



20 ways *and many more!* your union membership matters



Being part of a union — a part of NYSUT — can positively impact the quality of life for you and your family.

Your membership is buoyed by the power of a collective voice that, at its heart, works to ensure the general good and fulfill the promise of a strong and healthy middle class. As attacks against unions and public education intensify, our biggest asset is the solidarity of our members.

Better pay, wider access to affordable health coverage, safer working conditions and retirement security are just some of the

obvious benefits of union membership.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, for example, has determined that union workers are paid \$200 more than the weekly median pay of non-union workers performing the same job. Unionized workers are also 28 percent more likely to be covered by employer-provided health insurance and 54 percent more likely to have employer-provided pensions, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Yet even more fulfilling is the opportunity to have your voice, your opinion and your values heard, shared and put to work to improve society and pave the way for a better future for generations to come.

NYSUT members are always there to help their students, patients and communities, volunteering their time, raising money and donating goods to help those in need.

In turn, your union is at your service in myriad ways:

NYSUT supports locals throughout the negotiating and collective bargaining process. Our union labor relations specialists and legal department:

1. Provide training in how to negotiate and assist in bargaining.
2. Represent your local at PERB and NLRB hearings.
3. Assist during impasse.

4. Provide crisis support.
5. Assist during a grievance and arbitration process.
6. Assure and protect your due process rights.
7. Provide a union attorney in legal proceedings, including discipline and discharge hearings.
8. Provide legal consultation.
9. Administer a legal defense reimbursement fund.
10. Defend your profession and employee rights in the court system.

Rights on the job

Political voice

NYSUT's Legislative Department works side by side with our grass-roots activists to lobby state and federal legislators and policymakers on your behalf to:

11. Ensure your voice and your concerns are heard during legislative and budget deliberations.

12. Protect pensions and secure cost-of-living adjustments for current, retired and future members.
13. Build coalitions with other unions and advocacy groups for a stronger voice.
14. Mobilize political action campaigns and communications around issues, school budget votes and elections.

NYSUT's Program Services and Research and Educational Services departments provide multiple avenues to enhance your profession and career:

15. Workshops and training include leadership development, public and community relations,

health and safety, negotiations and collective bargaining, finance management, information technology, sexual harassment and political action.

16. Resources and support for best practices, National Board Certification and statewide teacher centers.

Professional learning

You and your family

Here's how NYSUT supports you and your loved ones:

17. A wide range of insurance coverage: catastrophic major-medical, term life, long-term disability, long-term care, dental and vision care, homeowner's and renter's, retiree dental, accidental death and dismemberment and, yes, pet insurance.

18. Flexible benefit plans, heating assistance and an array of member discounts.
19. Confidential assessments of personal and family problems and concerns through NYSUT's Social Services and referrals to services and telephone support.
20. Access to legal service plans.