



**For immediate release**

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## **UTLA Launches P.E. Campaign “For The Health Of It”** *Teacher-driven P.E. campaign pushes District to focus on student health.*

November 26, 2007 – United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) will introduce a physical education campaign, at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup> at Miguel Contreras Learning Complex, to push for critical changes to LAUSD’s current P.E. programs.

The P.E. campaign, whose slogan is “P.E. – just for the health of it”, has three goals:

1. A 55:1 cap for P.E. class size, to put P.E. on a more even footing with academic classes
2. Enforcement of state law (education code) for P.E.: 20 minutes a day for elementary students & 40 minutes a day for secondary students
3. A certificated physical education instructor at each elementary school

The campaign is part of an overall union effort to encourage the school board to adopt a well rounded curriculum which includes physical education, art and music. LAUSD has not enforced state physical education requirements for years. Current school board policy has no teeth calling for “every effort” to be made to maintain a 55:1 ratio, the result of which has been oversized, unsafe and unproductive P.E. classes.

Joshua Pechthalt, UTLA’s AFT Vice President and the UTLA officer spearheading the campaign commented, “Our students and children face a health crisis that is growing worse by the day. UTLA is joining with the physical education instructors and health and fitness advocates to demand changes in the LAUSD that will get our youngsters more active while learning skills that prepare them for a healthy future.”

**What:** UTLA’s Physical Education Campaign Launch  
**When:** Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m.  
**Where:** Miguel Contreras Learning Complex  
Corner of Bixel & 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Los Angeles 90017

Speakers will include union leaders, teachers, community leaders and parents. P.E. teachers will be available for interviews. Please contact Marla Eby, UTLA Director of Communications (213-368-6247) for additional information.

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