

Sisters and Brothers,

By now you have likely heard about the strike vote taken by Arizona educators yesterday. It was overwhelmingly approved and now they need our support.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Arizona Educators plan to walk out of their classrooms April 26 to protest low salaries and nearly \$1 billion cut from K-12 funding in the recession that hasn't yet been replaced.

THE ARIZONA AFL-CIO'S POSITION STATEMENT

"The Arizona [AFL-CIO](#) proudly stands in Solidarity with the Arizona Educators of [AFT - American Federation of Teachers](#), [AEA-Arizona Education Association](#) and [Arizona Educators United](#) as they fight for justice for their Students and themselves! [#RedForEd](#)"

FAST FACTS

- AZ is 49th in the country for teacher pay
- 51st in per-pupil spending
- 3,403 teaching positions are filled with non-certified teachers.
- 866 AZ teachers have quit this year.
- Low pay has led to 2000+ unfilled jobs, resulting in nation's largest class sizes
- No significant raises in 10 years
- The average teacher works 50-56 hr/week
- 20-year teachers still only make \$13.50/hr

(Source: AEU)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Contact one of the three educator groups to see what they need help with in your area.

Later today we'll have a direct link to a website they are using to coordinate the thousands of people supporting their effort. You'll get that information as soon as we do.

In the meantime here are links to the three groups representing educators in Arizona.

Arizona Federation of Teachers <http://az.aft.org/>

Arizona Educators United <http://arizonaeducatorsunited.com/>

Arizona Education Association <http://www.arizonaaea.org/>

WATCH OUT FOR THESE PEOPLE

Here's a warning from the Arizona Center for Investigative Reporting (AZCIR):

“ A “messaging guide” by the State Policy Network, a network of conservative think tanks like the Goldwater Institute, that aims to discredit the nationwide movement to increase teacher pay urges conservatives and anti-union activists to turn the conversation to how “red tape and bureaucracy” and “administrative bloat” suppresses teacher pay.”

That's just propaganda.

“An AZCIR analysis of school district spending data compiled by the Arizona Auditor General's Office shows no correlation between how much a school district spends on administration and how it pays its teachers. “