

# June 6 Action - One Hour's Pay for the Kids of L.A.

## Questions & Answers

On June 6, UTLA is asking all members to stay outside the school during the first hour and picket to protest the Governor's proposed budget cuts. Here are answers to some commonly asked questions about this one-hour action. More details will be posted online at [www.utla.net](http://www.utla.net) and available at the May 21 Area meetings.

### **Q: What is the June 6 Action?**

On June 6, teachers will stay outside of school for the first hour of your school day to protest budget cuts.

### **Q: Why is it critical to act now?**

We must act before the budget is finalized. Now is the time to make a strong statement. If we wait until after the cuts go through, it will be virtually impossible to reverse them.

### **Q: I am a probationary / substitute teacher. Should I participate in the 1-hour action?**

Yes. All UTLA members, of every work category, including those of non-permanent status, are being asked to participate. If proposed budget cuts are enacted, probationary and substitute teachers will be seriously affected. It is critically important that you participate in this protest. Our greatest protection comes from every one of us participating in the boycotts. "An injury to one is an injury to all".

### **Q: If I participate in the boycotts, will my pay be docked? Can the administrator write me up?**

This action does carry the risk of being written up or having your pay docked. The more UTLA members that participate in the action, the lower the likelihood of action being taken against UTLA members. If thousands of UTLA members take this action, administrators will be hard-pressed to discipline everyone.

### **Q: Will this one-hour action affect my retirement?**

The effect on your retirement will be minimal. For example, an employee who retires at the age of 60, with 28 years of service, with a top salary of \$76,000, would lose \$1.27 per year (or \$.10 per month.) You will NOT lose a year of service credit if you participate in this action. Employees with a reduced workload who participate in the action may not qualify for reduced workload leave. This is NOT considered a break in service and will not affect your retirement or your health benefits in retirement.

### **Q: As an instructional coach / counselor / librarian or other health & human services professional, should I participate in the 1-hour action?**

Absolutely. You're a member of UTLA, and we need every member to join the effort to send a strong message to the governor and legislature that the proposed budget cuts are unacceptable.

### **Q: Why are we asking teachers to participate in this action?**

The budget cuts, if implemented, will be devastating to our students and to our communities. As the largest teachers' union local in the state and the second largest in the country, UTLA must take dramatic action, along with our allies, to make sure the governor and legislature get the message that the proposed cuts are unacceptable.

**Q: Who should we invite to participate in the June 6 action?**

Invite everyone in your community to participate including parents, neighbors, and community leaders.

**Q: What should we do on Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>?**

Stay outside of school for the first hour of your school day. We will then spend the first hour of school picketing, along with parents, in front of the school.

**Q: How should we prepare for the June 6 event?**

All UTLA Members: Tell parents about the June 6 protest. Hand out flyers the week of May 27 to inform parents about the action. Ask them to join us on the picket line.

Chapter Chairs: Work with administrators to come up with a one-hour safety plan for June 6 to ensure the safety of students. UTLA is also reaching out to AALA, the administrator's union.

**Q: What will students who attend school do for the first hour of school?**

UTLA is asking administrators to hold meetings with students during the first hour of school to discuss the potential impact of the cuts on the school and surrounding community. It is also an opportunity to discuss the importance of speaking up to voice dissatisfaction with the potential impact of the budget cuts.

**Q: Should students participate in the picket lines?**

At all schools we invite parents to walk, along with their children, on the picket line. Parents will be responsible for their children during the action. At **elementary and middle schools**, students without parents on the picket lines are to go into school. At **high schools** we encourage young adults to discuss the protest with their parents, so together they can make an informed decision about their participation. This protest is a unique learning opportunity for young adults to see how responsible citizens engage in peaceful protest.

**Q: What materials will we use for the action?**

Picket signs and bumper stickers were provided at the May 4 citywide chapter chair meeting and also will be distributed at the May 21 Area Meeting. A parent flyer will also be distributed at the May 21 Area meeting. Half page reminder flyers will be given to Chapter Chairs to place in teachers & HHS professionals' boxes.

**Q: My administrator tells me that these kinds of actions will only hurt my students. What's the response to that?**

If the proposed budget cuts are enacted, it will profoundly affect education. UTLA specifically chose a one hour action so as not to unduly impact student learning.

