The AFT helps empower educators to grow and lead in their professions, schools and communities

Being part of a national union connects educators to a vast network of peers and high-quality professional development designed to strengthen practice and build leadership.



- AFT Professional Learning provides training opportunities led by experts and frontline educators on topics such as classroom management, differentiated instruction, social- and emotional well-being, and teacher leadership.
- AFT's Share My Lesson is a community of over 2 million members supporting student success and well-being, offering lesson plans, practical resources, and free webinars and courses for PD credit.
- Through initiatives like the National Academy for AI Instruction, the Share My Lesson AI hub and targeted professional development, the AFT is working to ensure educators lead the responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence to enhance—not replace—human relationships in classrooms.
- The AFT is expanding access to books, resources and evidence-based supports that help students develop strong literacy skills through our Reading Opens the World campaign and key partnerships with First Book and Reading Universe.

AFT membership also offers services such as free trauma counseling and free student debt assistance. There are also benefits like credit card and insurance discounts and savings on everything from flowers and footwear to computers and vacations.

(Explore the full range of AFT professional learning programs and benefits at **aftpd.org** and **aft.org/member-benefits**.)

Helping our members beat the affordability challenge

Being part of a union means having support when life gets harder. The cost of living keeps rising—and for many working families, debt is piling up fast. Through the AFT's new Fight for Affordability campaign, members can access tools, videos and resources to help navigate medical debt, credit card debt, debt collectors and other financial challenges—including support and protections many people don't realize they're entitled to. Our campaign includes free, live Affordability Clinics with help on reducing medical debt, managing student loans, dealing with your credit score and understanding your consumer rights. For more, go to **aft.org/affordability**.)

Building a unified community

A union is you, me and our co-workers. We look out for each other, our students and our communities. We collaborate and share best practices. We are visible: standing together, wearing buttons and defending our principles. As we organize a union together, we are building the community and culture that we want to have in our schools.

Join the union today!







Education | Healthcare | Public Services

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Why organize with the AFT?

Why belong to the AFT?

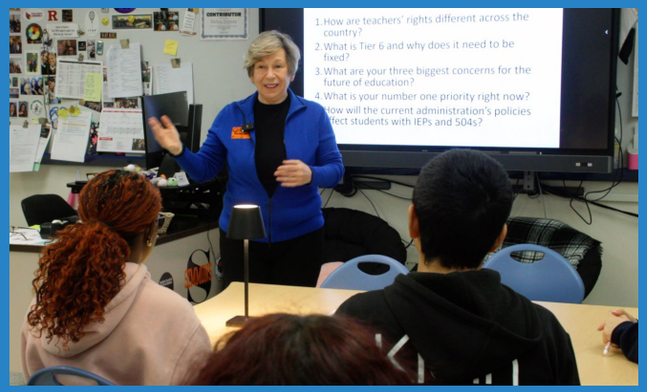


Education
Healthcare
Public Services

AFT TEACHERS

Our union, the AFT, fights to secure a better life for those we serve and those we represent. Our members make a difference every day: educating students, caring for patients and strengthening communities—work that touches nearly every family in America.

The 1.8 million-strong AFT fights for good wages and benefits, a real voice at work, strong public schools and services, and accessible, affordable healthcare and higher education. We fight for a democracy that works for the people—not just the powerful—and we fight for the opportunities and pathways that allow all our students, families and members to thrive.



That mission is even more urgent today. Families are being squeezed by rising costs, new technologies are reshaping work and learning, and divisions are deepening across our country.

You are a vital part of this work. When members like you are involved, we build the power to achieve together what no one can accomplish alone.

Thank you for being part of your union—the AFT.

–Randi Weingarten
AFT president

What's a union? And why a union?

A union is a group of workers who join together to win what we need to be successful educators and fight for the resources our students deserve. Research shows that union workers have higher pay, have better healthcare and retirement benefits, and feel more satisfied at work than nonunion workers. And they are empowered to fight for safe, welcoming and fully funded public schools for all kids.

Without a union:

- We have little decision-making power.
- If we advocate as individuals, we might be labeled "troublemakers."
- We can find it intimidating to raise concerns or ask for more pay.
- Our pay, benefits and workplace policies aren't necessarily fair or consistent.
- We don't have strong processes to address health and safety risks.



With the AFT:

- We have the power and voice to advocate for the resources and supports our students need to thrive.
- We have a built-in support system at our work site.
- We negotiate a legally binding union contract that spells out fair pay, benefits, working and learning conditions, and workplace rights.
- We fight to protect our kids and communities, defend public education and invest in community schools, career and technical education, and literacy programs to prepare our young people for college, careers and life.

Why the AFT?

The AFT is 1.8 million educators, public employees and healthcare workers strong. What unites us is our purpose: a better life for all. We fight for and win contracts, policies and legislation centered on our students, patients and communities. We use our collective strength to advocate for the essential programs, services and supports that help all children thrive.

The AFT is the principled, fearless union ready to go to the mat to protect our kids and communities, creating schools that are safe and welcoming, engaging and relevant. **It's our fighting spirit that has made us the fastest-growing union in the AFL-CIO.**

The AFT is a grassroots union led by members

Employers may tell us that the union is an "outsider." But when we form a union with the AFT, *we're* in charge. We determine our own priorities, negotiate our own contract and vote for leaders from our own ranks. And when needed, we have assistance from the national AFT and our AFT state federation for organizing, bargaining and connecting with our communities.

All members are empowered to:

- Be leaders and elect our own leaders;
- Serve on committees and help negotiate contracts; and
- Participate in labor-management problem solving.

Our locals win great contracts! United Educators of San Francisco won a 19.4 percent average salary increase over two years, mechanisms to ensure fully staffed schools and a requirement for a community school coordinator. The Kansas City Federation of Teachers and School-Related Personnel won protected planning time and six weeks paid parental leave for teachers. The Orange County Classroom Teachers Association in Orlando won a 9 percent average salary increase over one year, a committee process to address building safety issues in a timely manner and the ability for educators to complete IEPs virtually during nonstudent contact days.

If we WANT …

- The resources we need to grow and thrive at our jobs
- Safe and healthy schools and welcoming environments
- A real voice in workplace decision-making
- Less paperwork and fewer tests
- Fair and transparent salaries and pay for extra duties
- A mutually supportive community of colleagues

… then we NEED to organize with the AFT!

We're proud of the work we do. But let's face it, sometimes our work can be challenging, and we don't always have the resources and support we need to do our best. We want to build a strong foundation for our students, but we need reliable tools and a voice in how that foundation is built.

Alone, we can't win all these things. Together as a union, we can.

