LFT 60-Second Issue Factory

Lead, follow or get out of the way!

Teacher tenure — a mark of excellence

Teacher tenure does not get the respect it deserves. That's because many people, including some teachers, don't understand what tenure really is, or what it should mean.

Most people know that tenure exists to protect a teacher's academic freedom, and to guarantee that due process rights will be respected if a teacher comes into conflict with an administrator or elected official.

In reality, tenure is much more. It is proof that teachers have earned certification and have successfully completed a three-year probationary period during which they are required to be carefully monitored and mentored by administrators.

The Louisiana Federation of Teachers believes tenure should be seen as a mark of excellence, as well as a necessary protection for teachers.

Some politicians claim that tenure just gives "lifetime employment" to "bad teachers." They call it an archaic law that should be abolished in the name of school reform.

In the 2010 legislative session, LFT will fight to protect tenure. We will also work for legislation to increase respect for the value of tenure.

We want tenure to be an active and meaningful process, one that honors the teaching profession and enhances the teacher's professional credentials.

Watch LFT President Steve Monaghan's 60-Second Issue Factory at http://la.aft.org

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