

# Chapter Talking Points

February 8, 2021

## Info for chapter leaders

### Hold parent meetings to end over-assessments this week

- 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](#)

### Get ready now: 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.

## LSLC training

- If your school doesn't have a Local School Leadership Council and you would like to learn how it works and how to set one up, join us on **Wednesday, February 10 at 4:00 p.m.** If you are interested in applying to become a Community School, we encourage you to start forming a Local School Leadership Council.

- Zoom <https://bit.ly/2YMokdC>  
Meeting ID: 976 0584 4674 Passcode: 212061

To RSVP, please respond to [jam@utla.net](mailto:jam@utla.net) (include full name, employee ID #, school, cell, email address and who will be attending). For questions please call Esperanza Martinez, UTLA Community Schools Coach, 213-440-0977.

[LSLC training flyer](#)

## March 3 Area meetings

- Our next Area meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 3. This is a crucial time as we continue to bargain targeted in-person services and the safe reopening of schools. Please be sure to attend or have someone representing your site.

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## Talking points for chapter meetings

## Bargaining update

- We continue to bargain over an extension of the calendar for next school year (2021-22). LAUSD's latest proposal would add 10 days to provide students with expanded learning opportunities and social-emotional support in recognition of the trauma experienced by students as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and physical school closures.

The proposal is being worked through, with an eye toward parameters to ensure that the time would be used effectively to support our students. The school year extension would be for one year only. UTLA members would be compensated at your regular pay rate, which would amount to roughly a 5% raise for that year, and it would be reportable compensation for CalSTRS, which is impactful for prospective retirees.

- If we reach a tentative agreement to extend the school calendar, it will be voted on by UTLA members.

## 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](#)

## Application for Community Schools available this week

- The Community School application process for Cohort 2 will open Monday February 9, 2021! Applications will be due on Friday April 9, 2021 at 5pm.
- This year, 13 more schools will be added to the Community Schools Initiative. UTLA and LAUSD are working collaboratively on the Community Schools Initiative and will provide many formal opportunities to deepen your understanding of the Community Schools model, give schools an opportunity to ask questions and to prepare your application.
- UTLA and Reclaim Our Schools Los Angeles are prepared to support schools through the application process. If you would like to talk to an organizer or have general questions please reach out to Esperanza Martinez, UTLA Community Schools Coach at [emartinez@utla.net](mailto:emartinez@utla.net)
- A link to access the application, get updates on key events, and to access additional Community Schools resources will be available on Monday, February 8, at [www.utla.net](http://www.utla.net).

[Community Schools flyer](#)

## Black Lives Matter at School

- Black History Month comes after a righteous reckoning on racism and the unjust killing of Black people by the police.
- As educators we acknowledge that Black History Month should not be one month — it should be all the time. Year-round we need to mark the achievements of Black people and celebrate those who are still rising and blazing trails. Year-round we need to commit to action — to dismantling the scaffolds on which white supremacy is built, including in our systems of education, and to keep pushing ourselves as educators toward anti-racist practices in our schools.
- Check out resource links below, including a link to Black Lives Matter at School, which shares curriculum and strategies to uproot institutional racism year-round. Black Lives Matter at School means teaching from an abolitionist framework and teaching our students to critically think about the events in history from a place of trauma, injury, and truth.

[Black Lives Matter at School](#)

[Teaching for Black Lives: UTLA Resources](#)

[AFT Share My Lesson Black History Month Activities](#)

[NEA Black History Month Lessons](#)

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## **UTLA calendar**

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

**Feb. 24:** Board of Directors meeting

**March 3:** Area Meetings

**March 10:** PACE/Elementary/Secondary meetings