



Chapter Talking Points

August 27, 2019

Info for chapter leaders

- **THIS WEEK: First Area meetings of the new school year on August 28**

The first area meeting of a new school year is always important but this year's is even more important since, in addition to everything else, we will be organizing for contract re-openers, healthcare bargaining, and the implementation and enforcement of new contract victories won during the strike. Here are some of the key items that will be discussed:

- Update on contract re-openers, Schools and Communities First initiative, School Board elections, and charter legislation.
- In-depth discussion about contract enforcement, including chapter power building tools such as an electronic report form to track chapter information about class size, staffing, membership, PACE, CATs and LSLCs.
- Important materials for first parent meetings of the year.

All Chapter Chairs must make an effort to attend this area meeting. However, if you are unable to attend, please send a representative to ensure that your school has all the information, tools, and materials necessary for upcoming and ongoing action.

Talking points for chapter meetings

Inclusion of students with disabilities

- LAUSD is years behind much of the nation when it comes to including students with disabilities in the general education setting (inclusion). As well as being an important civil rights issue, research shows that inclusion practices work and benefit all students who participate in such classrooms.

Over the last two years the District has been rolling out a "pilot" inclusion program in 50 schools across the district. An additional 31 sites will have a year of planning before implementation. Many members in the pilot program who support the inclusion model have raised significant concerns about the lack of support, resources and planning time from the District. We believe in student rights and accessibility and as UTLA we are now negotiating with the District over the implementation of this program – a right that we won in our strike.

In the first two negotiation sessions we have demanded:

1. Structurally embedded planning time
2. Structurally embedded collaboration time
3. Class size/caseload caps – including that special education students in the program are counted toward the class size maximum in our contract
4. Systemic stakeholder input in developing school plans
5. No displacements of general education or special education teachers in expanded inclusion programs

We must fight to make sure that as the district moves towards a more just educational program for our students, they also embrace the input and address the concerns of educators who are doing the work of implementation. Our next meeting with the District is Thursday, August 29, 2019.

State of Denial report in the news

- Last week, UTLA and CTA released the [*“State of Denial: California Charter Schools and Special Education Students”*](#) report which shows how charter schools systematically underenroll students with disabilities. This practice not only discriminates against students with disabilities, but also unfairly shifts a larger portion of the higher costs associated with educating these students to public schools.

The extent of the disparity between charter and public schools when it comes to serving students with moderate to severe disabilities has surprised many. Daniel Losen, Director of UCLA’s Center for Civil Rights remedies, wrote “Especially striking were the reportedly larger differences for those students with moderate to severe disabilities,” and he added, “the deep divide between charters and public schools in districts such as Oakland was particularly alarming.”

Sacramento Bee [story on report](#)
Capital & Main [story](#)

UTLA action calendar

August 28: Area meetings

September 4: PACE meeting

September 11: Board of Directors meeting

September 18: House of Representatives meeting