

Rosemary Palomino,
paraprofessional,
Cy-Fair AFT

All in for Public School Paras & Support Staff

School support personnel — from nurses to cafeteria workers to bus drivers — make our public schools run. Too often, they're not treated like the valuable, vital employees they are.

Texas AFT welcomes all non-administrative staff in our public schools to join our union. And we fight for them, too.

Respect in Your Paycheck

House Bill 2, passed this year in the Texas Legislature, includes a \$500 million allotment dedicated to support staff raises — for the first time ever. This funding would not exist without advocacy from Texas AFT and our local unions, especially Houston Educational Support Personnel.

The state has given this money to school districts to raise pay for paraprofessionals, support staff, and non-classroom employees. But it's up to us to make sure that money is spent fairly on the hard-working employees who need it most. Texas AFT members are organizing this school year to make sure that happens.



Support for Your Well-Being

Your work life is busy and hectic. For many of us, life outside of work is too. So it can be hard to prioritize self-care and your own health. That's why AFT is here to support you, in the same way you support our kids every day.



**Wellness is not a nice-to-have—
it's a need-to-have. And our
systems should reflect that."**

—AFT President Randi Weingarten

AFT's Share My Lesson is a free database of webinars and tools to help public school employees like you show up for our kids and show up for yourselves too. Here are just a few of the on-demand, educator-driven resources available:

Be Healthfully Present: Supporting Your Own Well-Being



1-hour webinar,
available on demand

The Traumatic Effect of World Events on Our Mental Health



Free article

Vital Lessons: A Town Hall on Wellness, Public Health and Taking Care of Ourselves



1-hour webinar,
available on demand



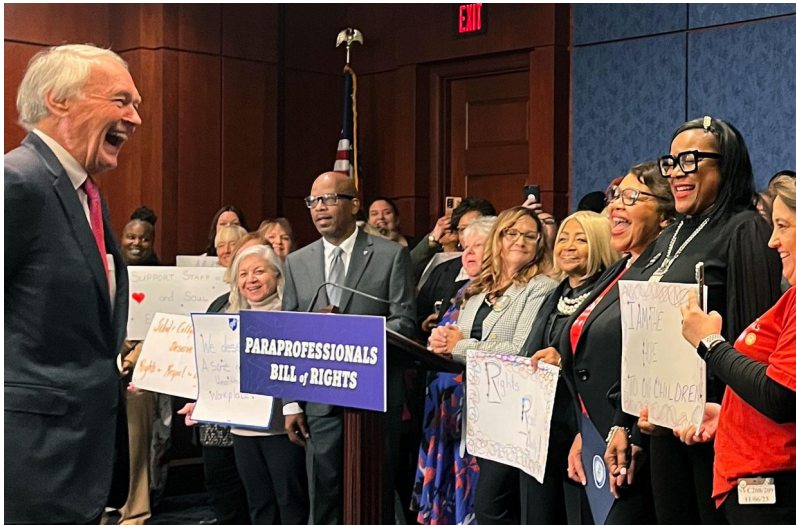
ALL IN
FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

All in for Public School *Paras & Support Staff*

Dignity in Your Work

For this year's legislative session, Texas AFT members worked together to draft and deliver an **Educator's Bill of Rights** to lawmakers, outlining 10 essential rights for teachers, school staff, and higher education employees. **In the end, 71 bills were filed by lawmakers in support of our members' agenda, including several priorities for our support staff like reining in custodians' workloads and raising the minimum wage for bus drivers.**

These bills didn't make it to the governor's desk *this time*, but we pushed them farther in the process than ever before. And we're ready to fight for them again next session.



At a national level, AFT and its PSRP division have been instrumental in developing and supporting the Paraprofessionals and Education Support Staff Bill of Rights filed by Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (Connecticut) and Sen. Edward Markey (Massachusetts).

If passed, the bill would lift up the need for living wages, safe working conditions, respect, and dignity for our support staff nationwide. Send a letter to your representative now!



Member Voice: "Why I Love Driving a School Bus"

Being a school bus driver is more than just transportation — it's about community, mentorship, and connection.



In reflecting on the AFT Voices blog, Education Austin member Tony Ybarra shares the reasons that he loves his job, from being a trusted adult in his students' lives to advocating for safety and support on the road.

Read Tony's blog post:



Join the union that's all in for YOU: join.texasaft.org

