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## Upcoming Events

**Tue., 1/20**

[Multicultural Curriculum Professional Development Workshop](#)

**Thu., 1/22**

["Shatter the Silence" Workplace Violence Workshop](#)

**Wed., 1/28**

[English Language Learners Professional Development Workshop](#)

**Sat., 2/21**

[Annual Legislative Issues Conference](#)

**Tue., 2/24**

[Students with Disabilities Professional Development Workshop](#)

**Sat., 3/7**

[Southeastern Regional Legislative Meeting](#)

## January, 2015

*(Editor's note: this edition includes updates from early-Nov. through mid-Jan.)*

### 2014 Election Wins

With union member involvement, we resisted a national wave of anti-worker politicians and preserved our "Connecticut moment." [Click here to access the list of AFT Connecticut-endorsed candidates who won their races on November 4.](#)

### AFT Grant for Educators

In November our national union announced it was awarding resources to AFT Connecticut to help member educators solve problems with rollout of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). [Click here to learn more about the competitive AFT Innovation Fund grant award.](#)

### Hospital Techs Join Us

Technical professionals at Danbury and New Milford Hospitals in November voted for a voice on the job and to join their registered nurse colleagues in AFT Connecticut. [Click here for our press release announcing the results of the National Labor Relations Board \(NLRB\) election.](#)

### Helping Newtown Heal

Ahead of the two-year anniversary of the tragic event at Sandy Hook Elementary School, national and state AFT leaders sat down to hear from our members in Newtown Public Schools. [Click here for a brief video with highlights of AFT President Randi Weingarten's early-December visit to the community.](#)

### K-3 Reading Survey Win

The State Department of Education (SDE) in early-December announced significant improvements that AFT Connecticut advocated for to the new Foundations of Reading survey required for K-3 teachers. [Click here for the update sent by email to members of affiliated PreK-12 unions which includes links to additional background and resources.](#)

**Sat., 3/7**

[Windham Regional Legislative Meeting](#)

**Sat., 3/14**

[New Haven Regional Legislative Meeting](#)

**Sat., 3/28**

[Hartford Regional Legislative Meeting](#)

**Sat., 3/28**

[Central Regional Legislative Meeting](#)

**Thu., 4/16 - Sat., 4/18**

[National Conf. on Training/ Employment of Paras](#)

**Wed., 4/29**

["Coaching or Assessments?" Professional Development Workshop](#)

**Tue., 5/12**

[Math Lesson Planning Professional Development Workshop](#)

**Sat., 5/16**

[AFT Connecticut Convention](#)  
(**Editor's note:** Calendar page includes important deadlines)

## Stay Informed



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## Action on Teacher Prep

In December we alerted AFT Connecticut members of the opportunity to tell the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) 'NO' to using unproven high stakes testing to rate teacher preparation programs. [Click here for a report from a member of AFT's Teacher Preparation Task Force which includes access to submitting public comment to the DOE by February 2.](#)

## Paraprofessional Staffing

In response to AFT Connecticut's advocacy, the legislature in mid-December released a review of paraprofessional staffing levels and roles in our state's public schools. [Click here for a summary of the study completed by the Program Review and Investigations \(PRI\) Committee and access to the report.](#)

## State Employees Give Back

Public employees in AFT Connecticut-affiliated unions this past holiday season went all in to support the John J. Driscoll United Labor Agency's toy drive. [Click here for photos from the University Health Professionals' union holiday party where members brought unwrapped gifts to help families in need.](#)

## L+M Indicted Again

The NLRB earlier this month slapped the non-profit network that operates Lawrence + Memorial Hospital (L+M) with another complaint of labor law violations. [Click here for our press release announcing the board's indictment and scheduled trial that includes reaction from leaders of AFT Connecticut unions representing L+M's caregivers.](#)

## SDE Leadership Update

The State Board of Education at its January meeting voted to appoint an interim commissioner for SDE while its search committee completes work on recommendations for a permanent replacement. [Click here for the email to AFT Connecticut's PreK-12 union members announcing the move which includes the link to a December update on the transition process.](#)