Boot Camp Scheduling Guide

**First, select a 4-hour Boot Camp for Block 1:**  
Thurs., 7/20, 11 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. AND Fri., 7/21, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  

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**OR, select two 2-hour Express Boot Camps:**  
Thurs., 7/20, 11 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
Fri., 7/21, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  

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American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO  •  555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.  •  Washington, DC 20001  •  202/879-4400  •  www.aft.org
Then, select a 4-hour Boot Camp for Block 2:
Fri., 7/21, 2:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. AND Sat., 7/22, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

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Boot Camp Descriptions

4-hour Boot Camps for Block 1
(Thurs., July 20 from 11 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. AND Fri., July 21 from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Aligning MS and HS Science Lessons to the Next Generation Science Standards
Connect with expert science teachers on standards-aligned lessons that focus on engaging students, cultivating strong questions, defining problems, and designing or refining solutions. You will participate in the activities as if you were a student in a middle school or high school science class learning about the impact of humans on the environment. See how students can engage in an argument from evidence and make connections of cause and effect as well as stability and change. Participants should bring a Wi-Fi-enabled laptop or mobile device.

Designing Professional Learning: Engaging Teachers in Building a Collaborative Culture
Professional learning is a continuous process of individual and collective instructional improvement that can empower educators to solve problems and connect theory, practice and student outcomes. But how do you design and implement this type of community within your school? The Schlechty Center, a national educational nonprofit that partners with Bishop Woods School in New Haven, Conn., has designed a schoolwide professional learning system. In this session, you will access tools, resources, protocols and artifacts for a hands-on exploration of teacher engagement—how it is defined, identified, assessed and utilized to bring back the joy of teaching and to redesign professional and collaborative networks based on the needs, interests and motives of teachers.

English Language Learners 101: What Works? (offered twice)
Are you a new teacher of English language learners, or a veteran teacher supporting new teachers and looking for ways to engage, include and support English language learners? Come learn about this group of students and the supports they need to succeed in school. This boot camp will help you understand and meet the diverse needs of ELLs, increase your knowledge of the laws that ensure services for ELLs, and improve your repertoire of strategies and resources to succeed with ELLs, including the newest resources on the bilingual website Colorin Colorado. You will also hear how to advocate on behalf of your ELL kids and how to best reach their families.

How Diverse Thinking Creates Powerful Learning in Mathematics (offered twice)
Too many students think they are not good at math because they are asked to blindly follow steps they don’t understand with no opportunity to use what they do understand. Learn the benefits of encouraging varied thinking and solution strategies, and collaborate with fellow teachers to create, critique and hone lessons that encourage even young learners to develop a strong mathematics mindset.

Organizing Parents and Members at the School Level
The Trump administration and the DeVos-led Department of Education are proposing to roll back funding and resources for public schools. To fight back, we’ll need a collective vision with our community allies and deeper relationships with members and parents. How do we mobilize educators, staff and parents at the school level, so our district and statewide actions become even more powerful? This course will help school-based leaders (rank-and-file members, stewards and union leaders) to build meaningful relationships with parents and allies, in addition to preparing for tough conversations about what’s at stake for public education.
Parent Teacher Home Visits and the Teacher Toolkit to Address Chronic Absenteeism
Chronic absenteeism affects 6.5 million students, and about half of these students are concentrated in just 4 percent of our nation’s school districts. Join local leaders, members and national partners—the Parent Teacher Home Visits project and Attendance Works—to address attendance challenges in your school community. You will practice parent-teacher interactions, unpack the Addressing Chronic Absenteeism Teacher Toolkit, and discuss how to leverage the PTHV project in addressing chronic absenteeism. Leave this session with an action plan for engaging with leaders, community members and teachers to gain support for creating a home visit program for your school.

Project-Based Learning Design Lab
Participants in this interactive session will receive coaching from an interdisciplinary team of experts from the Southern Regional Education Board in the design of project-based learning instruction. A sample project addressing ways to combat the Zika virus will be presented in the context of a computer science application. Coaches will provide tools and checklists to create materials, assessments, learning activities and differentiated-instruction strategies. You will complete an initial draft of your project and create a snapshot to share with colleagues.

Restorative Practices: Fostering Positive School Climate and Culture (offered twice)
Restorative practices can help lead schools and their communities away from harsh, counterproductive zero-tolerance environments. With historical roots in practices found worldwide, restorative practices have become an innovative addition to public schools and teacher union contracts. You will analyze videos, AFT-based tools such as Share My Lesson and Teach Human Rights, and your own teaching techniques to develop strategies for classroom environments that are inclusive, holistic and collaborative.

