



*A Union of Professionals*

**Texas AFT**  
AFL-CIO

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Dear Member,

On behalf of the 66,000 members of the Texas American Federation of Teachers (AFT), welcome back for the 2025-2026 school year. I cannot promise it will be an easy year, but I can promise that your union is **#Allin** to support you with whatever challenges may arise.

We are just a few months out from one of the most brutal legislative sessions we have ever experienced, and you return to your worksites as national uncertainty clouds our schools' funding. **Yet, here you are, showing up for your kids and your colleagues and your communities once again.**

You are what gives me hope. A lot of politicians have a lot of things to say about our union. But even the biggest critics must agree on one thing: **Even when things get hard – actually, especially when things get hard – our union and our members show up.**

This year, Texas AFT mobilized over 19,000 public school employees, parents, and allies to fight for our schools, colleges, and universities. We trained over 600 testifiers and hosted members at the Capitol just about every week from March to May. None of us thought we were fighting a winning battle, but we showed up for every 18-hour hearing and for every shameful vote anyway.

**Why? Because we know our kids and our schools are worth it. We're worth it, too.**

That said, I want you to remember that, together, we can do big things. We've shown it over the past year, even in the direst of moments. For the first time in six years, we won increased funding for our schools, pay raises for teachers (up to \$8,000), and a brand-new dedicated allotment for support staff raises.

Is it enough? Absolutely not.

Would it have happened at all if we hadn't spent the past three years shouting from the rooftops? Absolutely not.

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](http://www.texasaft.org/welcome)** (see QR code). I want you to take pride in the work we have done together, even as we still have a long fight ahead for a thriving public education system in Texas.

Even in the face of continuous attacks from those who would privatize our schools, we remain all in for that vision. But the only way we'll get there is if we grow our movement. So, I ask you to share your union's vision – your vision – for the schools we deserve with your colleagues. Help them understand that we can get there together. Bring them into our union and our movement.

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. **This year, and every other, we remain All In for Public Schools.**

In Unity,

Zeph Capo  
Texas AFT President

Zeph Capo  
PRESIDENT

Wanda Longoria  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

