



# Get To Know AFT Pennsylvania

Whether you work in a preK-12 school system, an early childhood center, a college or university system, a state government office, or a healthcare facility, AFTPA is the place for you. We are not a union for teachers only. We represent over 36,000 members across 75 local affiliates across the Commonwealth, including: public, private, and charter school teachers and support staff, college and university faculty and staff, state employees, and more.

As a union, we're able to win improvements and higher standards in our workplaces, school districts, and communities. Our strength in numbers gives us the power to protect our rights and advocate for quality public education, higher education, patient care, and public services. Here are just a few more reasons why you should join AFTPA:

## 1. You'll have a voice at your workplace.

- As a member of a union, you will have input in forming contract proposals on wages, benefits, working conditions, staffing levels, and more.
- You'll be eligible to attend negotiations and serve on the Bargaining Committee.
- You will vote on ratifying collective bargaining contracts.
- You'll receive support from an AFTPA Staff Representative, including advice, assistance, and representation on professional issues and grievances.

## 2. You'll have a voice in your local and AFTPA.

- You'll be able to participate in union meetings and events.
- You'll be eligible to run for union office and vote in union elections.
- You'll have opportunities for training in organizing, negotiating, leading professional development, and other union leadership skills.

## 3. You'll have access to professional services.

- As a member of AFTPA, you'll have access to discounted professional development graduate courses through AFTPA's partnership with Virtual Education Services (VESi) and Misericordia University.
- You'll have access to free lesson plans and teacher resources, including trainings that count toward professional development credits with AFT's Share My Lesson.
- You'll be part of AFT Healthcare, one of two unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO, which is accredited as a provider of continuing education in nursing through the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

- You'll have access to AFT student debt clinics to learn how to reduce your debt and become eligible for loan forgiveness.
- You'll have access to AFT's exclusive member benefits, including pet insurance, the UnionPlus mortgage program, trauma counseling and services, hotel discounts, car rentals, and more.

## 4. You'll have a chance to meet with elected officials about the issues you care about.

- Along with our expert staff and allies across labor and education, you'll have opportunities to meet with legislators both at home and in Harrisburg.
- Together, you can help us build support for workers, protect collective bargaining rights, increase investment in K-12 and higher education, prevent the creation of additional private school vouchers, reform cyber charter school funding, strengthen access to higher education, fix and strengthen the Educator Pension System (PSERS), and more.

## 5. You'll be joining a large, powerful, and diverse labor movement.

- All members of AFTPA are also members of the national AFT, which represents 1.8 million workers in 3,000 affiliates nationwide.
- All members are also affiliated with the national AFL-CIO, a voluntary federation of 63 national and international labor unions that represent nearly 15 million working people, as well as its state federation and local Central Labor Councils (CLCs).
- You'll have opportunities to be a leader in your communities through AFT's work with First Book and other partners.
- You'll have the ability to join with your co-workers to influence public policy in your school district, in your community, and throughout Pennsylvania.

**Together, we can create a better future for every student, patient, educator, worker, and family in PA.**

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