

ATFActionAgenda

February, 2021

Vaccination Proclamation: Green or Vaccine

ATF published a proclamation on behalf of licensed educators stating our position on reopening schools in hybrid. [You can read the full proclamation here.](#)

We wrote:

- We all want in-person teaching and learning as soon as it is scientifically safe. This means adhering to the December 2020 Reentry Plan and vaccinating all educators.
- All educators want to go back in person... after we have the opportunity to get vaccines.
- The APS Board should approve a voluntary phase-in into hybrid until such time as the vaccine is available for all staff.
- We advocate that hybrid learning be decoupled from sports. The connection is unnecessary. If communities and families decide they want their student athletes to play sports this should not be contingent on all staff and students returning to in-person learning before it is safe.

The APS Board of Education revisited the Reentry Plan on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd. Thank you educators for your eloquence during Public Forum.

After hours of deliberation, the Board asked the administration to continue to work on a plan that will be reviewed at the next meeting, February 17th. They asked APS leaders to explore a voluntary phase-in for small group instruction, push for vaccinating all educators, and decouple sports from a hybrid return. In the end the direction of the Board mirrors the recommendations we made in the ATF Vaccination Proclamation.

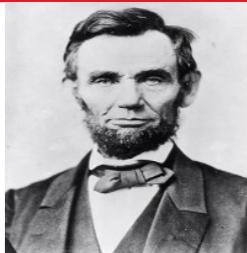
It is clear that educators and parents are ready to make decisions for themselves and their own children. However, the Board, like our union, bears the burden of making recommendations that impact everyone--a much more complex decision.

We thank the members of the APS Board of Education for their thoughtfulness.

Happy Presidents' Day!

No classes on February 15th!

Enjoy Your Break!



"I am glad to know that there is a system of labor where the laborer can strike if he wants to! I would... that such a system prevailed all over the world."

- Abraham Lincoln, Great Emancipator

Where There's COPE There's Hope!

As we watch events unfold in the Legislative Session and at the Board of Ed., it's very important that we stay involved and take opportunities to advocate for quality policy that will improve teaching and learning conditions for all.

Face it: our jobs as public educators are political. Every decision about funding and working conditions are legislated at a state level and/or by the Board of Education. One of our missions as a union is to help elect policymakers who support public education, workers' rights, and social justice. We do not use ATF members' dues to fund our political endeavors.

Rather, we have COPE, our Committee on Political Education. Voluntary contributions from members fund our get-out-the-vote efforts and our commitment to keeping members informed.

Members, please join COPE or [increase your COPE donation](#) by any amount. Attend COPE meetings the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month.

When we all give a little it amounts to a lot.

Keep An Eye on the Session: Use ATF's Bill Tracker

Your union makes it easy to stay up-to-date on the progress of key legislation in the Legislative Session by sending regular emails and publications. Now, ATF offers our full bill tracker that we update regularly so you can track pieces of legislation important to your career. [Click here to access the ATF Bill Tracker.](#)



Join your Union Today!!

ATF is your Professional, Progressive Union.

Together we fight for the world-class education our students need and deserve.

Stand in solidarity with your colleagues and friends.

Ask your Fed Rep to sign you up or JOIN at: <https://atfunion.org/join/>

How are remote work assignments awarded to educators?

This is a complex issue that ATF and APS have worked on collaboratively since the very beginning of the pandemic. This is the process:

- Employees apply for ADA accommodations or remote work due to high risk.
- Principals have been given a list of remote applicants ranked by level of risk.
- An ADA accommodation to continue to work remotely is rare.
- If you qualify for an ADA the most likely accommodation will be added PPE.

Schools find out how many students want to stay 100% remote.

Based on the number of remote work vacancies at the school site, principals award remote assignments in the following order:

Highest priority: [ADA accommodations for remote work](#)

- 1: Employee meets high risk category as defined by CDC and lives with someone that meets high risk category as defined by CDC
- 2: Employee meets high risk category as defined by CDC
- 3: Employee lives with someone that meets high risk category as defined by CDC

For example: If a school has enough students staying 100% remote for 3 remote work positions, then the first three teachers based on the above rankings would get those positions. This may involve shuffling students and/or teachers around to accommodate families and highest risk educators.

If you have applied for remote work and have not heard whether you have been approved, ask your principal.

If you want to appeal your classification, use this [ATF link](#).

Great SEL PD's From Your Union

ATF Students in the Center: Join us to discuss a range of topics that intersects SEL with topics such as restorative practices, educator self-care, community building, equity, and trauma.

Don't Let This Year Define Your Career: Join us for an uplifting, solution-oriented, teacher led, teacher focused, community building virtual gathering. We'll have a little PD, a little networking, and a lot of new ideas. Come to one or come to all. Each session will be stand-alone.

[Read full descriptions here.](#) See the Calendar of Events for dates, times, and sign-up links.

Feed Our Families

Your union set up a partnership with Roadrunner Food Bank at the beginning of the pandemic: Feed Our Families. APS educators stepped up to give selflessly. That's because unionists are community activists. To date, educators have donated just shy of \$20,000! That's a lot of meals for our families and neighbors who face food scarcity. Thank you, educators. We all know the pandemic rages on and many people face hunger.

[You can donate to Roadrunner Food Bank here.](#)

American Federation of Teachers: Reopening Schools Safely

Dr. Rajiv J. Shah and AFT President Randi Weingarten released an opinion piece in USA Today entitled "With robust testing, we can open schools this spring before the vaccine is widely available." Our national union president and education experts argue that schools can be reopened safely if we are willing to invest in testing and vaccinations for educators.

[You can read the full Op-Ed piece here.](#)

 Dial-A-Teacher 344-3571	Dial-a-Teacher Students and parents can call (505)344-3571 Monday-Thursday 5:30-8:00pm for homework help.
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Calendar of Events

*** All events and classes will be held online unless otherwise noted.*

DATE	EVENT	TIME
2/9	ATF United COPE Committee	4:30-5:30pm
2/9	Students in the Center: Polishing the Diamond	4:00-6:00pm
2/9	Students in the Center: Developing Self-Awareness	4:30-6:00pm
2/9	Capstone Task Force Planning	3:00-5:00pm
2/11	Don't Let This Year Define Your Career	4:00-5:00pm
2/16	ATF Legislative Update Meeting	All Day
2/20	Dossier Writing Workshop	1:00-3:00pm
2/20	ATF/AFT-NM Union Leadership Program	9:00am-4:00pm
2/23	Capstone Task Force Planning	3:00-5:00pm
2/23	ATF United COPE Committee	4:30-5:30pm
2/25	Don't Let This Year Define Your Career	4:00-5:00pm
3/2	Fed Rep Council	4:15-6:30pm