos about their public schools—both their needs and challenges, and the amazing work students are doing despite all the challenges? She locked us out.

It was DeVos' one-year anniversary as secretary, and just like most people get feedback on their job performance, those who learn in, teach in and send their kids to public schools wanted to let her know how she was doing on the job. And since she spends so little time in public schools, we needed to bring public schools to her. We received comments from 80,000 people, which a small group of parents, students and educators tried to deliver to DeVos at the Department of Education on Feb. 8. We told her we were coming. We tried to make an appointment. But she refused to meet with us. And when we showed up to drop off everyone's feedback, she had the doors to the building locked. She refused to read and respond to the comments, and wouldn't even accept them on a flash drive.

DeVos spends a lot of time listening to pollsters and privateers who are trying to soften her image and make a profit off of kids and public schools. But when she had a chance to listen to parents, students and educators—those she actually serves—she opted to lock us out.

What was DeVos afraid to hear?



“My child’s school is amazing, and that it prepares students for college and career by offering law, finance and criminal justice programs as well as honors and Advanced Placement classes.”

—Angela, parent, Fla.

“I want Betsy DeVos to see the strong parent-teacher relationships at her school and how they are working as a team to meet students’ individual needs.”

—Sharon, teacher, Mich.

“We want to highlight the empowering impact a public university has on low-income and immigrant students.”

—Raj, college student, N.Y.

“My second-graders are learning real-world applications to solve problems and think critically.”

—Gail, teacher, Fla.

“I am proud of my child’s school, which has won numerous state awards and a national award, and where the teachers provide rigor as well as social and emotional learning.”

—Tiffany, parent, Colo.

Tell Betsy DeVos that it’s time for her to do her job for our kids and public schools. Visit aft.org/comments4betsy



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