

# Chapter Talking Points

January 18, 2021

## Info for chapter leaders

### Getting ready to win

- To prepare for potential struggles ahead on bargaining for a safe physical reopening of schools, and the Special Education and Over-Assessment Pushback campaigns, we are asking chapter chairs to do the following:
  - **Rebuild your Chapter Action Teams (CAT)**. CATs are an essential component of all our work and campaigns moving forward, including bargaining. 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 put together your team, this is the time to do it.
  - **Hold a chapter meeting** If you haven't held a chapter meeting to discuss these issues, please do so as soon as possible. Here are the main points to be covered:
    - **Discuss the extension of the Distance Learning Agreement** and make sure your members understand the modifications from the first semester agreement. Ask members to sign the [Circuit breaker petition](#) calling for a complete shutdown in Los Angeles for a limited period of time to suppress the COVID-19 virus so our schools can eventually reopen.

**Discuss special education as a group.** How does your staff feel about the concept that special education is ultimately general education? Bargaining for a safe reopening and fighting for increased special education, are inextricably linked.

**Go over the campaign against over-assessments.** Organize members to hold parent meetings by January 22, following the guidelines presented in the Teacher Tools for Parent Meetings (attached below). Ask all members to call Alison Towery,

LAUSD Chief Academic Officer at 213-241-4822 or email [Alison.Towery@LAUSD.NET](mailto:Alison.Towery@LAUSD.NET). Report the number of parent meetings held using Google docs (link will be sent in a separate email).

- Attached are power point presentations and other material which can be used in your virtual chapter meetings. They are also attached as pdf in case you want to print them.

#### **LINKS AND DOWNLOADS**

- [Power Point presentation on Bargaining](#) (will download)  
[Power Point presentation on Bargaining](#) (PDF)  
[Second Semester Distance Learning Agreement](#)  
[Circuit breaker petition](#)
- [Power Point presentation on Special Ed](#) (will download)  
[Power Point presentation on Special Ed](#) (PDF)
- [Power Point presentation on Non-mandated assessments](#) (will download)  
[Power Point presentation on Non-mandated assessments](#) (PDF)  
[Teacher Tools for Parent Meetings](#)  
Link to Google docs for parent meeting reporting will be sent separately

## **Area Meetings on January 27**

- Our next scheduled Area Meetings are on January 27. We will discuss the latest developments in bargaining, and progress on the Special Ed and Over Assessment campaigns. Please be sure to join this meeting or have a representative from your site attend.

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## **Talking points for chapter meetings**

### **Healthcare contract extended**

- UTLA, along with our partners in the other LAUSD employee unions, have reached an agreement with LAUSD to extend the current healthcare contract for another year. With healthcare more critical than ever during this pandemic, employees are assured of continued premium-free coverage with no plan changes. This extension will go to December 31, 2021 and we anticipate a

significant struggle with the district when we start bargaining over the next healthcare agreement. This is yet another reason why we need to build our chapter structures, including having a CAT at every school site.

[UTLA-LAUSD Distance Learning Sideletter Extension Agreement](#)  
[UTLA-LAUSD Sideletter for School Nurse In Person Services](#)

## Overtesting push-back

- 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).
- **Sample message to Towery:**

*Non-mandated assessments are unnecessary and ineffective during a global pandemic. Edulastic and Renaissance Assessments were created for the traditional school year and thus do not align with crisis distance learning.*

*These assessments are negatively impacting our students by taking up synchronous instructional time and forcing teaching schedules to be rearranged. I urge you to protect instructional time by cancelling the second and third installments of Edulastic and Renaissance Assessments.*

## UTLA/NEA – Representative Assembly Elections at the January 27 Area meetings

- A reminder to those who will register for a ballot by January 21<sup>st</sup> to vote in the UTLA/NEA RA Local Delegate election via Simply Voting. Voting will take place during the January 27 Area meetings between the hours of 4:00 - 5:30 pm. **Only members who register for a ballot by Thursday, January 21, will be eligible to vote in the election** (and in any runoffs, if necessary). Register for a ballot by

January 21 at [https://www.utla.net/contact/utla\\_nea\\_ra\\_local\\_delegate\\_elect..](https://www.utla.net/contact/utla_nea_ra_local_delegate_elect..)

- If you are not a chapter leader and would like to attend an Area meeting, please **contact your chapter chair after January 25 for the Zoom link. You are not required to attend an Area meeting to vote.**

## HOR Orientation for New Members

- 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

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## UTLA calendar

**Jan. 27:** Area meetings

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

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