



REAL SOLUTIONS FOR KIDS & COMMUNITIES

The AFT has launched a yearlong \$5 million campaign, Real Solutions for Kids and Communities, that rejects the toxic attacks against public education in favor of working to strengthen public schools, making real solutions for kids a national priority.

We are addressing learning loss, loneliness and literacy challenges through transformative strategies that can be sustained, integrated and scaled to help children recover and thrive:

- **Create joyful and confident readers** by partnering with Reading Universe, First Book, WETA and the Barksdale Reading Institute to help teachers access the best evidence-based reading instructional practices and by continuing to give away books. So while others ban books, we will give away 10 million books by July 2024.
- **Expand community schools**, which make schools hubs for kids and families, addressing academics along with mental and physical well-being, food security, and language and career supports for families.
- **Provide all children the opportunity to learn by doing.** Experiential learning engages them in deeper learning and provides them with real-world, real-life skills. Career and technical education, with hands-on experience at its core, prepares students not only for traditional trades but also for in-demand careers in healthcare, information technology, cybersecurity and more.
- **Further care for children's mental health and well-being** by demanding that social media companies protect, not prey on, children. The report "Likes vs. Learning: The Real Cost of Social Media for Schools" outlines a series of recommendations tech companies must use to keep kids safe and protect learning environments.
- **Fight for investments schools need**, so they can recruit, retain and respect the educators and school staff who help kids thrive, offer a well-rounded curriculum, and provide safe, welcoming and well-maintained school buildings.

These strategies will strengthen and improve public education. Together, they are transformative for kids, regardless of their ZIP code.

Public schools unite us. The parents of 90 percent of American children send their kids to public schools. And national polls show that parents overwhelmingly support and trust teachers, and want schools strengthened, not politicized or privatized.

Extremists don't offer a single idea that will improve public schools, because they don't want to strengthen public education, they want to end it—by inserting political divisions, cutting resources and diverting funding from already underfunded public schools through vouchers, despite evidence that vouchers do not improve achievement.

Public schools are the vehicle that anchors our democracy and creates opportunity for our children. The Real Solutions for Kids and Communities campaign is about strengthening those opportunities and helping kids prepare for college, career and life.



Join us in our mission to have a positive impact on children's lives. Explore [AFT.org/RealSolutions](https://www.aft.org/RealSolutions) to discover various ways to get involved, share and learn from success stories about effective programs in communities nationwide, and find more information on great things happening in public schools.



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