



AFT's Fund Our Future Social Media Toolkit

From March 4 through March 18, AFT locals and states are planning major investment actions. This social media toolkit has sample messaging and content to amplify state and local events occurring March 4 through March 18, to create a nationwide cascade of actions that will amplify our demands and build the movement around the urgency to invest in students and public education.

Toolkit will be updated regularly, please check back for more ways to support.

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FUND OUR FUTURE

Campaign Website

Educators, parents, students and their communities understand the importance of public education and public postsecondary education. Learn all about how @AFTunion locals are fighting to #FundOurFuture fundourfuture.aft.org

The walkouts and funding fights in states such as West Virginia, Arizona, Colorado and Oklahoma, and cities like Chicago and Los Angeles, have been inspirational. Now it's time to #FundOurFuture. Learn more here: fundourfuture.aft.org

After a decade of neglect, @AFTunion members are standing up. They are taking to the streets to demand the teaching and learning conditions they and their students deserve. It's time to #FundOurFuture! Fundourfuture.aft.org

Solidarity Action

The Great Recession decimated school funding, and 25 states still spend less on K-12 public education than before the recession. Take action with us & tell Congress: #FundOurFuture! https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-congress-fund-our-future?source=direct_link&

Join us in telling Congress it's time to #FundOurFuture by ensuring that the public schools and colleges that embrace all of our children have the funding they need to provide the opportunities students deserve. Add your name now: https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-congress-fund-our-future?source=direct_link&

Campaign Video

Educators, parents, students and their communities are standing up with a clear message: that we're not going to accept underfunding and scarcity. It's time to #FundOurFuture <https://youtu.be/RJQ3ExKiv-I>

Different states have different funding needs and issues, but the goal of #FundOurFuture is the same everywhere—ensuring children and the public schools and colleges that embrace them have the funding they need to provide opportunities students deserve. <https://youtu.be/RJQ3ExKiv-I>



A DECADE OF NEGLECT REPORT

This comprehensive report from @AFTunion offers a deep dive into the austerity agendas and disinvestment that sparked the wave of teacher walkouts around the country over the last year. #FundOurFuture <https://www.aft.org/decade-neglect>

A report from @AFTunion unveils the link between GOP tax cuts and gutting of public K-12 and higher education post-recession. Watch now to learn more about why we're fighting to #FundOurFuture: <https://youtu.be/bSuNjH8Wvts>

MEMBER STORIES

Teachers across the U.S. are rising up to fight austerity, bring attention to the conditions in underfunded schools, and advocate for their students because it's time to #FundOurFuture <https://youtu.be/tLjH4NxwI1w>

Last year, @aftunion joined @J4J_USA, Rev. Dr. William Barber and other education organizations at the #SCOTUS to make it clear that we must #FundOurFuture. Watch to learn more: <https://youtu.be/hacydlvADWc>

West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona, Puerto Rico, Colorado: The movement to #FundOurFuture is growing. <https://youtu.be/tLjH4NxwI1w>

.@AFTunion member Sara Goldrick Raab describes the realities of poverty among so many college students, and the programs built to address that. #FundOurFuture <https://aftvoices.org/realcollege-a66283da03fa>

More than 90% of educators love their jobs, but more than half of them have also considered quitting, according to a new poll of educators. #FundOurFuture <https://www.aft.org/news/new-poll-gets-heart-educators-dilemma>

Thousands of college students struggle to meet their bills, and many have to drop out of school before reaching graduation. Read about how @AFTunion members created emergency funds for struggling students #FundOurFuture <https://www.aft.org/news/faculty-create-emergency-funds-struggling-students>

Last year, @AFTunion conducted a survey to determine the effects of student debt on AFT members who struggle financially. The results were overwhelming. #FundOurFuture <https://aftvoices.org/this-summer-the-aft-conducted-a-survey-to-determine-the-effects-of-student-debt-on-aft-members-who-ce05250ecaee>

Breaking down Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and the difficulties of qualifying and getting it. #FundOurFuture #PSLF #StudentDebt <https://aftvoices.org/too-good-to-be-true-when-student-debt-disappears-76ab53e3d564>



Over 40 million people in the U.S. have student loans totaling nearly \$1.5 trillion. @AFTunion is leading a campaign to tackle this crisis by helping members understand their repayment options through the AFT #StudentDebt Clinics. #FundOurFuture <https://youtu.be/mci5saF7EUK>

Low pay is just one reason graduate employee unions are such a crucial part of university life. #FundOurFuture <https://aftvoices.org/we-need-more-than-a-food-pantry-fcc2a52b0041>

Student debt relief is union work. #FundOurFuture #StudentDebtCrisis
<https://www.aft.org/news/student-debt-relief-union-work>

When educators have little job security, insufficient benefits and pay so low they have to work multiple jobs to make ends meet. #FundOurFuture
<https://www.aft.org/news/adjunct-faculty-confront-university-president-demand-action>



GRAPHICS



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Scarcity and the lack of appropriate investment is the root cause of every single one of the teacher walkouts that are roiling this country. Teachers want what kids need, and that requires funding our future.

—Randi Weingarten, AFT president



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We know we're doing the right thing for our students, and for the future of public schools. And we know we're not in it alone. We have parents and community members by our side.

—PAMELA SANDERS,
United Teachers Los Angeles member
and special education teacher



#FundOurFuture



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My starting salary as a teacher was \$29,000. After taxes, that was about \$2,000 a month, and my student loans were \$1,000 a month. It was hard to cover rent, groceries, other bills.

—TODD RATICA,
member of the Ohio Federation of Teachers,
and social studies teacher



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While our legislatures might not understand the critical role of public education, our communities do, and we should seek their support to give our teachers the dignified pay they deserve.

—KARLA HERNANDEZ-MATS, president of
the United Teachers of Dade, Florida



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I want to continue helping the kids in my community get on their feet. But these jobs will never be paid what they're worth. I will never make enough money to pay off my student loans.

—SAUNDRA MOBLEY, paraprofessional in Jacksonville, Fla., and a member of the AFT affiliate Duval Teachers United

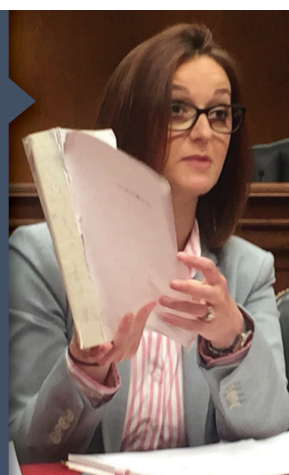


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Imagine the improvements for students that could result from additional education funding. Up-to-date textbooks. Professional development for teachers and support staff to help us improve instruction. Smaller classes so every student can get more personalized attention.

—MELISSA SMITH, member of the Oklahoma City AFT, and high school criminal justice teacher




#FundOurFuture

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Unless you are in a school every day, you might not see the results of underfunding education. That is because we open our doors no matter what, and my colleagues and I will do everything we can to make sure our students get the education they deserve.

—MELISSA SMITH, member of the Oklahoma City AFT, and high school criminal justice teacher




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When you think about how the country is dividing, especially according to class, you think about the rich students and those who can afford the fancy tutors and go to elite institutions, but we need to respect all our students.

—QUENBY HUGHES, president of RIC (Rhode Island College)/AFT and history professor



#FundOurFuture



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After 10 years of systematic defunding, now is the time for children and schools to become the No. 1 priority. Full funding is essential.

—TINA WILLIAMS, Fairfax County (Va.) Federation of Teachers president and school counselor



#FundOurFuture



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