**Resolution Urging No Shopping at Staples by California Federation of Teachers - April 28, 2014**

Sacramento, Calif. – The Executive Council of the California Federation of Teachers (CFT), representing 120,000 educational employees from Head Start through university, voted unanimously last evening to boycott office supply and bulk goods åretailer Staples.  The CFT took this action at the request of the American Postal Workers Union, which has been opposing a no-bid sweetheart deal between the United States Postal Service and the giant office supply chain to operate postal counters in Staples stores. Staples workers, earning minimum wages and meager benefits, staff the Staples postal counters, rather than uniformed postal employees paid a living wage. Staples sales clerks have a high turnover rate, receive little training and are not required to have a background check or take an oath before handling U.S. mail. The APWU sees this Staples “pilot” as the first step in privatizing the USPS’ retail operations and eliminating local public post offices.
Last fall, USPS announced that postal counters would open in 82 Staples stores in four states; 29 are located in California. The Postmaster General has announced his intention of expanding the Staples partnership to 1,500 Staples locations nationwide following the trial period.

**Resolution: Executive Council, California Federation of Teachers
Support U.S. Postal Workers; Boycott Staples**
*Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service has a no-bid, sweetheart deal with the big-box chain Staples to operate
postal counters in more than 80 stores in 4 states, including California;

Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service has plans to expand this operation to more than 1,500 Staples store
across the United States;

Whereas, these postal counters are staffed by low-wage, high-turnover employees with little training and
no credentials to handle U.S. mail;

Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service and Staples are refusing to staff the postal counters with unionized,
uniformed U.S. Postal Service employees who have the training and experience to properly handle U.S.
mail, and who have sworn an oath to uphold the highest standards of public service;

Whereas, non-union "postal" jobs at Staples will inevitably replace living-wage, union jobs of U.S. Postal
Service employees;

Whereas, current legislation in the U.S. Congress would make it easier to close U.S. Post offices;

Whereas, California communities such as the city of Berkeley have already experienced disruption and
controversy associated with the sale of U.S. post office facilities;

Whereas, consumers are increasingly concerned about identity theft at large retail chains and privatizing
the handling of U.S. mail will jeopardize the sanctity and security of the mail;

Whereas, instead of offering lower quality service and selling off public assets, the U.S. Postal Service
can and should use its unmatched nationwide network of people and facilities to better serve the public
with expanded hours and new services, such as low-cost banking, which could aid millions of low-income
consumers;

Whereas, California teachers care about public service, protecting good-paying jobs and maintaining
universal, affordable mail services for the U.S. public;

Whereas, the California Federation of Teachers opposes privatization of public services in schools,
colleges and universities and other public institutions;

Whereas, the California Federation of Teachers and postal employees are fighting a common battle
against privatization, and

Whereas, many California teachers and other school employees frequently purchase school supplies,
office supplies, and other products sold at Staples Stores;****Therefore be it resolved that:****• The California Federation of Teachers supports the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) in
its efforts to protect good-paying jobs and its insistence on the highest possible standards of
customer service;

• Be it further resolved that the California Federation of Teachers opposes efforts by the U.S.
Postal Service to privatize operations and to sell off valuable public assets;

• Be it further resolved that members of the California Federation of Teachers, along with friends,
colleagues and family members, are urged to no longer shop at Staples stores until further notice;

• Be if further resolved that the California Federation of Teachers will submit and advocate at the
upcoming national American Federation of Teachers convention to be held this July in Los
Angeles, California for a boycott of Staples to begin during the back- to-school period this
summer;

• Be it finally resolved that this call to boycott Staples will be communicated immediately to
members of the California Federation of Teachers, to our local unions, and to our sister unions
and to the news media.*