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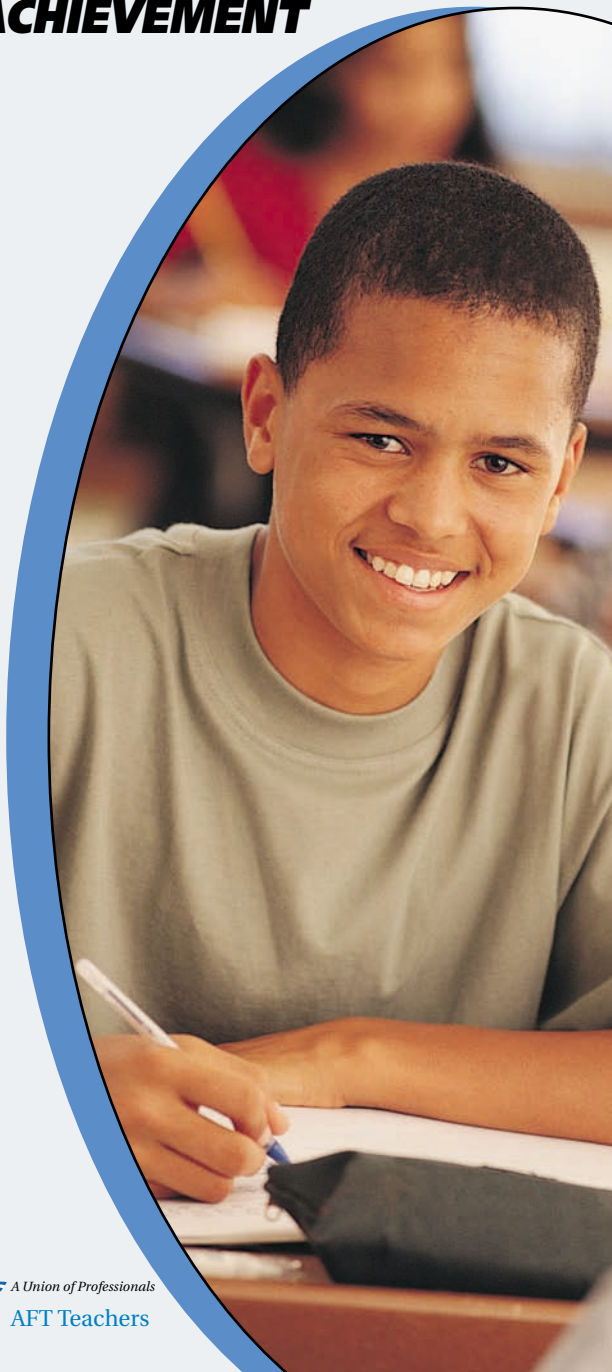
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**AFT'S  
REDESIGNING  
SCHOOLS  
TO RAISE  
ACHIEVEMENT**



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# **AFT'S REDESIGNING SCHOOLS TO RAISE ACHIEVEMENT**

The primary goal of AFT's Redesigning Schools To Raise Achievement (RSRA) project is to build capacity at the state, district, school, and classroom levels to improve student achievement. Through partnerships, the project can help schools and districts meet all of the 11 components of Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) as outlined in the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

## What are the requirements of CSR?

- Proven methods and strategies based on scientifically based research
- Comprehensive design
- Professional development
- Measurable goals and benchmarks
- Support within the school
- Support for teachers and principals
- Parental and community involvement
- External technical support and assistance
- Annual evaluation
- Coordination of resources
- Strategies that improve academic achievement.

# What opportunities and support does AFT's RSRA project offer?

## **TRAINING FOR SCHOOL TEAMS**

The AFT's Institute on Effective Leadership for Academic Achievement is designed for school site teams (principal, building representative, teachers, parent/community representatives, and support staff) to develop skills in:

- Using data to improve instruction
- Establishing effective professional development.

## **INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS THAT WORK**

The AFT has created a series of "What Works" publications describing scientifically based, comprehensive programs in:

- Reading
- Remedial reading intervention
- Schoolwide reform
- Discipline and behavior management
- High school reform

## **TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

- Institutes and seminars for leaders and practitioners at the district and school team levels:
  - National RSRA Network Conferences
  - Customized workshops on educational issues and strategies
  - Networking opportunities at AFT conferences and conventions
  - Electronic updates



- Site visits to successful programs
- Facilitating communication with program developers to encourage successful program implementation.

### ***DISTRICT/SCHOOL POLICY MODELS***

RSRA provides examples of school redesign policy and contract language that target:

- Organizing high-quality professional development
- Staff buy-in
- Effective staffing patterns
- Extended school day or school year opportunities
- Use of financial resources.

### ***BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS***

- Comprehensive reform processes require teamwork among all stakeholders—labor, management, parents, and the community. RSRA focuses on building and strengthening:
  - Effective communication strategies
  - District team leadership skills
  - School improvement team planning and implementation processes
- Training and facilitation of labor-management cooperation through the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

