

# Chapter Talking Points

*February 1, 2021*

## Info for chapter leaders

### Hold parent meetings to end over-assessments

- Chapters have been holding member and parent meetings and contacting LAUSD Chief Academic Officer Alison Towery during the meetings to eliminate the second and third installments of the Edulastic and Renaissance assessments — two tests that are not required by the state or federal government.
- **If you have not held a parent meeting, there is still time, but these meetings have to happen ASAP** if we want to have a real shot at winning. The second installment of the Edulastic and Renaissance is in February.
- Reach out to your cluster leaders or UTLA board members if you need support holding these meetings. Chapter leaders, be sure to complete the google form to report back data from parent meetings.:

[Direct dial link](#)

[Google form](#)

### Rebuild your Chapter Action Teams

- While we are bargaining over plans for targeted in-person work, 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 against any attempts by the district, county, or state to require additional in-person services before it's safe, and 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. In other words, we need to build our capacity to play defense and offense with collective action in a fluid and unpredictable environment.

- 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**

### **Bargaining update**

- **Last week, LAUSD presented a new proposal to extend the 2021-2022 school year by 10 days, at full pay.** Our Bargaining Team and Board of Directors will be discussing the proposal, and any such extension would be voted on by UTLA members.
- The district has proposed a plan that would require in-person service for a very broad number of services. We rejected their proposal, arguing that the breadth of services is too broad and that their plan doesn't include enough details about how it would be implemented in a safe, fair, and equitable manner for members and students. Our counterproposal to the district that would require some Special Education teachers to conduct in-person IEP assessments, require some EL designees to provide the ELPAC in person for English Learners, and require some related service providers to provide in-person services that can be conducted safely and not virtually. However, we also proposed that these in-person services not be provided until the practitioners have been fully vaccinated.
- Additionally, the district has proposed that our school nurses, who are already working in person at COVID testing sites, provide vaccinations for employees if and when the district acquires vaccine doses for employees. We are bargaining over this proposal, with a focus on safety issues and workload issues.
- We recognize the need for some in-person services to happen at school sites and are bargaining in good faith to make those services available to our neediest students, while also ensuring that to protect health and safety, only those services that are absolutely necessary take place at physical school sites.

### **[LAUSD Proposal on Work Year Expansion](#)**

## **Tell LAUSD to End Over-Assessments in a Pandemic**

- We are pushing back on non-mandated assessments which are negatively impacting our students and are absolutely unnecessary and ineffective during a global pandemic. Ask your chapter chair about the campaign to stop non-mandated assessments and about holding a parent meeting to engage our parents in this important pushback.
- Contact Alison Towery, LAUSD Chief Academic Officer and ask her to eliminate the 2nd and 3rd installments of the non-mandated edulastic and renaissance assessments. She can reduce the number of these non-mandated tests. Her telephone number is 213-241-4822 or email [Alison.Towery@lausd.net](mailto:Alison.Towery@lausd.net).

**The following link takes you to an automatic dialer and sample scripts and talking points.** Make the call today to end overassessments!

[Call LAUSD to end over-assessments](#)

## **Fulfilling the promise of special education**

We are engaging with special education parents and educators across the country to build a national campaign for carved-out funding for Special Education and 504 Plans in the upcoming COVID Relief Package as well as for fully funding IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act) for the long-term. Facts behind the need for this coordinated effort:

- The federal government has never come close to reaching the promise of paying for 40% of the expenses for special education.
- Funding is a bipartisan disaster, with IDEA being persistently underfunded by both Democratic and Republican administrations. Funding was at its lowest in 1996, at 7% under President Bill Clinton, and only reached its height of 33% in 2009 as part of a one-time emergency response to the 2008 financial collapse.
- LAUSD spends about \$1 billion from its nearly \$8 billion general fund for special education. If the federal government provided the full 40% commitment, the district would have received \$180 million additional dollars annually.
- We can expect an increase of 504 plans when we return physically to campuses due to an increase in pandemic-related psychological issues such as trauma, PTSD, anxiety, and depression. We will be unable to meet student needs without more training and funding aimed at helping them with these pandemic-related

trauma issues.

*Are you interested in organizing at your site to fully fund Special Education? Have stories as an educator or parent about the need to fully fund Special Education? Want to participate in virtual lobby visits to ask Sacramento and D.C. to fully fund Special Education? Click below.*

[Join the Special Education Campaign](#)

## February 3: Black Lives Matter in School panel

- On February 3 join Black Lives Matter at School activists and educators for a conversation about the new uprising for educational justice in California.
- Education activists Nathaniel Genene, Jesse Hagopian, Taunya Jaco, Denisha Jones, and UTLA President Cecily Myart-Cruz will talk about the struggle against systemic racism in schools, how we can win real educational justice and build police-free schools, and other lessons from Black Lives Matter at School organizing in California and beyond.

[\*\*Tickets for Black Lives Matter in School\*\*](#)

## HOR Orientation for New Members February 3

- An HOR member orientation for new members will be held on **Wednesday, February 3, at 5 pm**. All newly elected HOR members for the 2021-22 term are encouraged to attend.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/94527057989?wd=Qm9YNERGaG1rSE1uQUEzajBFVIFhUT09>

**Meeting ID**

945 2705 7989

**Passcode**

448707

## UTLA Racial Justice Conference February 6

- The UTLA Racial Justice Task Force is holding its second annual Racial Justice Conference on **Saturday, February 6, from 9 am to 3 pm**. The theme is **“Transforming and Thriving”** and will include a morning session on Reimagining Scgool Safety and an afternoon address by keynote speaker Dr. Denisha Jones. All sessions will take place on Zoom, and the conference is free to all UTLA members.
- The first 100 participants to register and attend all sessions will receive a copy of the new Denisha Jones and Jesse Hagopian book, "Black Lives Matter at School: An Uprising for Educational Justice"

[Register for Racial Justice Conference  
Conference flyer](#)

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## UTLA calendar

**Feb. 3:** PACE/Elementary/Secondary meetings

**Feb. 3:** HOR New Member Orientation

**Feb. 3:** Black Lives Matter in School panel

**Feb. 6:** Racial Justice Conference

**Feb. 10:** House of Representatives meeting