



# BYTES

November 2023

## The Unyielding Struggle for Education: The Persistent Fight in Mississippi

Despite the results of recent statewide elections and the re-election of Governor Tate Reeves, the Jackson Federation of Teachers (JFT) remains undeterred in its commitment to advocate for quality education in the state of Mississippi. The JFT retains its determination to push for reforms, champion teachers' rights, and ensure that the future of education in Mississippi is brighter than ever.

### Full Funding for MAEP

A primary objective of the JFT is to advocate for full funding of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP). This legislation, established in 1997, was designed to ensure that every child in Mississippi has access to an "adequate and efficient" education. However, it has been underfunded year after year, undermining its potential impact on students' lives. The JFT pledges to relentlessly push for the complete funding of MAEP, recognizing that every dollar invested in education is an investment in the future of Mississippi.

### Strengthening Education Through Legislation

In addition to financial advocacy, the JFT is committed to supporting bills that fortify the foundation of education in the state. This includes backing laws that promote public education, improve working conditions, enhance teacher training programs, and more. By lobbying for such legislative changes, the JFT aims to create an environment where educators are equipped to provide the best possible education for the students of Mississippi.

### Defending Teachers' Rights

The JFT remains a steadfast defender of teachers' rights, particularly in districts where educators are dismissed inappropriately. The Federation believes that every educator deserves due process and fair treatment, and it will continue to vigorously contest any wrongful terminations. The JFT stands ready to support educators in their time of need, reinforcing the notion that teachers are the backbone of quality education.

### Continued Visibility and Organization

Visibility and organization are key to the JFT's mission. The Federation understands that to effectuate change, it must make its presence known. As such, the JFT will continue to organize rallies, community meetings, and other events to raise awareness about education issues and the importance of education reform. By maintaining a robust presence in the community, the JFT ensures that education remains at the forefront of public discourse.

As Mississippi continues under Governor Tate Reeves' extended leadership, the JFT stands strong in its commitment to advocating for quality public education. Although the political landscape may maintain its conservative majority, the JFT's dedication to the teachers and students of Mississippi remains unyielding. The fight for education does not end with an election; it continues each day, propelled by the resolve of the Jackson Federation of Teachers.

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Need help with differentiated materials?

Try DiFit - an AI-powered resource

Generates materials at a variety of reading levels.

Can generate passages based on videos.

Creates editable vocabulary lists, multiple-choice questions, and more!

This is not an AFT-endorsed service

## Membership Matters

Union members have people standing behind them when issues occur. Whether you need general advice, someone to advocate, or legal assistance, the union has your back.

You are our best organizing resource -- talk to your co-workers about the Union!

## AFT Benefits Legal

MetLife Legal Plan - Subscription-based service that puts you in touch with lawyers to cover a variety of legal issues.

CLC Legal Plan - Free half-hour consultation with reduced legal fees.

## Financial

Credit Counseling - A free session with credit counselors that includes an action plan and advice on how to work with creditors.

Medical Bill Negotiating Services - Get help negotiating medical bills. If approved, a bill negotiator can help set up payment plans and possibly lower the overall bill.

## Travel and Entertainment

Car Rental - Save up to 35% renting a car through Budget, Avis, Hertz, Enterprise and more.

Hotel - Save up to 50%, plus flexibility and free cancellation.

Attractions - Save at major theme parks through Union Plus and Abenity.

Movie Tickets - Save with AMC, Cinemark, and Regal with Union Plus and Abenity.

## Shopping

Redeem Coupons and earn Cash Back through Union Plus and BeFrugal.

Restaurants - Save at a variety of restaurants through Union Plus and Abenity.

AT&T - Save on your mobile plan - available to new and existing customers.

## Wanted: Little Free Library

We would like to install a little free library at the Union House.

Do you have carpentry skills to build a LFL?

Would you be willing to donate towards the cost?

Let us know! Contact the office or email us at [mail@jftpsrp.com](mailto:mail@jftpsrp.com)

## Community Service

We cleaned up the bus stop curbs by the office for our neighbors. Now, they can more easily board the bus. We also cleaned up the pedestrian crossing at Barksdale Street.



## Beware of imposters

Recently in Ohio, union members received what appeared to be a credit due notice. **It was a trick to get them to drop their union membership.**

If you ever receive a notice offering a credit or paperwork you're supposed to sign, **always check with the union office first.** We can verify if it's legitimate.

## Thank You!

Thanks to all members who volunteered to help the AFL-CIO in their election drive. We appreciate your dedication.

# JFT BYTES - NOVEMBER 2023

## Newcomer Immigrant Students Webinar

Share My Lesson is hosting a webinar on December 14 (5PM - 6 PM CST).

Get tips and strategies to help newly incoming immigrants feel welcomed and included.

[Sign up with Share My Lesson here](#)

Have a work site issue you'd like the union to help resolve?  
Scan and complete this form.



## Spring Professional Development

Fall dates are being finalized – more information coming soon!

- **Foundations for Effective Teaching, Part I** (1.8 CEUs)  
Virtual PD. *January 27, February 3, and February 10, 2024.\**
  - **Foundations for Effective Teaching, Part II** (1.2 CEUs).  
Virtual PD. *February 24 and March 2, 2024.\**
  - **Foundations for Effective Teaching, Part III** (1.2 CEUs).  
Virtual PD. ***Dates to be announced.\****
  - **Reading Comprehension Instruction** (.6 CEUs). In-person PD. *February 3, 2024.*
  - **Differentiating Instruction** (.6 CEUs). Virtual PD. *March 23, 2024.*
  - **Navigating the Bridge Between Stress and SEL** (.6 CEUs).  
Virtual PD. *March 23, 2024.*
  - **Tools for Teachers** (.6 CEUs). In-person PD. *April 20, 2024.*
- ***\*You must attend all meetings to receive CEUs.***

## 2023 -2024

## IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ACCURATE?

Let us know if your name, address, or other info has changed. Scan the code or click the link below.



[Update your info here](#)

### JFTP&SRP Local #4402 Officers

**Ebony Rice**, President  
**Joshua A. Strong**, Executive Vice President  
**DeBora Turner**, Treasurer  
**Mildred Sandifer**, VP Paraprofessionals

**Lynnita Balu**, Vice President of Membership  
**Vija Lee**, Secretary  
**Chanda Rhodes**, Executive Vice President of Education Issues