



# 10 MINUTE MEETING



## Walk In with us on **Wednesday, April 17th**

**Who: Teachers, Education Staff Professionals, Community Partners, Parents and Students**

**What: Walk In**

**When: April 17th \_\_\_\_\_ am**

**Where: School Specific**

On **Wednesday, April 17th**, teachers, education staff professionals, parents, and students are engaging in a statewide **WALK IN** to support the quality public schools that all of Florida's students deserve. We are urging Governor DeSantis and lawmakers to pay attention to the needs of public school students and educators. Together we deliver this message loud and clear: **Fund Our Future!**

### What is a Walk In?

Just that! Parents, teachers, students and other supporters gather out front of their school 30-45 minutes before their workday begins. They picket, eat donuts, have coffee etc. Then employees and students walk in and are cheered on by parents and community allies, who then disperse for the day.

Given the never-ending attacks on public education that all of our counties have endured, this provides a *positive* action that says that these are *our* schools and *our* communities. It also builds solidarity amongst our members as they will feel the power of collective action. Together we make our voices heard!

### Why are we Walking In?

We are at a crisis point and too many of our children **Florida's future**, are not receiving the educational opportunities promised to them.

Even though costs and demands have risen, our state invests less per student now than before the recession of 2007. This is embarrassingly low, and the state is failing our excellent students. We are advocating for a 10% increase in per-student funding which equals \$743.

- The systematic drain of funds from our public schools to private unaccountable charter management companies **must end**.

- The burdens that have driven educators from the profession and created an unprecedented teacher shortage **must be lifted**.
- An increase of \$743 will move Florida out of the bottom 10 in the nation but still will leave the state **way below the national average**.

### The Florida Facts:

- Florida ranks 42nd in total education spending per pupil *and* 51st in public school revenue for every \$1,000 of in-state personal income. In other words, no other state collects less to support public schools than Florida, even though Florida has the 7<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the country!
- Student performance is among the best in the nation, yet Florida ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in teacher salaries and 47<sup>th</sup> in pay for education staff professionals.
- Florida's average teacher salary is more than \$10,000 less than the national average. Average salaries are \$8,000 higher in Georgia and \$3,000 higher in Alabama.
- No wonder Florida started this school year with more than 4,000 teacher vacancies statewide... *and DOE projects over 10,000 teacher vacancies at the end of the year.*