



AFT Pennsylvania

A Union of Professionals

Stand Up • Speak Up • Sign Up

CSPE

Committee to Support Public Education

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can contribute to CSPE?

Current dues-paying or retired AFT Pennsylvania members can contribute.

How are contributions made?

Contributions can only be made online, using a secure web link on www.aftpa.org or by clicking on the FIGHT BACK widget in AFTPA email Action Alerts. Members should always access the link on a secure, personal computer or mobile device – never on a computer or network owned by their employer.

Why do I need to make a contribution separate from my union dues?

Federal and state laws prohibit the use of union dues for political contributions.

Does CSPE support candidates from both parties?

Yes. Our priority is to support candidates who support us on key issues, regardless of political affiliation. CSPE contributions are based on voting records or, in the case of non-incumbents, their stands on issues related to public and higher education, public sector employment, retirement security, workers' rights and similar issues.

Is there a CSPE committee and what does it do?

The committee is made up of AFTPA local presidents and elected local leaders. It considers requests for campaign contributions by reviewing candidates' positions and voting records on key issues.

How much of my contribution goes to overhead?

NONE. 100% of CSPE funds are used to support AFTPA-endorsed candidates for state office, as well as candidates in selected local races. No CSPE contributions are spent for administration or overhead.

What size contribution should leaders ask for?

Individual contribution levels are voluntary, but we encourage monthly contributions of \$5-\$10 or more made through automatic debit to your credit card, debit card or checking account. Enrollment takes only a minute. The union does not have access to your personal or banking information and information is never shared.

How does CSPE make our union stronger?

The first step toward effective representation is to vet candidates and elect people who share our values, know where we stand on issues and will vote with us. CSPE gives AFTPA access and the opportunity to reach out to candidates and legislators to make sure they:

- Safeguard our pensions,
- Ensure adequate and equitable funding for public schools, community colleges, colleges and universities,
- Protect healthcare and employer-sponsored benefits,
- Expand educational opportunities for all children through high-quality early childhood education, great public schools, career and technical programs and affordable and accessible colleges and universities.

Corporations and billionaires spent \$1 billion-plus to influence politicians. How can we compete with that kind of political muscle?

We can't match their spending dollar for dollar, but if every AFTPA member contributed \$5-\$10 per month, AFTPA would raise hundreds of thousands of dollars a year and ensure that our voices are heard in the legislative process. With more than 40,000 active and retired members, we already have significant power on Election Day. Our phone banks, neighborhood canvassing, voter registration drives and voter education programs help us advocate on behalf of our members. CSPE goes a step further. It allows AFTPA members advocate for the resources members need.