



Colorado Connection

January 2007

Labor Plays Decisive Role in Setting a New Direction

AFT Colorado Convention
April 28, 2007
Lone Tree Golf Club

Council Meeting:
February 2007

E-Board Meeting:
January 24, 2006
March 28, 2007

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AFT Colorado's members played an important part in the labor movement's unprecedented campaign to engage members and get out the vote. The political action of AFT Colorado members helped to spell success for labor-backed candidates. Bill Ritter was elected Colorado's governor and labor-friendly legislator increased their margins in the state legislature. Many of these legislators were endorsed by AFT Colorado and will be powerful partners in moving our legislative agenda.

On a national level the AFL-CIO reports that in the final four days of this election, more than 187,000 union volunteers participated in get-out-the-vote efforts, by making 7.9 million phone calls, knocking on 3.5 million doors and reaching 2 million workers at the work site. In Colorado AFT activist made over 20,000 phone calls, and walked over 225 precincts knocking on fellow union

members' doors and leaving information with potential supporters of labor-friendly candidates.

AFT Colorado deployed 72 retirees, release-time volunteers and staff; they worked in member education, get-out-the-vote efforts, and coordinated activities with the Colorado AFL-CIO. Our union's activities included e-mail messages, direct mailings, worksites flyers, phone banks, member-to-member walks and presentations on issues. In addition to these volunteers, local union leaders assisted is education of their members around our issues and candidates.

The defeat of Amendment 39 was a great victory for AFT Colorado. Amendment 39, the so-called 65% Solution, would have been a disaster for school systems. When this issue presented itself, AFT Colorado along with CEA and the Colorado Association of School Executive (CASE) formed the initial

coalition to oppose Amendment 39. The coalition grew to over 100 organizations and through a program of polling, education and advertisement the coalition overcame early support for the amendment. Much of the success in defeating this initiative is owed to Amy Hunter, Assistant Director of Political Mobilization for AFT, who came to AFT Colorado as director of this effort.

Thank you to all of our volunteers and supporters for their efforts in helping bring about great change. This change will allow AFT Colorado to have greater influence on upcoming legislation in support of higher education, K-12 education, public employees and improved healthcare for all of Colorado. Please let us know what issues concern you.

Ideas may be sent to info@aftcolorado.org.

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NCLB Q&A

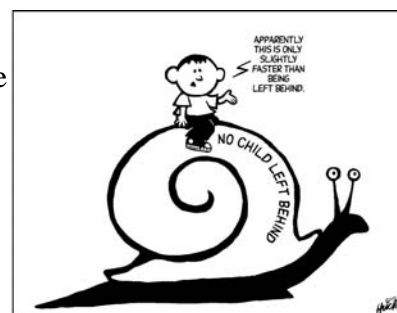
The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) has long been a leader in the movement for higher academic standards, greater account ability, and enhanced professional development. When the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) was enacted in 2002, the AFT hoped that the law would advance these goals.

Unfortunately, it has become apparent since enactment that serious flaws in the law — as well as chronic under-funding — are undercutting its original promise. That's why the AFT has launched a national campaign to get it right.

Question # 1

The Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) formula is an excellent measure of academic progress. *True or False?*

FALSE. The AYP formula doesn't measure student progress because it can't track the same group of students over time. AYP "measures" *different* groups of children from year-to-year. At best that gives a snapshot of where the current year's students are when they are measured, but it certainly doesn't show the progress made by *last* year's students.



Question # 2

If a school is identified by NCLB as being "in need of improvement" two years in a row, the school and its students receive the extra academic support they need. *True or False?*

FALSE. When a school fails to make AYP after two years, the only option students have is to transfer to another school. Schools identified as needing improvement do not receive adequate additional academic support.

Question # 3

NCLB has been funded at its promised levels since it was passed in 2001. *True or False?*

FALSE. As of January 2006, NCLB has been under funded by almost \$40 billion. Congress knew that the goals of NCLB could not be achieved without additional resources for Title I and other important components of NCLB.

The following table shows promised (authorization) levels for the law versus actual (appropriations).

	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Promised	\$26.4	\$29.2	\$32.0	\$34.3	\$36.9
Actual	\$22.2	\$23.8	\$24.5	\$24.5	\$23.5
Shortfall	-\$4.2	-\$5.4	-\$7.5	-\$9.8	-\$13.4
			Total shortfall to date:		-\$40.3

For more information visit <http://www.aft.org/topics/nclb/index.htm>

Source: AFT



AFT Colorado representatives pose with Governor Bill Ritter at the election night reception. (From left to right) Dave Berry, Carlos Estrada, David Sanger, Bernie Jiron, Governor Bill Ritter, and Jo Romero. Photo compliments of CFPE.

AFT Colorado Wins Award

At the State Federation President's Conference, president David Sanger accepted an award for the state federation with the greatest percentage of growth. AFT Colorado grew by 15% in the last year. Douglas County Federation and Metropolitan State Faculty Federation are responsible for much of this growth. Thank you to the organizing staff and the hard work of these locals.

Get Involved!

There are two great opportunities for you to get involved in the political action of AFT Colorado.

- If your main interest is in national politics become a member of an **ACE** (Activist for Congressional Education) Team. These teams meet at least twice per year with their member of Congress. It is our goal to have a team in each of Colorado's seven congressional districts.
- At the state level join the **CALE** (Colorado Activists for Legislative Education). Volunteers will assist with legislation by meeting with their legislators, calling or emailing about important legislation, testifying at committee hearings and attending Lobby Days at the Capitol.
- Call or email today to volunteer for one of these exciting opportunities.



A BIG THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Alice Reinebold	Dorothy Heim	Joyce Espinoza	Pamela Deandrea
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Angelina de la Torre	Elizabeth Iversen	Judy Fell	Renee Ruderman
Barb Pridemore	Elizabeth Marafiotte	Judy Lopez	Robert Schatz
Barbara Palazzo	Ellen Slatkin	Julieta Gonzalez	Rosario C.de Baca
Bernadette Jiron	Emilia C.de Baca	Larry Fell	Ryan Yonkerman
Billie Richmond	Eugene Summers	Linda Cardona	Sandy Taylor
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