

Chapter Talking Points

April 19, 2021

Info for chapter leaders

COVID-19 Compliance

It is up to us to ensure that the safety measures we won for our members and students are implemented and enforced. The three main elements of our enforcement program are 1) the Covid-19 Compliance Task Force, 2) Walk throughs before campuses re-open to confirm that the safety elements are in place, 3) Reporting and attempting to resolve safety deficiencies.

1. **The Covid 19 Compliance Task Force:** To address issues related to COVID 19 safety at the school site as they arise.

- Chapter Chairs, if you have not done so already, please confirm that you will be on the Task Force at your site, or identify your designee at this link https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_VqQtc_OSTIbm28yb8N_02RWgQ9ZLI5fULZ16Y9LMtwlyXQ/viewform

Here is a sample agenda for the first task force meeting https://www.utla.net/sites/default/files/sample_agenda_for_first_covid_task_force_meeting1.pdf

2. **Walk Throughs to Confirm Safety Protocols:**

- One week before, as part of initial Covid 19 Compliance Task Force meeting
- Walk through the entire campus, each room and building.
- Use the checklist to confirm each safety element is in place https://www.utla.net/sites/default/files/chapter_enforcement_checklist4-21.pdf
- Request that the Principal fixes any deficiencies and submit the UTLA Chapter Chair Safety Violation Report Form to the principal to document the request

- Do a confirmation walk through on your first day back (the day before students arrive) to make sure all deficiencies have been corrected

3. UTLA Chapter Chair Safety Violation Report Form

4. https://www.utla.net/sites/default/files/utla_safety_violation_report_form.pdf (UPDATED)

- Use this form to document and report safety deficiencies to your principal and, if it is not resolved, to your UTLA Area Rep.

1. Mark the category of the deficiency
2. Provide a more detailed description of the deficiency.
3. Request a remedy
4. Document when you provided the notice to the principal (when you submitted this form). Fill out the form, and submit it to the principal via email
5. if the principal does not resolve the issue in a timely manner, call the district hotline and document on the form the date and time that you did that
6. If the issue is still not resolved in a reasonable period of time, call your UTLA Area Rep and provide them with the violation report form

If the issue is not resolved your UTLA Area Rep will contact the district but also work with you to develop a plan to take action with your coworkers. That might involve protest, picketing, and parent outreach. We will want to discuss strategy together before taking action.

- **Forms:**

Chapter Safety Checklist

https://www.utla.net/sites/default/files/chapter_enforcement_checklist4-21.pdf

Special Services Safety Checklist for Special Ed, RST, HHS, DIS, Arts and PE Itinerants (pending ratification by affected UTLA members)

https://www.utla.net/sites/default/files/special_categories_safety_checklist_2021.pdf

Confirm Covid-19 Task Force Representative

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_VqQtc_OSTIbm28yb8N_02RWg_Q9ZLI5fULZ16Y9LMtwlyXQ/viewform

Sample First Covid-19 Compliance Task Force Agenda

https://www.utla.net/sites/default/files/sample_agenda_for_first_covid_task_force_meeting1.pdf

UTLA Chapter Chair Safety Violation Report Form

https://www.utla.net/sites/default/files/utla_safety_violation_report_form.pdf (UPD ATED)

Rebuild your Chapter Action Teams Now

- As we commit to enforce the agreement on a safe return and hybrid instruction, it is essential that we build our capacity for collective action at every structural level of the union, including having a Chapter Action Team (CAT) at every school and well-functioning clusters in every area.
- We have to be ready to fight in the near future for more funding from the state and federal governments, more staffing and special education support in future bargaining, and a healthcare agreement beyond 2021. CATs are an essential component of this fight. Your team facilitates communication between all members in the group and will help you respond quickly when necessary to take action. If you haven't finished putting your team together, this is the time to do it.

Talking points for chapter meetings

Safe physical return: Updates & issues

- Last week, the first 72 LAUSD schools reopened to in-person learning. Safety is priority number one, and for safety's sake, every employee in LAUSD may end up doing something they haven't done before and filling in gaps.

The best solution to issues with the safety protocols often happens collaboratively with your administrator. If that doesn't work, there are ways to take the issue to the next level and to hold the district accountable to the safety standards.

