



Dear Member,

We are excited to announce that the CEA Board of Directors and the AFT Colorado Executive Board voted last week to form an exploratory Unity Committee to develop a vision of what would be possible if our organizations consolidate our power, strength and resources. We believe we must do everything possible to create power for p-K 20 educators at the bargaining table, in the community, at state and local boards of education and at the Legislature. We have an incredible opportunity to unify and strengthen our collective voice to proactively fight for public education, students and the labor movement and push back against those who seek to undermine our interests.

Over the past few years our organizations have worked together informally to fight back anti-public education school boards and corporate interests in Jeffco, Dougco, Thompson, Denver and other districts. We have collaborated at the state Legislature and in statewide electoral efforts. While we currently work well together informally, we believe it is time to explore a more formal partnership.

In this current environment, it is especially important that we are nimble and prepared to respond quickly to be effective and powerful to protect and promote public education and the interests of educators and students.

We have many organizations and forces working against our interests including a global pandemic, chronic underfunding, and well-funded anti-union, anti-public education and corporate reform interests.

The Unity Committees will explore creating a new merged organization that will be stronger, more effective, and deliver more programs and services to members. As a unified organization, we will be able to accomplish so much more than we can as independent organizations. This exploratory process is intended to provide research and analysis to determine what a formal partnership could look like and what the benefits would be to our organizations. No decisions will be made by the committee other than whether or not to bring a proposal forward to the respective organizational conventions. The committee is a recommending body and will utilize a consensus-based process in their decision-making.

We will continue to communicate with you about the committee's work as it progresses. Please let us know if you have any questions or want to talk about this exciting opportunity.

In solidarity,

Amie Baca-Oehlert, CEA President
Kallie Leyba, AFT Colorado President