Teaching Democratic Citizenship when Democracy Is in Crisis
In this session, you will develop an understanding of and practice what is commonly known as “action civics”—teaching students democratic citizenship by having them actually use and develop the skills of citizenship. In this process, students learn and practice these skills, from identifying the centers of civic power and decision-making, and analyzing how they can be leveraged on behalf of a solution or reform, to developing the tools of civic conversation and persuasion.

Wellness Programs in Schools
Are you looking to start a program that cultivates healthy living strategies like nutrition education and physical activity and aligns with national wellness standards? In this session, you will learn about three school-based and community-based wellness programs from our very own members. Participate in hands-on demonstrations to see how their programs engage students and families, discuss how to strategically start or strengthen your own wellness program, and get recommendations about the best ways to bring the work back to your local.

Writing Instruction Done Write (offered twice)
Strong writing skills are an essential building block for any well-rounded education. What does good writing look like? What should you expect from your students when it comes to writing? What is acceptable, and what do the standards say about the level of writing that is expected? This session will focus on recommendations for effective writing instruction in grades K-5 and will help you plan your standards-based writing instruction, analyze student writing and develop a deeper understanding of the writing process.
2-hour Express Boot Camps for Thurs., July 20 from 11 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**Beyond International Comparisons: Using Research to Influence Policy**

You’ve heard about the educational successes of Finland and Singapore. Come learn about the underlying research on practices that can be applied to your community. This session will uncover lessons from the Program for International Student Assessment and other international comparisons. You will learn how these comparisons provide valuable research that can help influence policy changes in your schools, districts or states. You will use the information and tools presented to create plans for research, policy development and advocacy.

**Bringing Maker Education to Your Classroom and School**

The maker movement is a technological and creative learning revolution that has vast applications to the world of education. This movement also overlaps with students’ desire to learn by doing. Join us to learn about maker education, projects that members are engaged in, and how you can launch a makerspace in your classroom or building. You will leave this session with resources on lessons, funding sources and communities to help get you started. This session is for all grade levels.

**Build the Union of Tomorrow with AFT Professional Development Today**

We know that strong member engagement leads to strong unions, but what percent of your membership does your union regularly engage? Many members only turn to their local union in times of difficulty, but a local union can and should play a much larger role in the professional lives of its constituency, building a stronger union in the process. AFT professional development has proven to be an effective member-engagement strategy that leads to increased affiliation and activism. This session will help you think about how your local’s involvement in professional development can increase member engagement. Find out what’s new in AFT PD and how your local can start, rejuvenate or expand its own PD program.

**FIRE Works: Building a Member-Driven Anti-Racism Movement**

Education Minnesota’s Minnesota Educator Academy’s FIRE program (Facing Inequities and Racism in Education) is a comprehensive statewide professional development and organizing framework. In this session, you will discover tools and strategies for advancing and lifting up the voices of social justice educators by engaging in learning experiences designed to shift and develop mindsets. Through reflective prompts, storytelling and small-group discussions, you will consider your local school community and create prototypes for addressing inequities and racism through collaborative partnerships, leadership development and transformative learning opportunities for all community stakeholders.

**Using Children’s Books to Develop Social and Emotional Learning**

Learn how to integrate social and emotional learning into all aspects of classroom curricula using hand-picked children’s books available in the Healthy Feelings & Relationships section of the First Book Marketplace. Each book is paired with a free downloadable tip sheet, designed to promote the social and emotional learning skills necessary for kids to manage their emotions and behavior. Presenters will lead you in hands-on activities, tips and conversation starters, and will demonstrate how to bring it all together.
2-hour Express Boot Camps for Fri., July 21 from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Chalkboard Chronicles: Strategies to Engage Stakeholders in Classroom Culture
Have you thought about using parental and community expertise in your classrooms or school? Come to this session to learn how to invite stakeholders into your learning community to share their expertise and learn more about schools. You will hear about research-based strategies to support a culture of collaboration and engagement, craft messages to invite stakeholders, and create a timeline for putting stakeholder engagement into action. Join other education professionals in this exciting strategic planning opportunity to increase stakeholder presence and participation in your learning community.

Choosing and Adapting Materials for Your Classroom
Whether you use a textbook or district-created materials, or are creating your own resources and tools, you are making decisions every day about the materials you put in front of your students. In this session, we will look at the aspects of high-quality, aligned instructional materials. The session will share specific guidance to adapt basal texts, textbooks or teacher-created materials as well as general ideas for strengthening literacy and math instructional practice. You will engage in activities you can apply to the materials you are using.

