



For Immediate Release

February 5, 2013

**Statement by Rosemary Boland, AFT Pennsylvania Executive Vice President
on Gov. Corbett's 2013-14 Pennsylvania Budget Proposal**

“After two years and \$1.25 billion in cuts to basic, special and higher education, the governor’s budget continues the cuts and offers false choices and empty promises that won’t stabilize school finances, improve educational opportunities or build an educated and competitive workforce.

“At a time when Pennsylvania needs sustainable education funding, Gov. Corbett offers little new funding and a small restricted block grant in exchange for acquiescing to his agenda of privatizing public employee pensions and selling the state’s liquor stores for private profit. A fire sale of liquor licenses and defunding school and state employee pensions are no way to finance world-class schools and colleges.

“With the economy improving, the 2013-14 education budget must address the devastating impact state cuts have had on education: larger class sizes, fewer full-day kindergartens, school libraries will remain shuttered, and more honors and AP classes and art, music and sports programs eliminated.

“Without reliable funding for higher education, colleges and universities will keep increasing tuition, fewer students will be able to afford to a college education and enrollment will continue its downward spiral.

“We can afford to restore education budget cuts by making responsible choices – by closing tax loopholes, repealing corporate tax breaks and enacting a fair and competitive tax on natural gas extraction. After two years of crushing reductions, it’s reprehensible that the administration continues putting privatization ahead of children and schools.”

AFT Pennsylvania represents 36,000 public, private and charter school teachers and school support employees; community college and university faculty and staff; and state employees across the commonwealth. AFT Pennsylvania is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers and AFL-CIO.

Contact:

Barbara Goodman, AFTPA Communications Director
1816 Chestnut St., Philadelphia PA 19103
Cell: 484-410-5158
bgoodman@aftpa.org