- **Beyond the Bell space needs:** One of the biggest issues impacting campuses is the need for space for Beyond the Bell childcare. Teachers may be asked to work in another classroom with a colleague for their virtual cohort or, if no viable space is available, to teach from home in the afternoon if that is an option. Flexibility will be required for the next eight weeks. Childcare is a key component to making hybrid learning work for families and for schools to be able to follow the safety protocols that we fought for and won.
- **Three elements of our safety enforcement plan:**
 1. **Every school must have a COVID Task Force that meets weekly.** The UTLA chapter chair or designee serves on that task force. The task force meets once a week to review and resolve any safety issues.
 2. **Chapter leaders are encouraged to do a campus walk-through one week before a physical return** and another walk-through the day before students return to make sure any issues and deficiencies have been corrected.
 3. **Issues should be reported quickly.** Most issues will likely be resolved at the school site level but there is a process for higher level action if needed.

UTLA member survey on extended work year, April 21-23

- Los Angeles Unified is considering extending the 2021-2022 work year for UTLA members by ten days at full pay. The district's initial idea is to split the time between planning and professional development for teachers and school staff, and time for students to process the trauma and anxiety they've experienced the past year and to work on learning fundamentals.

A change to the work year has to be bargained, and we'll be meeting with the district this week for this purpose. Members would vote on an agreement if one is reached with LAUSD.

There are families and educators on every side of this issue. LAUSD has said that its survey shows that a majority of families expressed an interest in extending the school year.

UTLA will be surveying educators April 21-23, on a possible extension of the school year. The survey will allow members to rank these possible options:

- 10-day extension of the 2021-2022 work year
- 5-day extension of the 2021-2022 work year
- 3-day extension of the 2021-2022 work year

- No extension of the 2021-2022 work year

Look for the email later this week and be sure to have your voice heard before the survey closes on Friday, April 23, at 5 pm. Only people with a non-LAUSD email on file as of today will be able to take the survey.

Tentative Agreement reached on Adult Education

- UTLA and LAUSD have reached a tentative agreement for Adult Education and CTE to safely return to campus in a hybrid model. This agreement is consistent with agreements made for other groups, in that it prioritizes safety and does not require simultaneous (in-person and online) instruction.
- Although Adult Ed and CTE teachers will physically report to campus starting Monday, April 26, their classes will continue via Zoom. Like other unit members, Adult Ed and CTE teachers are entitled to the 15 hours of optional room set-up time, paid at the teachers' hourly rate. Teachers with split shifts do NOT have to teach their evening classes from school, so long as none of the evening students come to campus. This will prevent those members from doing a double commute. For CTE, hybrid classes taught under Attachment A of our Distance Learning Sideletter will continue, but the District has the right to expand the classes listed in Attachment A in consultation with UTLA.

Testing win: SBAC cancelled for most LAUSD students

- Last week, LAUSD announced that it is cancelling the SBAC, or Smarter Balanced Assessment, for this school year for most students. Only 11th graders will take the SBAC for college admission purposes. Elementary grades will use Edulastic and DIBELS and secondary grades will use Renaissance for Math and ELA instead of the SBAC.
- The cancellation of the SBAC is good news for our students because a healthy and healing return does not involve students taking stressful, high-stakes tests that are of little use in this unique year of education. Standardized tests are harmful and wasteful in the best of circumstances, so it was essential that the physical reopening of schools not be compromised by asking students to take the

SBAC.

- UTLA members and parents helped make this happen with our Assessment Pushback Campaign that included coordinated emails, texts, and phone calls and which resulted in the Testing Taskforce being reconvened. The Testing Taskforce met with the district to push for this decision and will continue meeting with the district to push for reductions in testing overall.

Chapter Chair elections

- Nominations are now open for UTLA Chapter Chairs for the 2021-22 school year. UTLA Chapter Chairs have a critical role in organizing each school site, especially during a pandemic. For UTLA members interested in the position of UTLA Chapter Chair, here is the correct [self-nomination form](#) to submit before April 30. From May 3 to 7, an email will go out to uncontested Chapter Chair candidates to notify them that they are uncontested and they are the new upcoming Chapter Chair. The uncontested Chapter Chair must submit the fillable [Notice of Chapter Chair Elections \(NOCCE\) form](#) to be official. For contested elections, an email with instructions will be sent to the Election Committee at the school site to conduct a Survey Monkey poll.
- Nominations are also open for UTLA Special Category Chapter Chairs. UTLA members who are interested should complete the fillable [Special Category form](#) before April 30.

UTLA calendar

April 21: PACE/Elementary meetings

April 28: Board of Directors meeting

May 5: House of Representative meeting