



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

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## **Annual Survey of Teachers' Salaries Shows California Teachers' Pay Below a Dozen Other States When Adjusted for State's High Cost of Living**

SACRAMENTO, CA -- California Federation of Teachers (CFT) President Mary Bergan released the following statement today regarding the American Federation of Teachers' (AFT) annual survey of teachers' salaries in the U.S.

"California's average teachers' salaries are higher than other states, except when you factor in the high cost of living here," said Bergan. "It might be comforting to California teachers that they make more than their counterparts in Iowa, but that doesn't help when they're trying to purchase a home, gasoline to drive to work, or pay the electric bill in California. When you adjust California's salaries for the high cost of living, we don't even come out in the top ten."

"Teachers' salaries in California rose just 2.5 percent during 02-03, and teachers are still paid considerably less than other professions with similar educational requirements," Bergan added. "Teachers are being asked to pay more for health care insurance, and asked to do more in times of fiscal crisis. Teachers' salaries in California are still inadequate to attract the hundreds of thousands of new teachers needed in the coming few years. When the teacher shortage disappears, we'll know we've reached an adequate salary to attract the brightest from our universities to the teaching profession."

The AFT annual survey of teachers' salaries found the average California teacher salary was \$55,693, and the average beginning teacher salary was \$34,805.

"It's important to note that school superintendents' average salaries are as much as four times higher than teachers' average pay," said Bergan.

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As the statewide affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the CFT represents teachers and school employees in California from early childhood education through the university level.