

In a stormy legislative session, educators must work together!

With all the problems facing our state, we can't let small differences divide educators. That's why the LFT and LAE are working together with other public education partners in the legislature this year.

Caring for children. Respecting the rights of teachers and school employees. Restoring the joy to teaching and learning. That's the essence of our agenda in a challenging legislative environment.

Strengthen schools and communities

Community schools are a cornerstone of real education reform. We support a pilot program creating schools that are hubs of the community, providing on-site health and social services, and building strong family-school partnerships.

Legislative goals include:

- Local control is fundamental. Return control of schools to local school boards.
- Ensure a strong start for our youngest children. Support better funding for early childhood education.
- Memorialize annual growth factors in the Minimum Foundation Program.
- Require charter schools to be held to the same standards as public schools.
- Ease burdensome standardized testing. Recognize the value of art, music, literature, phys. ed. and play time for children.

Respect professional educators

Teachers have been blamed and shamed for the past eight years. It's time to recognize their professionalism and pay them accordingly.

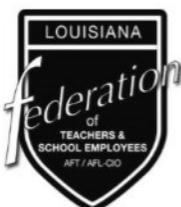
- Annualize recent teacher pay raises into the MFP.
- Ensure fair and accurate teacher evaluations:
 - Restore the three-year probationary period for new teachers.
 - Remove the "highly effective" rating as the threshold for tenure.
 - Replace arbitrary and capricious standards with evidence-based reviews for hearing officers and courts.
 - Require BESE to align its rules with state law requiring the pre- and post-observation conferences.
 - Support legislation specifying that any and all scored observations meet the requirements already mandated by state law.

Ensure dignity for all members of the education family.

Our unions want to make sure that paraprofessionals and school related personnel are treated with the respect they deserve.

- Provide extended sick leave for support employees identical to that enjoyed by teachers.
- Allow PSRPs the same leave rights as teachers to seek medical treatment for injuries received on the job.
- Cafeteria workers should not be required to provide the uniforms mandated by districts.
- Modify the rate paid to school bus owner-operators for the first time since 1984.

It will take hard work and perseverance to repair the damage done to public education during the Jindal years. These goals should be considered the starting point for laws and policies that reclaim the promise of a great public education for all children. The time to begin is now!



Louisiana Federation of Teachers

Steve Monaghan, President

9623 Brookline Avenue • Baton Rouge, LA 70809

(225) 923-1037 • LA WATS 800-634-5089 • <http://la.aft.org>