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WEST VIRGINIA RANKS 45TH IN THE NATION FOR TEACHER PAY

West Virginia ranked 45th 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*.

The average teacher salary in West Virginia for the 2006-07 school year was \$40,534—a 2.4 percent increase from the previous year. West Virginia was ranked 36th in the nation for beginning teacher salaries, at \$30,626, an increase of nine percent from 2005-06.

Traditional public school teacher salaries for other states in the Southeast Region ranked as follows: Georgia was ranked 17th in the nation, at \$49,836; Virginia was 20th, at \$49,130; Florida was 24th, at \$47,219; North Carolina was 27th, at \$46,137; Arkansas was 32nd, at \$44,493; South Carolina was 33rd, at \$44,435; Tennessee was 34th, at \$43,815; Kentucky was 35th, at \$43,787; Alabama was 36th, at \$42,389; Louisiana was 39th, at \$42,816; and Mississippi was 47th, at \$40,182.

California had the highest average teacher salary, at \$63,640, while South Dakota reported the lowest, at \$35,378.

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.