

RESOLUTION 5.2

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Proposed by AFT/United States

Original language: English

1. **RECOGNIZING**, that as educators and education support personnel, our interest is in public schools that are rooted in our communities and provide all children a rich academic and career-developing experience; and
2. **KNOWING**, that society benefits when there are schools where stakeholders inside and outside the classroom share in decision making and policymaking at all levels; and that when schools are part of the community, students feel safe, included, nurtured and empowered; and
3. **ACKNOWLEDGING**, that our communities will no longer support a world where some students are given the most experienced and well-trained teachers, advanced technologies and new facilities, while other students are taught in overcrowded classrooms by teachers lacking the basic supports and technology they need to do their jobs; and
4. **SEEING**, that our communities have watched corporate interests, over the past years, attempt to dismantle public education and create a new market-based system, using strategies designed to separate schools and communities, including promoting high-stakes testing, attacks on the collective bargaining rights of educators and school employees, and aggressive closures to pave the way for privately managed schools; and
5. **BELIEVING**, that strong public schools create strong communities, as our schools can be both local institutions and centers of learning; and that these “community schools” can help coordinate the supports and wraparound services their students and families need, such as basic healthcare, counseling, mentoring programs and more to help strengthen whole communities as well as individual students; and
6. **ASSERTING**, that teachers must be well-trained, respected and supported by their community, and that the community has a strong role to play in fighting against those who would demonize educators and their unions in our legislatures and in the media:

The Seventh World Congress:

7. **CALLS** on affiliates to reclaim our public schools, on behalf of the students who learn there, the educators and staff who work there, and the communities they anchor; and
8. **AFFIRMS** that our schools should be governed with genuine input and decision making by those closest to the education process—teachers, support staff, administrators, students, their parents and the community; it is they who should guide our schools, not corporate executives or entrepreneurs; and
9. **ASSERTS** the power of teachers and school staff, working together with parents and community partners, to strengthen the quality of education, engage in solution-driven unionism, defend and advocate for the profession, ignite stakeholder political activism and create better communities; and
10. **COMMITTS** Education International to incorporate community outreach and community schools in the activities of the EI Organizing Network (OrgNet).