



California Federation of Teachers  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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## **TWO NEW MEASURES WILL AID TEACHERS, SCHOOL PLAYGROUND SUPERVISORS**

SACRAMENTO, CA – Two new measures signed into law by Governor Davis will aid teachers and school playground supervisors. For the first time, active California teachers will have a direct voice in who manages their retirement funds. With the enactment of a separate measure, school playground supervisors who also work inside public schools will now earn sick leave, vacation and health insurance credits not only for their classroom time, but also while they keep school playgrounds safe.

Gov. Davis' signature on SB 1580 (Burton, D – San Francisco) means that active California teachers will, for the first time, elect the three teachers who sit on the board of the State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS). The STRS board was the only remaining California public employee pension fund that did not have elected representatives of those whose retirement funds are at stake. The STRS fund manages approximately \$100 billion in teachers' retirement funds. The measure provides for election of two active kindergarten to grade 12 educators and one community college instructor. Similar legislation had been vetoed numerous times by several different gubernatorial administrations. "We applaud Governor Davis and the Legislature for bringing a measure of democracy to the teachers' pension fund," said CFT President Mary Bergan. "All other public employee retirement systems in California already have elected members. We believe these changes will make the board more responsive to those whose funds are at stake." In the past, educator representatives had all been appointed by the governor. The measure leaves in place the other board members, including four ex officio members.

Gov. Davis' signature on AB 2849 (Carl Washington, D – Los Angeles) provides playground supervisors who also perform other school employee duties equal status with all other school employees in earning health insurance, vacation time and sick leave. These employees currently earn no health insurance, vacation or sick leave credits while working as playground supervisors. "Once these school employees leave the classroom to supervise playground safety during the work day, they are denied benefits, sick

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leave, vacation and other legal protections,” said CFT President Mary Bergan in praising enactment of AB 2849. “Playground supervisors make our schools safer. They handle student conflicts and assist with treating injuries. In many cases, being denied credit for playground supervision each day means being denied health insurance. Many of the employees affected by AB 2849 already work the required number of hours to qualify for benefits. But they’re not getting credit for the time they’ve spent supervising playground activities. This measure simply gives them credit for the work they’re doing helping to keep our kids safe.”

The California Federation of Teachers represents over one hundred thousand educators and classified employees at all levels of California public and private education. CFT represents 4500 non-tenure track faculty and librarians at the University of California, through the UC-AFT.

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