



# Ashland Teachers Donate 800 Books to their Students

The Ashland School District in northern Wisconsin serves approximately 2100 students, over 20% of them Native Americans who reside on the nearby Bad River Reservation. Equal access to books, as well as a lack of diversity in books that they do have access to, can be significant barriers for kids in low-income communities. That's why the Ashland Teachers' Federation (AFT #1275) sprang into action to help their students in the Fall of 2019.



Working with the national AFT and AFT's non-profit partner First Book, union members applied for funding to support purchasing books for students of all grade levels in the Ashland School District. The application succeeded. A committee of union teachers including Kim Thorp, Julie Branham, and Megan Robertson, along with AFT-Wisconsin President Kim Kohlhaas, then led the grant writing and book selection. On April 27 and 28, in conjunction with the District's weekly food distribution, union members distributed more than 800 books! Since then, union members have also built a "little library" for the Bad River community to house their donated books.

