

# Why Wal-Mart?

## **Wal-Mart is anti-public education.**

Wal-Mart's founding family, the Waltons, have dedicated their philanthropy to promoting vouchers, private school tax credits, and other anti-public education causes. John Walton and his siblings have contributed more than \$250 million to school privatization efforts over the last five years. The Waltons are also significant contributors to political action committees in Colorado and elsewhere that support anti-public education candidates. We have exposed these facts over the past year through CEA's Too Extreme for Colorado Campaign.

## **Wal-Mart is anti-labor.**

Wal-Mart Inc. is determined to remain union-free, instructing store managers how to stop employees from organizing to represent themselves on the job. Wal-Mart has closed stores to avoid employee unions and collective bargaining. Wal-Mart's wages and benefits are among the worst in the retail industry. The company has been repeatedly sued for gender discrimination and refusing to pay overtime.

## **Wal-Mart harms communities.**

Wal-Mart drains federal, state, and local tax bases, despite the company's claims that it generates jobs and boosts local economies. Wal-Mart has received more than a billion dollars in state and local tax breaks. Wal-Mart's low wages ensure that many Wal-Mart workers and their families are forced to seek public assistance in housing, free and reduced school lunches, low income energy assistance, and health care for families who live below the poverty line.

## **Why now?**

Wal-Mart has launched an aggressive public relations campaign to turn back the negative media attention focused on its anti-labor, anti-worker practices. There's no time like right now to support a major effort to educate the public and bring consumer pressure to bear on Wal-Mart with the objective of persuading the company to be a more responsible corporate citizen and a better employer.

CEA's Member Education Kit offers a clear explanation of why now and suggests "oppositional activities" in which CEA-NEA local associations and members can easily participate (the kit is online at [www.coloradoea.org](http://www.coloradoea.org)). NEA has determined that our nationwide Association will support the United Food & Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) in its Wake Up Wal-Mart campaign and inform members of the "Don't Buy School Supplies at Wal-Mart" effort that begins this spring. We will work with corporate partners to develop shopping alternatives for back-to-school supplies.

We encourage you to educate yourself about Wal-Mart's anti-labor, anti-worker practices and about the Walton Family Foundation and the Walton heirs attacks on public education – your chosen profession.

## **If not now, when?**