



# Chapter Talking Points

*October 15, 2019*

## Info for chapter leaders

### Working the Area meeting materials

- **SCHOOL BOARD:** Start working the rosters handed out at the October 2 Area meeting to identify members who are registered to vote in board districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 (marked in last column) and encourage them to sign the petition to commit to vote for candidates. This is an essential first step in building GOTV and organizing to win.
- **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT ON BERNIE SANDERS:** We want unprecedented member engagement in the consideration of endorsing Senator Bernie Sanders in the Democratic presidential primary. Use the materials handed out at the Area meeting to engage your members in a discussion (Bernie Sanders education plan, chapter leader FAQ, candidate comparison, Why a Bernie Endorsement Matters). At the November 13 Area meetings, there will be a vote on whether or not UTLA should endorse Sanders in the primary. This is an advisory vote to give guidance to the UTLA House of Reps, which makes the final decision under our constitution and bylaws.
- **CHAPTER POWER CHECKLIST:** A new link has been sent to chapter leaders. Please complete no later than October 27.

### Chapter Leader Training on November 2

- The first of four full-day trainings for chapter leaders is scheduled for Saturday, November 2. Module 1 will focus on how to enforce key provisions of the contract and will cover basic issues such as representing members during disciplinary conferences and the Matrix process. RSVP, with the location you will be attending, to Evy Vaughn at [evaughn@utla.net](mailto:evaughn@utla.net).

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## Talking points for chapter meetings

### Update on district's compliance with new class-size caps

- The district has taken the challenge of sticking to our class size agreements seriously, and the overwhelming majority of all classes and schools are in compliance. Still, there are some schools where compliance has been an issue, and members have felt pressure to support a waiver to exceed the limits we won. In each case where we have pushed back and challenged the district to do more, even when they at first have said they couldn't do more, they have found ways to bring more classes in compliance. This is a good thing. Auxiliaries have been funded, additional teachers have been hired, and schedules have been adjusted, though it has not always been easy or smooth. All of this is new territory this year, brought about by not only winning the caps but by getting rid of Section 1.5.

- Overall, we have not signed any waivers to the class size agreement, and have engaged with the handful of schools that have struggled the most with compliance. We will continue to do so. The UTLA-LAUSD Class Size Taskforce has met, is monitoring the overall situation, and will be digging in to the complexities of reducing class size further.
- If your school is still struggling with class size issues, please contact your Area Rep for assistance with the next steps in contract enforcement.

## Learning Walks

- Members have been informing us of the return of excessive classroom visitations and observations. UTLA's longstanding stance has been that these types of visits should not happen. There are precedent setting agreements against Learning Walks. The district may be calling these visits by another name, but our position is the same. If your school is implementing such visits, reach out to your UTLA Staff Representative and inform them that this is happening at your school. Hold a chapter meeting and then meet with your administrator demanding the visits to stop.
- For out of classroom UTLA members being asked to participate in these visits It is important to know that Article X 2.0 of our Collective Bargaining Agreement states the following:

The employee's immediate administrator shall be responsible for evaluating the employee and assisting the employee in improving performance when necessary. The administrator may delegate these functions, but shall retain ultimate responsibility. Any bargaining unit employee, including but not limited to a department chairperson, who objects to being required to evaluate another employee, shall not be required to do so, but may be required to participate in classroom visitations, guidance and assistance. As to evaluation of site-based support service personnel excluding library media teachers, there shall be consultation between the site administrator and the employee's technical supervisor, if any, prior to either one issuing the annual evaluation.

## Resources for racial and social diversity conversations

- If you feel there are any racial or social diversity concerns at your site and need guidance or assistance, please contact Jennifer Villaryo at [jvillaryo@utla.net](mailto:jvillaryo@utla.net), or Georgia Flowers Lee at [georgia.flowers@utla.net](mailto:georgia.flowers@utla.net)

## We stand with Chicago

- The teachers and other school staff in Chicago are still waiting for Mayor Lori Lightfoot to make a commitment to the basic needs Chicago's students require to thrive. CPS (Chicago Public Schools) has the money and Mayor Lightfoot has made promises to the schools that have never materialized. They are collecting over a billion dollars per year in new money to lower class sizes and improve staffing levels but, even though the current CPS budget of \$7.7 billion is the largest in its history, they are sending less money into the classrooms this year than last year. UTLA stands in solidarity with the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) and SEIU Local 73 as they get closer to their October 17 strike date.

- Use [this toolkit](#) to show your support for our Chicago sisters and brothers on social media. Read more details and background about the Chicago Teachers Union struggle in this [AFT briefing](#).
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## **UTLA action calendar**

**October 16:** Special Education bargaining with LAUSD

**November 2:** Chapter leader training

**November 13:** Area Meetings