

► Why your local union and the FEA are right for you!

# Strength in Numbers

The Florida Education Association (FEA) is proud to be your statewide union. Together with **your local union** we are Florida's strongest voice for teachers and quality public education. We invite you to join us and stand up for your students and your profession. Your membership also benefits you directly in hundreds of ways. Here are just a few:



## 1. Standing together for what's right

During this pandemic, the power of a union — of individuals working together for the greater good — has never been more clear. Our union members have been out in front: meeting the educational, emotional and nutritional need of our students; demanding safe conditions for Florida's students and educators; and fighting year-round for the school funding and resources our students deserve.

## 2. A commitment to excellence

Your local union and FEA are communities of colleagues — a professional organization with nearly 150,000 members — dedicated to being our best for all of Florida's students. We demand the most of ourselves, each other and our profession.

## 3. Your union contract

From wages to health insurance, performance pay to evaluations, nearly every part of our work life is covered by the contract your union bargains with the school district. The bigger and stronger our union, the better the contract we can negotiate.

## 4. Professional growth and development

Through FEA conferences, meetings, resources, trainings and communications, you are connected to other teachers, public employees and educators across the state and nation. You have the opportunity to grow as an educator by collaborating with colleagues in your district, across the state and around the country.

## 5. Member benefits that help save you money

In addition to fighting for fair salaries and benefits, your union offers a range of discount programs that help educators stretch their hard-earned dollars. Through the buying power of our two national affiliates you are eligible for big discounts on insurance, home financing and everyday purchases.

## 6. Democracy

This is your union. Your local union and FEA are grassroots organizations run by and for their members. Every member has a vote and unrestricted access to every level of union governance: local, state and national. Working together, our union is what we make it.

Learn more at [www.feaweb.org](http://www.feaweb.org)



## Dorie Nickerson

4th Grade Teacher;  
Member Escambia  
Education Association

"I love my union because I feel like I'm part of something bigger than myself and it gives me the opportunity to take an active role in the fight to preserve public education. I joined because my union was there for me when I needed help. Being active has helped me grow as both an educator and a leader."



## Cartier Scott

High School Math Teacher;  
Member Palm Beach  
County Classroom Teachers  
Association

"I joined my union my first year when my mentor encouraged me to. Then I got more active after attending Summer Academy. Now I feel like I'm part of a huge amazing family and am learning about the things our union does like negotiating our contract, giving a voice to the voiceless and offering great member benefits."



## Ingrid Robledo

8th Grade AP Spanish  
Language and Culture  
Educator; Member United  
Teachers of Dade

"Our schools are composed of incredible teachers but it is not enough to be an outstanding educator. It is also our obligation to protect our professional rights, to defend public education and to build the bridge to prosperity for our community through vigorous activism with our local, state and national unions."

# Membership matters!

**Together we're fighting for good jobs, fair pay, safe working and learning conditions, and respect on the job.** During the coronavirus pandemic, we've all seen how standing together has been the key to keeping students and educators safe. But the 2018 decertification law still threatens to take away your union's ability to bargain a contract with the district and to advocate for your school, your students and your safety. **Join us today!**

# What does your union do?

Joining your local union can be a very personal demonstration of your commitment to your profession, your colleagues and your future. Collectively your union:

## Builds community.

Your union is a professional network that brings together teachers like you who are looking to grow and thrive as educators. We are your colleagues and neighbors.

## Makes connections.

Your local union and FEA are valuable places to communicate and collaborate with other committed educators from

your community and from around the state. New and experienced educators work alongside and learn from one another, creating a new chapter in a rich history of teaching and learning.

## Empowers its members.

We are the experts in education. Through local and statewide advocacy our members have a powerful voice in the future of public education in Florida.

## Shares Responsibility.

Each year your local union negotiates a contract — basically a rule book that everyone agrees to play by — with the school district. The contract covers nearly every part of our work lives — from wages to health insurance, performance pay to evaluations — and allows us to be our best for our students.

## Speaks out for our students.

In the classroom and in the Capitol, we work year-round to ensure their success.

## Grows.

Your local union and FEA are grassroots organizations made up of nearly 150,000 teachers and education staff professionals like you across Florida. As you grow as an educator, your union grows as your professional organization.

## Practices democracy.

Your union starts with you. Each local union is run by and for its members who work together to make collective decisions about priorities and the future of their local.



**Fund Our Future** is the Florida Education Association's statewide campaign to advocate for and shine a light on the needs of Florida's public school students. FEA members are part of a bold national movement of educators and parents fighting for world-class public schools for our students. We are calling for lawmakers to:

- » Invest in the success of our students
- » Invest in public schools and institutions of higher education
- » Invest in retaining and recruiting school staff and educators

We are being heard — and are making a difference. Since Fund Our Future launched in 2019, our voice and our activism has been crucial in increasing school funding by \$130 per student, adding a half billion dollars to raise salaries for beginning and veteran educators, and making clear the need for increased pay for all school employees. We invite you to join the movement!

Learn more at [www.feaweb.org/fund-our-future](http://www.feaweb.org/fund-our-future)