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NORTH DAKOTA RANKS 48TH IN THE NATION FOR TEACHER PAY

North Dakota ranked 48th in the nation for its average teacher salary in 2006-07, according to the American Federation of Teachers' (AFT) Survey and Analysis of Teacher Salary Trends 2007, released today.

The average teacher salary in North Dakota for the 2006-07 school year was \$38,586—a 2.8 percent increase from the previous year. North Dakota was ranked 46th in the nation for beginning teacher salaries, at \$27,064, an increase of 5.5 percent from 2005-06.

Nationally, the average teacher salary increased 4.5 percent in 2006-07 to \$51,009, marking the first time average teacher pay exceeded \$50,000 and the first time since 2003 that teacher salaries surpassed the annual rate of inflation.

Traditional public school teacher salaries for other states in the Plains Region ranked as follows: Kansas was ranked 37th in the nation, at \$43,318; Iowa was 38th, at \$42,922; Nebraska was 43rd, at \$42,044; Missouri was 46th, at \$40,384; and South Dakota had the lowest average teacher salary in the nation, at \$35,378.

California had the highest average teacher salary, at \$63,640.

The Survey and Analysis of Teacher Salary Trends 2007 uses data from state education agencies, the U.S. Department of Defense, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The full report can be downloaded from the AFT Web site: www.aft.org/salary/2007/download/AFT2007SalarySurvey.pdf.

The AFT represents more than 1.4 million pre-K through 12th-grade teachers; paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel; higher education faculty and professional staff; nurses and healthcare workers; federal, state and local government employees, and early childhood educators.