The heart of the Federation is your local union, which is chartered by the AFT. In our state, there are 140 AFT local unions. Each local is also affiliated with its regional AFL-CIO Central Labor Council and the California Labor Federation.  

At the union’s highest policymaking body, its biennial Convention, delegates elected by local unions debate issues facing the CFT. Policy proposals come from local unions, State and Executive Councils, division councils and committees. Delegates also elect the CFT President, Secretary Treasurer, 24 Vice Presidents, and the officers of the CCE.

Between Conventions, the State Council makes decisions for the Federation. All locals may send delegates to State Council. It meets twice yearly in non-Convention years and once during Convention years. State Council also sits as the CFT Committee on Political Education, or COPE.

Between State Council meetings, the Executive Council, comprising the union’s officers, makes decisions for the Federation, including COPE endorsements.

The Federation’s five division councils — PreK–12, Council of Classified Employees, Community College, University, and Retired — meet to share information and to formulate policy proposals. Constituent locals elect officers.

Meeting regularly, CFT committees made up of rank-and-file members examine issues of importance to educators and unions and make policy recommendations.

Every year, the Council of Classified Employees hosts our three-day Classified Conference dedicated solely to the issues of support staff and para-professionals. Please join us at our annual event!