



Louisiana Federation of Teachers Legislative and Policy Goals 2015

Steve Monaghan, President

Louisiana Federation of Teachers • 9623 Brookline Avenue • Baton Rouge, LA 70809
(225) 923-1037 • LA WATS (800) 634-5089 • <http://la.aft.org>

In 2015 the LFT will work to reclaim the promise of public education by pursuing policy goals that:

- Create safe, welcoming public schools
- Cultivate well-prepared and supported teachers and staff
- Develop engaging curriculum
- Ensure wraparound services that address students' social, health and emotional needs

The LFT agenda comprises solution-driven initiatives that aim to:

Address "standards" and the overuse of standardized test scores

- Clearly spell out the requirements of observation pre- and post-conferences to ensure due process rights and fair, accurate outcomes.
- Protect teachers, schools and districts from the consequences of students opting out from standardized tests
- Prevent retaliation if teachers educate parents on their right to opt-out
- Ensure that a high percentage of opt-outs will not affect a teacher's evaluation or Student Learning Targets
- Eliminate attendance issues and quotas from the evaluation process and Student Learning Targets
- Require that multiple measures impacting students' ability to perform are considered as part of school letter grades
- Stop BESE's annual changes to school performance scores that confuse parents

Prioritize spending in our state budget

- Push for a 2.75% increase in MFP funding
- Ensure that increases in MFP funding include permanent staff pay raises
- Protect higher education from devastating budget cuts

Preserve the rights of locally-elected school boards

- Amend charter school laws and require the Recovery School District to return unused RSD properties to the local school board
- Prevent the Board of elementary and Secondary education from overriding the decisions of local school districts when they reject charter school applications
- Create more accountability for any existing use of public funds for vouchers and course choice programs

Protect the health care and retirement security of teachers and school employees

- Amend laws to return oversight authority to the Office of Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board
- Require OGB to use the proper Administrative Procedures Act process for issuing plan changes
- Protect state retirement systems from efforts to convert defined benefit systems to defined contributions
- Adopt a 1.5% cost of living adjustment for all four state retirement systems
- Suspend a law adopted in 2014 that would prevent a COLA from being paid this year

Ensure the professional rights of teachers and school employees

- Oppose efforts to eliminate the payroll deduction of union dues
- Hold BESE and the legislature accountable for frequent, confusing and unproven changes to teacher evaluations and school letter grades
- Unlink teacher pay, granting and taking of tenure and reductions in force from our broken system of teacher evaluations
- Ensure that superintendents do not maintain unilateral authority to deny or grant professional sabbatical leave
- Continue to improve extended sick leave and related maternity leave statutes to ensure proper access to sick leave
- Adopt return to work legislation that guarantees highly qualified teachers and school employees can return to work after a reasonable length of retirement when their services are needed
- Ensure that support personnel who perform duties outside their job description are adequately compensated for their services
- Alter the Bus Driver Operational expense formula to bring it up to date

Student welfare

- Address time shortage in several districts to ensure that students get an adequate amount of time to consume lunch