# You have a choice!

The Supreme Court has ruled in Janus v. AFSCME that teachers can no longer be forced to join or pay fees to unions. You now have a choice. Get the facts and consider your options.

CATEGORY	Christian Educators	NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
ORGANIZATION TYPE	Non-profit Professional Association with members in all 50 states.	Participation in state and national unions is mandatory with local membership
PRICE	\$259 per year	Typically \$600-1300 per year, depending on state
COVERAGE FOR LIABILITY LAWSUIT DAMAGES*	\$2 million Professional Liability Insurance, owned by member, guaranteed by policy	\$1 million, coverage owned by union, defends members at unions' discretion
COVERAGE FOR LIABILITY LAWSUIT DEFENSE*	Unlimited	Limited to \$3 million
MONEY FOR POLITICS	Membership dues fund ministry to educators, not politics	\$43 million** or more each year, nearly 100% one-sided
CONSULTATION	Unlimited and quick, by educational experts like former superintendents	Typically by a fellow teacher without significant expertise, often slow response times
CONTENT AND PUBLICATIONS	Biblical, positive, inspiring, hopeful, uplifting, encouraging, empowering	Political, negative, discouraging, divisive, demanding
COVERAGE FOR JOB & CREDENTIAL PROTECTION*	Local attorney that works for you	Union attorney that may not share your values
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Teacher-developed local events and a free national online conference presented from a biblical worldview	PD often focused on identity politics and divisive issues

\*See <u>christianeducators.org/resourcecenter/in-dues-professional-liability-plan/</u> for policy coverages and limits.

\*\*to its superPAC in the 2020 election cycle, according to opensecrets.org

# **Christian Educators & Unions:** Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### The chart compares Christian Educators with the NEA. What about the AFT?

AFT professional liability coverage is also limited to \$1 million.<sup>1</sup> And AFT is just as committed to divisive identity politics as the NEA.<sup>2</sup> From July 2022 to June 2023, the AFT spent at least \$46.9 million on politics.<sup>3</sup> And similar to the NEA, 99.97% of AFT political spending during the 2022 election cycle went to Democrats,<sup>4</sup> mostly funded by union members' dues.

### How much will I save by joining Christian Educators?

Using a conservative estimate of \$850/year (all states are unique) for NEA/AFT union dues, union members will invest \$25,500 of their hard-earned money in politicized unions over a 30year career. Alternatively, a lifetime membership in Christian Educators is only \$1,750 plus a \$25/year service fee, for a total of \$2,500 over 30 years, **representing a savings of \$23K, or over 90%.** Even if an educator simply renewed with CE each year, at \$259/year they would still see savings of \$17,800, or **nearly 70% less than typical union dues.** 

## Does Christian Educators get involved in politics?

As a non-profit ministry, our focus is supporting and encouraging our members to make a positive impact in their schools. Engaging in a substantial amount of political lobbying would place our 501c3 status at risk. However, we do inform our members about relevant issues consistent with their interests and our mission, encouraging them to take full advantage of their constitutional rights to contact their representatives and let their views be known.

#### Will I lose benefits if I leave my union?

You will still be covered by the union-negotiated contract even if you are no longer a member of the union, so your pay, health insurance, retirement benefits, and any other district-provided benefits (e.g. dental/eye coverage, etc.) will not be affected. If you have purchased additional insurance products through your union, you may lose access to those policies. However, Christian Educators also offers supplemental group rate insurance products. You may no longer be able to attend union meetings or vote on your contract, but you should never be denied the right to voice your opinions on contract terms or to benefit from the protections most negotiated contracts extend to all employees regardless of union membership.

#### Would it be disloyal to leave my union?

Many teachers have a sense of loyalty to their local union. However, local union membership requires membership in state and national unions, which typically advance an unbiblical agenda unrelated to education. Prayerfully consider your loyalties, as the vast majority of your union dues (typically about 80%) go to the state and national unions, not your local. Union leaders may accuse you of being disloyal, but it is the unions who have created a system that requires you to fund a radical political agenda as a condition of membership. They

could operate differently and actually represent all their members, but they choose not to.



christianeducators.org/unions

Learn more at:

- 1.https://actionnetwork.org/user\_files/user\_files?000/024996/original
- 2.<u>https://www.aft.org/pride</u>

4.https://www.opensecrets.org/orgs/american-federation-of-teachers/totals?id=d000000083

<sup>3.&</sup>lt;u>https://americansforfairtreatment.org/resources-and-data/aft-where-do-your-union-dues-go/</u>