



A Union of Professionals

Texas AFT
AFL-CIO

Texas AFT
P. O. Box 1106
Del Valle, TX 78617

T: 512/448-0130
T: 800/222-3827
E: info@texasaft.org

www.texasaft.org

Zeph Capo
PRESIDENT

Wanda Longoria
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Dear Member,

On behalf of the 66,000 members of the Texas American Federation of Teachers (AFT), I am glad to welcome you back for the 2024-2025 school year. Last year, we saw very clearly just how low public education stands on the priority list of our state officials. That said, I am proud of the work of our union, and I hope you are too. Through Texas AFT, we build our collective power to help ourselves, our students, and our communities thrive. Members like you work hard every day, educating our students, advocating for better working and learning conditions, and mobilizing to elect leaders who will support our schools, not attack or abandon them.

Together, we can do big things. We've shown it over the past year. On our webpage for returning members, you'll find details about our union's work, including our recent wins, as well as links to member benefits and upcoming events. Visit www.texasaft.org/welcome (see QR code). In the face of a statewide school staffing crisis and the existential threats to public education, we have stood strong in our support of our schools and communities. It is time to redouble our efforts to win for our profession. Despite what those who work against public education say, we still receive high levels of support from the public because our friends, family, and neighbors see the work that each and every one of you do on their behalf.

More than 26,000 of you answered the call to fight for our profession last year, taking action in the 88th Legislature. We kept the threat of vouchers and defunding public schools at bay, standing strong even when lawmakers held our pay raises and funding hostage. Now we enter a new election cycle that will determine the makeup of the 89th Legislature. Will these seats be filled by privateers or by people we can count on to support public schools? The answer likely will depend on how engaged you are this November.

Your union needs your help! A state with a record budget surplus ought to be able to fund schools to thrive, not just survive. We cannot settle for crumbs or empty promises. To win, however, we must grow our strength. Please join our statewide **Together We Thrive** campaign and share it with potential members on your campus. Visit thrive.texasaft.org (see QR code) to learn more about what we're fighting for and sign on to the Educator's Bill of Rights we plan to bring to next year's Legislature.

Furthermore, we can't win the respect you deserve and the conditions your students need to thrive without you asking your colleagues to join and sharing our information. If you work with folks who haven't joined our union, I challenge you to invite them.

Our collective activism will keep the "public" in public education, keep our schools as the centers of our communities, and ensure school employee voices are heard in the halls of power. I invite you to grow your advocacy with our union and help us build a strong movement for public education across Texas.

Together, we fight. And together, we will thrive.

In Unity,

Zeph Capo
Texas AFT President



**WELCOME
BACK**



**THRIVE
CAMPAIGN**