Helping Communities Recruit Students to Explore Teaching
The majority of each community’s future teaching workforce are sitting on the student side of the desks today. With the AFT as a partner, Educators Rising is leading a groundbreaking effort to help communities engage altruistic high school students and help them take their first steps on a coherent path to accomplished teaching practice. Join this interactive, solution-based session to hear how to create a “grow-your-own” effort in your school, from colleagues who have done it.

Tripod Student Surveys for Formative Feedback
Give student voice a shot! Tripod (created by Ron Ferguson of Harvard University) places important emphasis on the formative use of Tripod student surveys, where results are aligned with the 7Cs framework and provide actionable feedback for teachers and school leaders. You will participate in guided reflection on teacher self-assessment and student survey data, and discuss effective teaching strategies aligned with the framework. You also will receive premiere access to a new AFT professional development course on Tripod’s 7Cs framework.

4-hour Boot Camps for Block 2
(Fri., July 21 from 2:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. AND Sat., July 22 from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Community Schools and Member Engagement
Learn the core concepts that define community schools strategy, and discuss best practices, including program development, family and community engagement, coordination, advocacy and financing. The session will cover strategies for building relationships and overcoming common obstacles to engaging members and leaders, and you will practice organizing conversations. You will leave with your very own “elevator speech” around community schools and a plan to assess your local capacity to engage stakeholders and move a community schools agenda.

Developmentally Appropriate Practice, Discipline and Curriculum in Early Childhood Education
As early childhood educators, you fight for inclusive classrooms and defend developmentally appropriate practices. However, more children than ever are coming to school affected by trauma, and many schools and programs still allow expulsion in the early grades. Hear from advocates about
what we can do to champion good policies and fight for the resources needed to implement them. Then, jointly develop an action plan to engage parents and community leaders around implementing programs and practices that support developmentally appropriate, innovative approaches to discipline, curriculum and practice.

**English Language Learners 101: What Works? (repeat)**
Are you a new teacher of English language learners, or a veteran teacher supporting new teachers and looking for ways to engage, include and support English language learners? Come learn about this group of students and the supports they need to succeed in school. This boot camp will help you understand and meet the diverse needs of ELLs, increase your knowledge of the laws that ensure services for ELLs, and improve your repertoire of strategies and resources to succeed with ELLs, including the newest resources on the bilingual website Colorín Colorado. You will also hear how to advocate on behalf of your ELL kids and how to best reach their families.

**How Diverse Thinking Creates Powerful Learning in Mathematics**
Too many students think they are not good at math because they are asked to blindly follow steps they don’t understand with no opportunity to use what they do understand. Learn the benefits of encouraging varied thinking and solution strategies, and collaborate with fellow teachers to create, critique and hone lessons that encourage even young learners to develop a strong mathematics mindset.

**Instructional Practice Guide: A Powerful Literacy Coaching Tool for Supporting All Students**
Come engage with Student Achievement Partners’ English language arts/literacy-specific coaching tool. The Instructional Practice Guide provides guidance, strengthens practice, and builds understanding for identifying and applying the key ELA shifts in college- and career-ready standards. You will use the guide to consider an example and then try it with your own lesson plan. Finally, you will develop a plan to use the guide in your school or professional learning community.

**Making Your Student Growth Measure Work for You**
Bring your laptop, the standards you are responsible to teach, and student data, and join us as we take you through a blended-learning course that will review the fundamentals of creating a Student Learning Objective. We will apply those tools to your specific data and turn it into a student growth measure that supports and enhances your ability to adjust your teaching for every student in your class(es). This course can be used in your local as an independent online course or a blended learning course, or offered in person. Come check it out for your colleagues and members.

**Mathematics Lesson Plan and Student Work Analysis: Powerful Tools for Supporting All Students**
Get firsthand experience with two instructional tools from Student Achievement Partners, the Lesson Plan Analysis and the Student Work Analysis guides. You will be guided through a lesson review for quality and alignment to the Core Actions for powerful teaching. You will then analyze student work from that lesson in order to see how it played out with students. Participants should bring a lesson plan and student work to use during the session.

**Restorative Practices: Fostering Positive School Climate and Culture (repeat)**
Restorative practices can help lead schools and their communities away from harsh, counterproductive zero-tolerance environments. With historical roots in practices found worldwide, restorative practices have become an innovative addition to public schools and teacher union contracts. You will analyze videos, AFT-based tools such as Share My Lesson and Teach Human
Rights, and your own teaching techniques to develop strategies for classroom environments that are inclusive, holistic and collaborative.

