



A Union of Professionals

Texas AFT
AFL-CIO

Texas AFT
P. O. Box 1106
Del Valle, TX 78617

T: 512/448-0130
T: 800/222-3827
E: info@texasaft.org

www.texasaft.org

Dear Member,

On behalf of our statewide union of over 66,000, I welcome you back to the 2026-27 school year! I look forward to a year of passion for the work we all do, and the strength we gain from uplifting each other when times are trying. Remember to be ***All In*** for your students, your coworkers, but also yourself.

I hope you took the rest and reset time necessary for the school year ahead, because with the midterm election and legislative session ahead, we are all going to need it.

Naturally, every year is different, but this fall marks the first year of the new voucher schemes that have been launched by Governor Abbott and his corporate buyers, the line of separation of church and state has become even more blurred with new SBOE curriculum changes, and new testing initiatives are being launched while many students are still bouncing back from COVID-19 learning loss.

I am not going to pretend like this won't make things harder. Your schools, especially in rural areas, are certainly feeling financial impacts. However, another certainty is that this won't make you give up. Educators are some of the most resilient people I know, **especially when working collectively.**

Speaking of Greg Abbott, the cracks of dissatisfaction are showing in his new initiative to create the Texas Classroom Commission. Could this be the time he finally listens to the professionals about our careers? Or will we need a new face to actually take action on many of the items listed in many of the reports from both your union and the state shared previously with the entire Texas Legislature?

I may be jaded on this front, because what I see is someone simply worried about November. I look forward to the show of force we will bring to the polls this fall to get some proper leadership in our state.

Here's what the people attacking public education don't want you to remember: **we are not powerless.** 977,586 people work in Texas public and higher education, excluding administrators. That's 3.1% of the entire population of this state. We are neighbors, coaches, bus drivers, professors, cafeteria workers, and counselors in every single community in Texas. When we organize together, that is not a small voice — that is a potential force for change.

This force is apparent when union educator candidates like Montserrat Garibay and Adrian Reyna have been elected as candidates in their respective house districts where we expect them to win outright in November and represent us in the 2027 legislature.

Our profession makes a difference, our voice makes a difference, and our vote makes a difference. So long as we're ***All In***.

In Unity,

Zeph Capo
Texas AFT President

Zeph Capo
PRESIDENT

Wanda Longoria
SECRETARY-TREASURER

