

# **ATTACKING K-12 SCHOOLS**

## **HOW FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS WILL HURT K-12 SCHOOL WORKERS**

AFSCME members help keep America's K-12 schools running. We have many different responsibilities, including preparing and serving meals, maintaining buildings and grounds, operating and maintaining school buses, and assisting students and teachers as classroom aides. Despite our different roles, we are all united by our commitment to serving the children in our communities. Anti-union extremists and billionaires are making massive cuts to critical public services – all to give tax breaks to those same billionaires. If they succeed, our schools, our economy, and the job of every AFSCME member will be at risk.

**The federal government invests more than \$60 billion a year in over 100,000 public K-12 schools in every state and territory. That money plays an essential role in supporting students and AFSCME jobs.**

### **THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS WILL DEVASTATE K-12 SCHOOLS**

For every \$100 spent on public K-12 schools in our states, about \$8 comes from the federal government. While significant cuts to that funding would seriously impact school budgets, the larger threat comes from budget cuts that will be forced on school districts when state budgets are squeezed from federal cutbacks.

**Half** of all spending on public schools comes from the states themselves. Federal budget cuts will leave huge holes in state budgets, since states receive on average 30% (and up to 50%) of their money from the federal government.

**Those state budget shortfalls will lead to cuts in state aid to K-12 schools and:**

- **Potential layoffs of K-12 school employees**
- **A worsening staffing crisis**
- **Weaker contracts for K-12 school employees**
- **Employers pushing to privatize work done by school employees**



# **BREAKING DOWN THE ATTACKS ON K-12 SCHOOLS**

K-12 public schools get federal aid from four main programs: support for students from low-income backgrounds, support for students with disabilities, free and reduced school lunch and breakfast, and Medicaid for students with disabilities and from low-income households.

Anti-union extremists and billionaires are making cuts that will take away school breakfasts and lunches from hundreds of thousands of students and threaten the jobs and pay of food service workers. Through their so-called “Big Beautiful Bill,” they’ve passed over \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid over the next 10 years. As a result of this law, nearly 17 million Americans will lose their health coverage, threatening the wellbeing of students and the work of AFSCME members who support them, including school nurses and other medical professionals, as well as classroom aides, bus drivers and bus aides for students with disabilities.

We must Get Organized now. Many of the same anti-union extremists and billionaires have proposed eliminating all federal support for students from low-income households and taking all funding for students with disabilities away from K-12 schools in favor of privatized individual accounts.

**The bigger we are, the more power we  
have to say working people shouldn't  
just get by – we demand to thrive.**



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