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Detroit Public Schools Should Clean House after Teachers Union Brags about Ability to Hurt Detroit's Kids

LANSING, MI, April 30, 2015 –The Michigan Freedom Fund called on Detroit Public Schools and policymakers in Lansing to pursue every option to stand up to Detroit Federation of Teachers union bullies, after teachers walked out of their classrooms today to flex their union muscles, leaving thousands of Detroit kids on the street.

According to DPS officials, today's teacher walk-out, organized by DFT President Steve Conn and DFT union leaders, has forced the closure of 18 schools, leaving an estimated 10,000 students without a teacher.

Teacher strikes are illegal in Michigan. Teachers participating in illegal strikes are subject to disciplinary action, including fines and termination.

Responding to the closings and thousands of students forced out of class by the walk out, Conn responded: "That is a testament to the teachers union's power..."

Said Greg McNeilly, President of the Michigan Freedom Fund: "Families in Detroit deserve teachers who are focused on educating kids, not hurting them just to flex union power. Steve Conn and Detroit teachers union bullies are one of the primary reasons so many students in Detroit are falling further and further behind.

"When public sector unions begin bragging about their ability—and their willingness—to hurt kids, it's time policymakers examine whether or under what regulations public sector unions deserve to even exist."

Michigan Freedom Fund is a nonprofit organization run by Michiganders for Michiganders, working to advance, promote, and protect Michigan workers' Constitutional rights. For more information on the Freedom Fund, please visit www.MichiganFreedomFund.com.

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