

## Exploring the Relationship Between K-12 Teachers' Participation in Online Communities and Concurrent/Subsequent Participation In Face-To-Face Collective Action

This purpose of this research project is to better understand the West Virginia Public Employees UNITED Facebook group and its role in WV teachers' organization of the #55 strong movement, including the statewide teachers' strike that triggered a chain reaction of similar teacher actions around the United States during the last year. Using a mixed-methods design that includes focus groups and an online survey for all members of the target online community, we hope to discover how the online community did or did not affect teachers' decision to participate in face-to-face political actions such as joining a group work stoppage, picketing at their schools, and/or protesting at the state capitol. Ultimately, this project will contribute to the existing literature much-needed understandings of how online communities support face-to-face activism, particularly in conservative states, and, we hope, will help inform other teacher organizations' use of such communities to organize members.



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