

West Virginia needs good schools for a great future.
Our schools are UNDERFUNDED, UNDERSTAFFED, OVERCROWDED.
Are our legislative leaders listening?

**Lip service from state legislative leaders.
Low pay, crowded classrooms in our schools.**

Some legislative leaders talk a good game about the importance of a good education for our children. But watch what they do, not what they say. Over the past several years, our legislature has:

- Cut education funding.
- Tossed out proposals to improve pay for teachers and school staff.
- Done nothing to off-set health insurance hikes that result in teachers and service personnel having less and less to live on every year.

There's a teacher shortage in West Virginia.

There are 727 vacant teaching positions in West Virginia. It's no wonder:

- Our state ranks 48th in the country in average teacher salary.
- Pay actually slipped two places in the rankings from 2015 to 2016.
- Many school service personnel are living below the poverty level, with their families qualifying for food stamps.

While starving our schools, our legislature has handed tax break after tax break to the super-wealthy. As recent polling shows, West Virginia families don't share those priorities.

Who's getting hurt? Our children.

Things are tough for teachers and school staff. But at least grownups can look for work elsewhere. Our children don't have the same choice. The legislative majority's underfunding of our schools and underpaying of teachers has caused:

- Crowded classrooms.
- Fewer learning resources.
- Cuts in vital programs from pre-school to dropout prevention.

**Time to stop shortchanging public schools
and public services.**

Like our public schools, the public services our families count on are also starved of funding. Doesn't our legislative leadership understand that our state's present well-being and future growth *depend* on public schools and public services?

A change needs to come.

Too many of our elected leaders have turned a deaf ear for too long. Educators, service personnel, and public employees are standing together. We call on our legislative leadership to start showing they value our schools, our public services, and the work we do.

**Priorities,
not promises.**

**State legislative leaders:
Stop the sweet talk and
do the right thing.**

**It's time to fund
our schools and
our public services.
It's time to pay
teachers and school
staff a living wage.**

A message from
AFT-West Virginia



**For our children.
For our future.**