

Return, Recover and Reimagine

# 10 Ideas to Support a Renaissance in America's Public Schools



1

Launch a \$5 million “Back to School for Everyone” national campaign to connect not just with teachers and school staff but also with families and communities to communicate the importance of in-school learning and build families’ trust and confidence in children returning to school.

2

Form **school-based committees** of staff, parents and, where appropriate, students to plan for and respond to safety issues and to conduct safety “walk-throughs” in school buildings.

3

Align health and pedagogical best practices by **reducing class sizes** to reflect the CDC’s 3-foot social distancing guidance. Eliminate simultaneous in-person and remote instruction.

4

Designate “**office hours**” and clinics for AFT affiliates and others to call in and discuss ideas and get technical support.

5

Roll out **recovery programs** this summer that provide academic support, help students get back into routines and offer lots of ways for kids to have fun.

6

**Promote community schools** to build trust and remove obstacles to getting kids and families the support and services they need.

7

Increase the emphasis on **civics, science and project-based learning**, to nurture critical thinking and bring learning to life.

8

**Commit funds from the American Rescue Plan** to fill shortages of school teachers, school counselors, psychologists and nurses.

9

Encourage Education Secretary Miguel Cardona to form a task force to **rethink how we assess student learning** and how to measure what really counts.

10

**Engage stakeholders**—families, educators and community partners—to ensure funds in the American Rescue Plan and other federal funds for schools are spent equitably and effectively.

Visit [aft.org/renaissance](https://aft.org/renaissance)

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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