



AFT-West Virginia represents teachers and school service personnel in our public schools. We represent the interests of teachers, counselors, librarians, custodians, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, nurses, classroom aides, clerical employees and others who work diligently to make our students and schools successful. We are a proud labor union and an affiliate of the West Virginia AFL-CIO.

Increase Pay and Benefits

What: A substantial increase in employee and retiree compensation in order to be competitive with surrounding states and attract and retain a high quality education workforce.

Why: Even with the most recent pay raise, teachers make on average 5% less than 10 years ago, and 9% less than the peak in 2009-10. We must continue our bi-partisan work on making education an attractive field in which to work.

How: We request to work with lawmakers on 2024 bills such as HB4767 (Del. Ellington) and HB5619 (Del. Vance).

Protect PEIA

What: Protect employee benefits by stabilizing premiums, lowering co-pays, and increasing predictability.

Why: Quality benefits improve retention and attract employees. Public employees have historically accepted quality, low cost insurance in lieu of pay raises.

How: Find a sustainable and dedicated funding source to ensure PEIA stays solvent. We ask to work with lawmakers and stakeholders to find a dedicated funding source and to make further steps for increased transparency in PEIA costs.

Support Employee Safety

What: Improve accessibility for teachers and service personnel to make student discipline decisions.

Why: Students with violent and disruptive behaviors continue to be detrimental to classroom learning and safety.

How: Empower educators and service personnel in discipline matters for K-12 students in all educational settings by allowing them access to the official online discipline reporting system and allowing them input in discipline decisions. Additionally, we must include further mental and emotional health support services for students with violent and disruptive behavior issues.

Increase Employee Retention

What: Incentivize employees to choose positions in public education as a lifelong career.

Why: In a 2023 membership survey, employees listed stress and burnout as the most serious problem facing educators, along with a top reason for school employees leaving the profession.

How: Return value to unused personal and sick days for use for retirement, insurance, or valuable compensation. We ask to work with lawmakers to reintroduce 2024 bills such as HB5087 (Del. Barnhart) or SB502 (Sen. Oliverio).

Contact

Jessica Robinson
AFT-WV Political Director
304-615-4858
jrobinson@aftwv.org

2025 AFT-West Virginia Legislative Priorities

Investing In Our Students, Education

Employees and Public Schools

AFT- West Virginia is a union of professionals that champions fairness, democracy, economic opportunity, and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, and political activism, and most importantly through the work our members do in our schools.

What can we do together?

- **INCREASE PLANNING PERIOD TIME:** Allow for meaningful collaboration to better support the highest quality instruction.
- **SMALLER CLASS SIZES FOR HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT:** Expand class size regulations to include limiting class sizes in 7-12th grade to 30 students.
- **SUPPORT COMMUNITITES IN SCHOOLS:** Increase support for wrap around services to engage students, parents, and community members in the educational process.
- **SAFE SCHOOLS:** Identify students who may be in crisis and provide behavioral and mental health support to prevent violent behaviors in the classroom and school settings.

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



WE PRIORITIZE AN INCREASE OF EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION TO BE COMPETITIVE WITH SIMILIARLY EDUCATED PEERS.



WE PRIORITIZE MEANINGFUL INVESTMENTS INTO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL-BEING.



WE PRIORITIZE IMPROVING INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES.



WE PRIORITIZE THE FUNDING OF SAFETY MEASURES TO KEEP STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES SAFE.



WE PRIORITIZE THE PREVENTION OF FURTHER DIVERTING OF FUNDS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS.



WE PRIORITIZE SAFE AND WELCOMING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.



Education
Healthcare
Public Services

Contact Us

Jessica Robinson
AFT-WV Political Director
304-615-4858
jrobinson@aftww.org

AFT-West Virginia

1320 KANAWHA BLVD. EAST, CHARLESTON, WV 25301