



March  
2022

# ATF Action Agenda

## Governor Signs 3-Tier Minimums Raise with AFT President Weingarten in Attendance

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the 2022-23 state budget. The budget affords large raises to teachers, lifting their tier minimum pay to \$50/60/70K respectively. These numbers are no coincidence because your union, the ATF, has called for these tier minimums for years. Governor Lujan Grisham has listened to educators and has raised minimum salaries for teachers by \$16,000-17,000 during her four years in office!

However, some licensed educators, namely Essential & Related Services Educators (E&RSEs), were only assured a 7% raise in the budget. Now, your union must work to win more equitable raises for these educators through negotiations with APS. The ATF has never walked away from the bargaining table without securing raises for nurses, social workers, counselors and therapists equivalent to those received by teachers. Your union will continue our commitment. Now, we need the strength of membership to bolster our position. So, it is imperative that all E&RSEs join their union at <http://atfunion.org/join/>.

The Governor honored our union by inviting American Federation of Teachers (AFT) President Randi Weingarten to join her for the bill-signing ceremony that brought minimum wages for all school employees up to \$15/hr. The budget included money for a number of initiatives this union has championed. You can read the full legislative summary here: <https://atfunion.org/2022-legislative-session-highlights/>.

After the bill-signing ceremony, President Weingarten joined Fed Reps for our monthly Fed Rep Council meeting to discuss educators' rule in shaping the post-pandemic future of public education.

The ATF would like to thank AFT New Mexico President Whitney Holland for her successful lobbying efforts during the session. She and her staff worked tirelessly for 30 days to achieve these legislative victories.

## Entering Sick Leave Properly

Most educators represented by the ATF accrue 6.5 hours of sick leave per month. We have had some people tell us they are getting charged more hours per day than they accrue. APS is telling us that the employee can make sure that their sick leave is being deducted appropriately by entering your absence manually. Here are the steps:

1. Login to Lawson.
2. Enter the absence type, the date of absence, and enter "Next."
3. Select "Advanced Absence" which will allow you to customize your absence. Click "Submit."
4. Input the hours of your absence. Click "Submit."

Reach out to your union if you have problems with sick leave issues.

## ATF At-Large Officers Election Is Here! Call For Candidates

At-large ATF officer positions are up for election. Any ATF member in good standing may run for office. Any candidate for the office of President must have been a member in good standing for a minimum of one year prior to running. All union members are eligible to vote for these officers who serve two-year terms.

Positions up for election in 2022 are: President, Executive Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership and Involvement Vice-President. If you meet the qualifications and would like to run for a union leadership position, please submit a letter declaring your candidacy via Certified Mail, postmarked no later than April 1st, 2022, to: ATF Secretary, 530 Jefferson St. NE, ABQ, NM, 87108.

Voting will occur May 1-3, 2022, and will be electronic or in person at the ATF office. Balloting will close at 5:00 pm on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Votes will be counted May 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.

Shout out to our ATF members for volunteering to serve on the Election Committee: Cyndie Ives (Mountain View ES) Jason Krosinsky (McKinley MS), and Tracy Nichols (John Baker ES). For more information contact, Cindy Smith, ATF Staff Representative at [cindy@atfunion.org](mailto:cindy@atfunion.org).

**APS/ATF Joint Letter: MLSS Plan Clarification**

Your union worked closely with APS to send out a clarification letter about the MLSS. Specifically, we are pleased with this statement from the letter: "Creating Layer 2 and 3 plans (red/yellow performance levels on interim assessments) for students is not required based on that one measure alone." This statement demonstrates respect for teachers' professional judgment and knowledge of your students. This is the type of respect you have more than earned before and during this challenging pandemic period.

Read the full letter at <https://atfunion.org/aps-atf-joint-letter-mlss-plan-clarification/>.

**Do I Need To Schedule An Observation?**

Make sure to look ahead with your dossier in mind. It is in each educator's self-interest to be observed if a dossier is in your near future (meaning within the next 3 years). The rule to level up is 3 years of successful evaluations at your current licensure level, but they do not have to be consecutive. APS does want at least one year to be recent.

**Pending Technology Issues**

In the wake of the cyber-attack APS suffered, educators are having problems accessing the intranet off-campus. We are currently in conversation with APS on this topic.

We are also addressing educators' ongoing issues with Synergy and the disappearance of educators' SAT and MLSS work. We will be reaching out with updates on these issues.

**ATF Members Participate in State of the Union**

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, three members of the ATF were honored to join Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury for a live Instagram event, viewing and discussing President Joe Biden's State of the Union address. The broadcast took place from ATF Middle School VP Sarah Hager's art classroom at Cleveland MS. ATF Executive VP Sean Thomas (Eldorado HS) and Elementary VP Loyola Cortinas (Tierra Antigua ES) also joined the Congresswoman.

**New Mexico Unmasked**

On Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, the governor lifted New Mexico's mask mandate, leaving rules on masking to local districts. While some APS educators were ready for this, many employees continue to have safety concerns. The ATF had hoped for enough time to plan for the safety of all.

If you do not feel safe working without a mask, you have the right to wear one, and vice versa. Your union will continue working with APS to clarify your rights and safety protocols.

**Dial-a-Teacher**

Students and parents can call (505)344-3571 Monday-Thursday 5:30-8:00pm for homework help.



**ATRP Recognized at Board Meeting**

The APS Board will recognize the Albuquerque Teacher Residency Program (ATRP) virtually at the March 2nd Board meeting for receiving the Billy G. Dixon Distinguished Program in Teacher Education Award from the Association of Teacher Educators!

In partnership with APS, the ATF, and the UNM College of Education and Human Sciences (COEHS), the ATRP prepares graduate students to become licensed elementary and secondary teachers for APS. Across three semesters, graduate students complete coursework with UNM faculty, coupled with seminars and year-long field experiences in Title 1 community schools.

**ATF – Your Professional, Progressive Union**

**Stand in solidarity with your friends & colleagues!  
Join your Union Today!!**

Ask your Fed Rep to sign you up!  
or  
Join online at: <https://atfunion.org/join/>  
or  
Call the ATF office: (505)262-2657

**Calendar of Events**

DATE	EVENT	TIME
3/1	Fed Rep Council	4:15-6:30pm
3/1	Nominations for ATF At-Large Officer Election Open	
3/8	ATF Unified COPE Committee	4:30-5:30pm
3/8	Students in the Center: Anxiety and Learning	4:30-5:30pm
3/10	CPS Portfolio Work Session	4:30-6:00pm
3/16	Dossier Overview	4:30-7:00pm
3/17	Students in the Center: Restorative Practices	4:30-5:30pm
3/17-3/18	MS & ES Parent Teacher Conferences	All Day
3/21-3/25	Spring Break	All Day
3/31	CPS Overview	4:30-6:30pm
4/1	Deadline for postmark of ATF At-Large Officer candidacy	5:00pm
4/5	Fed Rep Council	4:15-6:30pm

Register for classes and check the venue of the meetings at [atfunion.org/professional-learning/](https://atfunion.org/professional-learning/).