**What are the Benefits of Membership?**

* Members belong to an organization that is the collective voice for public schools, school employees, and students.
* Members have a voice in or can participate in any Council union meetings and social events.
* Members can vote on contract ratification, election of officers, or any other union matter.
* Members can serve on a local bargaining team.
* Members can provide input into negotiations of the contract.
* Members are eligible to attend IFT/AFT training on special education, employment law, bargaining, legal issues, common core, evaluation, grievance processing, leadership development, etc.
* Members can hold union office at the Council, Local, state, or national level.
* Members can be appointed to IFT Executive Board committees, task forces, and constituency councils.
* Members can attend IFT/AFT conferences including but not limited to bargaining and public affairs conference, summer leadership conference, higher education conference, and PSRP conference,
* Members’ dependents are eligible to apply for any scholarship provided by the local union, the IFT, the AFT, or the AFL-CIO.
* Members receive $1 million employment liability insurance. This protects members if sued for events in the workplace, and if exonerated members will not be responsible for personal legal defense and payment of any judgment. The AFT plan provides for damages and attorney fees up to:
	+ $1 million per member from claims arising out of a member's employment activities due to: (1) accidental bodily injury to a student or staff member, (2) accidental property damage of school or student property, or (3) personal injury claim against you by a student, such as slander, libel, false arrest, false detention, imprisonment or invasion of privacy.
	+ Defense cost reimbursement of up to $250,000 per member per year for suits involving the denial of constitutional rights.
	+ Up to $1 million per member per year for inadvertent acts or omissions, including "failure to educate."
	+ Defense cost reimbursements up to $35,000 per member per year for criminal charges arising out of school activities or sexual harassment if exonerated, otherwise $5,000
	+ Up to $5,000 for defense of covered claims in licensure board or credential hearings resulting from educational employment activities.
	+ $10,000 in the event of death due to assault while working.
* Members are eligible for Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance in an amount ranging from $5,000 to $62,500 if they accidentally die or accidentally lose a limb or sight.
* Members are eligible for AFT Advantage discounts on travel, electronics, restaurants, auto buying program, home appliances and services; AFT’s “American Educator,” IFT’s “Union Link” and other union periodicals, discounted personal legal services, etc.