



Chapter Talking Points

April 21, 2020

Info for chapter leaders

Enforcing Our New Victories

- Here is [a guide for chapter leaders](#) and members to understand and enforce our new victories. Study the Agreement with your action team and your entire staff. We all need to be vigilant and participate in enforcing the new rules.

Sample meeting agenda

- Weekly chapter meetings are essential now. Enlist someone from your group who is good with technology to help set up and facilitate the meetings. Here is a [sample agenda and Best Practices for Virtual Chapter Meetings](#) that you can use as a guideline.

UTLA Chapter Chair Matrix Checklist for 2020

- LAUSD is obligated to follow the same process for the matrix and class selection, according to Article XI-A, Section 6.1 of the UTLA Contract, but it will have to be done virtually. Here is a [Matrix Checklist](#) to ensure that all the required procedures have been followed.

Virtual Area meetings on Wednesday, April 29

- There will be an Area Meeting next Wednesday, April 29. We need to stay connected at every step of the way during this period to discuss and resolve issues related to contract enforcement, current bargaining, and other questions that come up. Please be sure to participate in all Area meetings or have one of your team members participate.

Talking points for chapter meetings

Chapter Chair elections: Self-nomination forms due May 8



UTLA Secretary Arlene Inouye talks about the new chapter chair election process

- Chapter Chairs are the foundation of our union and a critical link to all members. It is always important to have strong Chapter Chairs throughout the district, but it is essential now under these extraordinary circumstances. Due to the school closures a virtual process for the election of school site chapter leaders has been developed. At this time, nominations are for the chapter chair position only. We will have nominations and elections for co-chairs and vice-chairs later. This process is based on the following UTLA principles:
 - Every member is provided the information for the nomination process.
 - Every member who is eligible has the right to run for chapter chair.

- When there is more than one candidate, elections must be democratic and overseen by a neutral third party (election chair).

- If you are interested in being the chapter chair of your school, please submit the [self-nomination form](#) by 5 pm on May 8. You will be notified no later than May 15 if you are the only candidate from your school and therefore elected, or if there needs to be an election for the position. For any questions, please contact Arlene Inouye, ainouye@utla.net.

Deadline extension and new stipends for PD

- LAUSD has agreed to extend the deadline to finish the @Home Continuity of Learning PD sessions to April 30. We have been pushing for the extension in light of tech issues and just general work overload. To LAUSD's credit, they realize how difficult it has been and are offering a \$500 stipend for completing the PD.
- They are also offering \$1,000 for completing an additional optional 30 hours. Consistent with our side letter, this additional PD is voluntary. See the [LAUSD memo](#) for more info. Deadline to apply for the optional PD is April 22.

"No fail" grading policy

- LAUSD issued [guidance last week](#) and [an FAQ](#) on the "no fail" policy. Since this policy is not in our side letter, the district is in charge of when and how they roll it out.
- We discussed the benefits of "no fail" during bargaining and agree that the policy is justified in these unprecedented times. We know there is a huge digital divide among our students — 85% of whom come from low-income families — with many not having reliable access to the internet, devices, or a place to study at home. Others may be taking on new work or care-taking roles as families struggle through the economic crisis instigated by the pandemic, and all students are going without that human connection that is so fundamental to learning.
- As far as the additional steps LAUSD has outlined before giving a D grade, including working with the student, your school counselor, and administrator, that work is included in your 240-minute work day. We negotiated guardrails around your work day to help ensure that educators have the time to work on issues like this.

Guidelines for IEPs

- Our special education community has been incredibly vocal and passionate in pressing for answers on how to serve their students. We now have clarity on some issues with IEPs. Special education administrators and designees are being trained in conducting virtual IEPs. Once that training is complete and meetings are scheduled, IEPs with completed assessments or no assessments required will proceed virtually. If this weren't to happen, we would have a cumbersome backlog down the road and student services would suffer.
- IEPs with unfinished assessments will not occur. The district will provide a statement for section 2 of FAPE 2 that indicates the offer of FAPE will continue when schools reopen.
- As these IEPs are being scheduled, use our side letter to make sure your 240-minute workday is honored. IEP meetings are part of that 240 minutes.

UPDATED FAQs

We are updating our FAQ pages regularly. Check often for new info.

- [Members-FAQ](#)
- [Substitutes-FAQ](#)
- [Parents-FAQ](#)
- [Parents \(Spanish\)-FAQ](#)

UTLA action calendar

Wednesday, April 29: Area meetings