

# JEFFERSON TEACHER/PSRP



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## From The Lawyer's Desk

By: Larry Samuel, JFT General Counsel

One of the benefits of JFT membership is your access to a wealth of information about a variety of issues. For example, we advise members to call the union (and check school board policy) before you do something on your own, such as:

- **Before** you discipline a student...to find out what you are allowed to do, and what you are prohibited from doing. Are you allowed to use corporal punishment, are you allowed to require a student to write lines, etc.;
- **Before** you physically break up a fight, to find out what the policy *requires*, what the policy *allows*, and what the policy *prohibits*;
- **Before** you wear a political button or clothing that expresses an opinion;
- **Before** you videotape or take any pictures of students;
- **Before** you blog, tweet, or post pictures or anything

else on Facebook, Instagram, or any social media, that is related to your job or that might impact your employment;

- **Before** you drive a student in your personal vehicle;
- **Before** you act on your own when you have cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected.
- Or anything else...

The JFT will advise you of your rights and your responsibilities. The staff will help you try to avoid areas that cause employment problems. But remember...this service is available **ONLY** to JFT members.

## Tell Lawmakers to Make Smart Choices for Louisiana



Our state is facing a mid-year budget crisis. Revenues are \$304 million short of what is needed for a balanced budget. By law, this must be corrected before the 2016-17 fiscal year ends on

June 30.

One plan would cut public education by \$29 million for the first time ever, slashing services to disabled children, Pre-K funding, after school services and more.

It would devastate higher education and health care. **That's not smart!**

Governor John Bel Edwards has a plan that would save education funding by using the state's rainy day fund. Cuts to public services, while painful, would not be as bad.

Some lawmakers oppose the governor's plan, saying the "rainy day fund" should not be tapped. This fund was created specifically for balancing the budget in the event of a deficit.

The Louisiana Federation of Teachers and Jefferson Federation of Teachers supports the governor's balanced, responsible approach to this crisis. Any other response would be an unnecessary hardship on working families and the children attending public schools in Louisiana.

To learn more about this crisis, and send a message to your senator and representative, visit <http://la.aft.org>.

## PSRP - News You Can Use

In last month's newsletter we highlighted Article X-Reprimand and Criticism in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Although this item is contractual; it is not in the best interest of anyone's working environment to reprimand and criticize anyone in the presence of others.

The contents of this article pertain to **ALL EMPLOYEES** of the Jefferson Parish School System. Support employees may also file a grievance/complaint if a violation of this article has taken place.

### LFT PSRP Conference, Saturday, April 1, 2017

The annual LFT PSRP Conference is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2017, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Crown Plaza Hotel & Resort, 4728 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA.

Registration to attend the conference is **FREE**. If you would like to attend the conference, please contact the JFT Office, (504) 454-5047, by Friday, March 10, 2017. Also let us know if you are interested in carpooling.

### 2017 LFT PSRP Scholars Award Program

Louisiana Federation of Teachers supports PSRPs enhancing their education. LFT will be awarding a one-time \$500 grant to a union member at their PSRP Conference on April 1, 2017.

If you are currently a PSRP enrolled in courses to further your education and would like to apply for the \$500 grant, please contact the JFT Office, (504) 454-5047, for an application. The application deadline is March 17, 2017.

## Labor Board Rules that Charter School Teachers Have Bargaining Rights

The National Labor Relations Board ruled that union members in charter schools have the right to collectively bargain with charter operators.

The ruling follows precedents set by NLRB in other cases. It establishes that charter operators, unlike traditional public school boards, are private employers who must, under federal law, negotiate with employees. Traditional school boards are public bodies, and may vote to negotiate with employees if they wish.

Local chapters of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers have negotiated contracts with school boards in St. Tammany and Jefferson Parishes. In New Orleans, the United Teachers of New Orleans have negotiated contracts for educators at Ben Franklin High School and Morris Jeff Community School.



## Join LFT Action Center

LFT Action Center is a community of informed educators connected by the internet. It is:

- Your source of information about education and the State Capitol
- Your direct pipeline to the decision makers at the capitol
- Your fast and easy way to contact representatives, senators and the governor

LFT Action Center publishes FREE legislative updates and newsletters about education issues. In addition, the Action Center lets you speak out on important issues with a simple click of the mouse!

Join Today! Just go to <http://la.aft.org> and click on "Join the LFT Action Center."

## JFT Scholarship Opportunity



JFT will offer two (2) college or university scholarships. Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$500 per year over a period of four years, for a total scholarship of \$2,000 each. **Children of JFT members, who are graduating seniors, are eligible to apply.**

Scholarship applications can be found on the JFT website: [www.jft.org](http://www.jft.org) or you can contact the JFT office, (504) 454-5047 for a copy.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 1, 2017.

## JFT Member Benefits Spotlight



### Credit & Budget Counseling

Certified credit counselors are available 24 hours a day to help JFT members with confidential financial guidance, free consumer credit counseling services and discounted debt-management assistance. If you have financial problems, counseling is available to help you become debt free, learn new money-management skills and save for the future.

JFT members - to learn more about credit and budget counseling, visit:

[www.unionplus.org/creditcounseling](http://www.unionplus.org/creditcounseling);  
or call (877) 833-1745 for more information.

## General Membership Meeting Set For March 22nd

Guest Speaker: Lauren Trout  
*Restorative Practices in Education*

The next JFT General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 6:30 p.m., at the Seafarers' Hall, 3911 Lapalco Boulevard, Harvey. Lauren Trout is the guest speaker for the meeting. She will offer a 30-45 minute presentation on Restorative Practices in Education.

**All JFT members are encouraged to attend** to hear Ms. Trout and to get the latest updates.

Please make plans to attend!



## Not Currently a JFT Member?

If you are not currently a member, now is the time to join! Together, we can continue to reclaim our voice, our profession and our schools. Your voice matters!

Membership applicants can be found on the JFT website: [www.jft.org](http://www.jft.org).

JFT Staff are currently visiting schools and can give you additional information about the benefits of becoming a member.



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