**Teaching About Life in the Ecosystem Through Blended Learning**
Be prepared to think like an engineer while examining bird beaks, seed dispersal, animal adaptations and energy flow in ecosystems. You will engage in three K-5 life science lessons aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. Explore ecosystems through hands-on investigations and blended-learning activities, and leave with three lesson plans using the 5E instructional model. A laptop is suggested but not required.

**Writing Instruction Done Write (repeat)**
Strong writing skills are an essential building block for any well-rounded education. What does good writing look like? What should you expect from your students when it comes to writing? What is acceptable, and what do the standards say about the level of writing that is expected? This session will focus on recommendations for effective writing instruction in grades K-5 and will help you plan your standards-based writing instruction, analyze student writing and develop a deeper understanding of the writing process.

**2-hour Express Boot Camps for Fri., July 21 from 2:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

**All-In: Developing a Comprehensive School Security Plan**
This session will highlight the evolution of school security, from where we were in 2012 to where we are today. You will hear from members of the Newtown, Conn., school team on how they collaborated with administrators, parents, community members, teachers and elected officials to create a district security committee. Then, work with team members to develop a plan of engagement for your school. If you’re interested in creating a safe and secure environment for teaching and learning, then this session will help you develop a plan for engaging all stakeholders around that goal.

**Identifying and Supporting Children and Adolescents with Mental Illness**
This session introduces key warning signs of early-onset mental illnesses in children and adolescents, which may include depressed mood, excessive fears and anxieties, changes in behavior and performance, failure to develop peer relationships, impaired concentration and thinking, and suicidal gestures; explores their potential connection to substance use; and identifies pertinent steps to take if such warning signs are observed. You will leave with a host of interventions, strategies, tools and resources you can use to support students struggling with mental illness. Participants will need to bring an iPad or laptop to this session.

**Maslow Before Bloom: Relationships in a 21st-Century Culture for Learning**
Social-emotional learning is implicit within the instructional practices of standards-based learning. We will take a deeper look at teacher-student relationships, teacher collective efficacy and the science behind social-emotional learning. You will explore connections between brain research, emotional intelligence and current frameworks for teaching. And you will use collaborative social media platforms and be introduced to related micro-credentials as a means of job-embedded personalized learning for educators.

**Quality of Work-life in Education and Educators’ Well-Being**
Social and emotional health is essential for educators as well as children. Both educators and students benefit from mindfulness and self-care strategies, according to recent studies. This session will review mindfulness and self-care practice and research. You will discuss the impact of
mindfulness practice on educators’ well-being, student outcomes and classroom management. Come to participate in demonstrations of mindfulness practice and techniques, and learn more about incorporating mindfulness in classrooms.

**Teacher Advisor with IBM Watson**
Are you looking for online resources to help increase your efficiency in planning highly effective lessons for all your students? Teacher Advisor with IBM Watson is a free tool designed to reduce the time it takes elementary math teachers to plan and effectively implement high-quality resources to reach students of all learning levels. In this session, you will learn how this free cognitive computing resource can increase your planning efficiency, and you will be given an opportunity to tell the IBM development team what you would like to see in the tool to truly make this a game-changer for your planning and instructional practice.

**2-hour Express Boot Camps for Sat., July 22 from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**Grow Your Own: The Union Role in Diversifying the Educator Workforce**
What would it take to recruit and retain diverse teachers? Grow Your Own is a recruitment strategy designed to address teacher shortages and teacher diversity gaps that are prevalent in underserved communities across the country. Come to this session to hear how local leaders, members and national partners have taken the concept of GYO from an idea to a full-fledged program in their district. You will then collaborate by region, to jointly develop a set of best practices for creating and sustaining local GYO programs, and you will prepare action steps for implementing a GYO program back in your schools and school districts.

**How to Spot Fake News and Train Students to Be Educated News Consumers**
The way we interpret and synthesize news plays an important role in how we interact with and make meaning of the world around us. A recently published study from the Stanford History Education Group reveals that 82 percent of middle school students could not distinguish between sponsored content and a real news story on a website. Working with students to critically evaluate the accuracy, meaning and power of informational text has never been more important. In this session, we’ll take a deep dive into strategies you can use to discuss fake news with your students and the challenges that can arise.

**Protecting Our Students and Their Families**
The AFT and its partners across the country are on the frontlines, fighting to keep families and communities together. Join us for a candid conversation about immigration, and learn about the tools and resources available to educators, school support staff and community partners to help undocumented students fight back against the attacks, defend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, and help communities prepare for an Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid. You will have time to develop strategies to gain support for implementing these efforts in your school and community.