



2661 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48207

313/393-2200 FAX 313/393-2236

MEDIA ADVISORY MEDIA ADVISORY MEDIA ADVISORY

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR Tuesday, March 1, 2011

**Contact: David Hecker
313-204-6115**

AFT Michigan Proposes New Directions on Teacher Evaluation and Tenure

LANSING, MI—On Tuesday, March 1, AFT Michigan will release a set of proposals for enhancing teacher quality by improving our evaluation and due process systems.

Regular, thorough, and objective teacher evaluation is absolutely central to assessing teacher performance. However, according to David Hecker, President of AFT Michigan, “What passes for teacher evaluation in many Michigan school districts is too arbitrary and superficial to identify strengths and weaknesses and inform meaningful decisions. To help remedy this problem, AFT Michigan has developed a *Local Guide to Developing Effective Teacher Evaluation Systems* to help school districts and local unions collaboratively develop evaluations that help promising teachers improve, good teachers become great, and identify those who should not be in the classroom at all.”

In addition, Lincoln Stocks, East Detroit High School teacher and Chair of AFT Michigan’s PreK-12 Teacher Committee, said, “We hope our *Issue Brief on Evaluation and Due Process* will provide a starting point for discussions with policymakers to ensure Michigan maintains the core principles of due process while addressing legitimate timeline concerns in the discipline process.”

**Who: David Hecker, President, American Federation of Teachers Michigan
Lincoln Stocks, President, East Detroit Federation of Teachers and Chair, AFT Michigan PreK-12 Teacher Committee**

What: Public release of AFT Michigan’s *Issue Brief on Teacher Evaluation and Due Process* and *Local Guide to Developing Effective Teacher Evaluation Systems*.

When: 10:00 am on Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Where: Capitol Room 405

##

AFT Michigan is a union of 35,000 members working in preK-12 and intermediate school districts, community colleges, universities, and local government. Our 98 locals extend as far south as Monroe and north to Whitefish Township in the Upper Peninsula.