TEMPLATE LOCAL RELEASE

**AFT [Insert Local] Joins National Fund Our Future Campaign to Prioritize Children, Schools and Education Investments**

LOCATION—Today, the American Federation of Teachers launched a nationwide **Fund Our Future** campaign to prioritize children, communities, and the investment in education and other public services that make a difference in people’s lives. [INSERT LOCAL] is a proud participant in the campaign.

During the month of March, AFT leaders around the country will hold Fund Our Future campaign events, including rallies, lobby days and community engagement opportunities as part of the campaign launch. Here in [insert state], [insert local] activities include [insert local activities].

AFT President Randi Weingarten launched the campaign on a national press conference call, saying, “For far too long, our public schools, colleges and children have been shortchanged with respect to our nation’s wealth. Every elected official says children are important, but that often is not reflected in spending priorities. Enough is enough. It’s time to make students, public education and public higher education a priority at the local, state and national levels.”

Following the Great Recession, which decimated school funding, 25 states still spend less on K-12 public education than before the recession. Similarly, in higher education, 41 states still spend less. On top of recession-era disinvestment, some in power have waged a full-fledged effort to defund and disparage public education and privatize it in order to pay for their priorities: alternatives to public education and tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations.

This campaign aims to address the years of disinvestment in public schools, as well as public colleges and universities, and its impact on students, faculty, building facilities, tuition rates and student debt by having local and state leaders work in tandem with national demands to:

1. Fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
2. Fully fund Title I;
3. Increase investment in school infrastructure;
4. Secure real operating funds at the national and state levels to counteract the disinvestment in our public colleges and universities; and
5. Forgive outstanding student loan debt in keeping with the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

“Here in [insert location], we’ve seen firsthand the effect that disinvestment can have on our children and community. What better time than now and who better than us to expand on the amazing movement we’ve seen in the teacher uprisings that have swept the country, and in the election of pro-public education, pro-worker governors and legislators? Now is the time to build the movement for the strong, well-funded public services *all* [insert name of what people in your state are called] deserve,” said [insert leader name].