

BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION WITH THE AFL-CIO

The most important reason for affiliating with the AFL-CIO is that your local association can contribute greatly to building **power for all working families** – the power to define a vision for working people in your communities, to realize that vision, to be among the players that determine the kind of city or town and state you have including strong public schools – the power to win! NEA locals can help to create a more powerful labor movement that will elect progressive candidates to public office – a movement that will defeat regressive legislation and enact ordinances and policies that improve the quality of life for all working families.

Specific benefits, which are available with the approval of the state association include:

- **Integration of membership files** with the files of tens or hundreds of thousands of AFL-CIO union members in your area and statewide so you can elect endorsed candidates in school board, county, municipal and state elections, approve bond levies and prevail on ballot initiatives
- **Coordinated political campaigns** with the AFL-CIO, which uses the most sophisticated technology including list enhancement, mapping and creation of walk lists, customized leaflets that could include NEA's priority issues, and membership contact programs at worksites, in neighborhoods and by mail and phone that educate all union members on issues and endorsed candidates
- **Communications with 3 million Working America** (the AFL-CIO's allied organization for workers without a union in the workplace) **members** in many states can be critical in a key election or when you need community support for a tough contract campaign
- **Access to training** for NEA local leaders and activists so you can have more effective mobilization structures in schools, other worksites and neighborhoods when you need to contact members around electoral politics or contract negotiations
- **Mobilization of AFL-CIO union members** to pressure the school board during a contract campaign with rallies, demonstrations and other solidarity actions
- **Extending your support in the community by tapping in to the AFL-CIO's coalition partners in community based organizations and the faith community** – whether it's on a bond levy, a community issue or difficult negotiations
- **A seat at the table where decisions are made by the AFL-CIO**, so you can be assured that NEA's issues are in the forefront when decisions are made about labor's priorities
- **Another powerful advocate at the state capital to join with you** in speaking with one voice on collective bargaining, state budgets, pensions and educational policy
- **Grass roots support** through cross-union mobilization on key legislative issues
- **Support from Community Services liaisons** who provide advice and assistance when members are on strike, laid off or simply down on their luck
- **Connections with the rest of labor** so NEA local leaders and members know they have allies that they can count on when they are needed

