



A Union of Professionals

Mobilizing for the April 20 Day of Action Against Gun Violence in Schools

While the AFT supported the school walkouts on March 14 and the student-organized March for Our Lives on March 24, our main focus in the wave of activism rising from the tragic mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., is the April 20 National Day of Action Against Gun Violence in Schools.

We're encouraging every AFT affiliate across the nation to join together and organize actions at your school, in your workplace, or in your community on April 20. Here is a simple, step-by-step action plan to join us:

- 1) Prepare a resolution (see example at <http://allin.rtp.aft.org/make-action/ending-gun-violence>) in support of participation in the Day of Action and submit it to your local school board for approval.
 - a. Be sure to bring local members and community allies with you to the meeting when the board considers the resolution.
 - b. If possible, coordinate with student activists in your district to bring the resolution collaboratively. You can find student-organized events here and reach out to students: <http://act.indivisible.org/event/local-actions/search/>
- 2) Put out the notice to your members! [Click here for sample email and social media content.](#)
 - a. Work with members and community allies to decide on Day of Action events. Again, the goal is to have events at as many schools and communities as possible, so your local may have different types of events at different schools.
 - b. Involve the building reps in each school or worksite to identify a lead in each building and ask that person to suggest activities for his or her school.
 - c. Possibilities include a community service project (Columbine marks April 20 with a day of service), a voter registration drive, a group walk-in at the

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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- beginning of the school day, a teach-in after school, a letter-writing campaign urging officials to take action, a march, wearing orange, etc.
- d. We do NOT want to plan events that conflict with the student-organized events, so please do not plan assemblies or other activities at the same time as the walkouts.
- 3) Coordinate your action with any events students in your school or district are planning.
 - a. Many student-organized events can be found listed at <http://act.indivisible.org/event/local-actions/search/>. Again, we don't want to conflict in any way with student-organized actions.
 - 4) Once an action or event has been selected, inform all members what you're doing. This can be done through a newsletter, emails, social media postings and your local's website—or all of the above. There is a sample newsletter event announcement below.
 - 5) Be sure to post your event on the interactive map listing at <http://protectourschools.com/?referrer=group-aft-main-e-activist-group>
 - 6) Keep us informed at the AFT. Send information about your April 20 Day of Action event to esutton@aft.org.
 - 7) Promote your events with local media and on your union's social media to show that we stand with students and our communities for commonsense gun safety!
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Newsletter/Website/Social Media Announcement (copy, paste and customize)

Join the Fight Against Gun Violence

On April 20, we will join with educators, students, parents and community members across America to demand action to end senseless school shootings such as the

Valentine's Day tragedy that claimed 17 lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

Here in **[your town, school district, community]**, our **[union local name]** members will take part in the National Day of Action Against Gun Violence in Schools by **[briefly describe your event or action]** at every school **[or central location, if applicable]**.

More information about our Day of Action event is available from your building rep, on our Facebook page or at **[union local website]**.

Let's make our voices heard by taking action to end gun violence in our schools and communities. **Enough is enough!** We can no longer stand by silently while gun violence continues to threaten the safety of our students, schools and communities.