

UTLA BARGAINING



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LAUSD's "games" are hurting the classroom: *We refuse to play.*

Looking at their recent actions regarding layoffs and school giveaways, LAUSD appears to be spending their time playing games rather than focusing on the classroom. While games are great for children, the District's games distract from the important work at hand of student education and delay us in reaching our goal to provide students with the very best education.

Game #1: Threatening furlough days, pay cuts and layoffs

LAUSD created a false ultimatum by threatening massive layoffs if LAUSD employee unions do not take so-called "furlough days" and pay cuts. In fact, LAUSD should have acknowledged that there are other options to cut, such as closing the eight mini-district bureaucracies and canceling unneeded contracts for materials and programs. UTLA is demanding budget transparency, so we can see how money is spent. Threats of layoffs and class-size increases should not be put in competition with threats of pay cuts and furlough days as long as other District cuts are possible and new funding alternatives exist.

Game #2: Giving away schools

By offering to give away schools to charter schools and other outside management companies, the LAUSD school board has demonstrated a lack of commitment toward the future of District-run schools. While we acknowledge there is much work to be done, we want public schools with doors open to all neighborhood children, including English learners, special education students, and children who need extra help.

Game #3: Balancing the budget on the backs of students and district employees

LAUSD is threatening to lay off 8,000 employees, with notices going to 14,000, unless every employee agrees to 4 "furlough days" this year and a 12% pay cut next year. Both options presented by the Superintendent would hurt kids. Neither choice is acceptable. The children of Los Angeles have a right to a quality, well-funded education. UTLA is demanding budget transparency to ensure that the District makes cuts away from the classroom. The District should not try to resolve the budget crisis by further devastating our schools.

Game #4: Causing chaos at school sites

Students, parents and teachers deserve better than the turmoil that they have felt this school year. LAUSD's actions such as layoffs, class size increases and school giveaways do not support school sites or the educational process and now they are threatening mid-year renorming. We are all now paying the price for LAUSD's excessive spending in past years. Students and teachers deserve to focus solely on education, free from the stress and uncertainty that has now invaded their classroom lives.