

Chapter Talking Points

June 7, 2021

Info for chapter leaders

COVID-19 Compliance

It is important to continue to monitor and enforce the safety measures we won for our members and students. The main elements of our enforcement program are the Covid-19 Compliance Task Force and reporting and attempting to resolve safety deficiencies.

- **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 are on the Task Force at your site, or identify your designee at this link:

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

- **UTLA Chapter Chair Safety Violation Report Form**

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

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

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 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)

Send in the Notice of Chapter Chair Election

- If you were the 2020-2021 Chapter Chair for your school or chapter, intend to continue as the chapter chair for the 2021-2022 school year, and are uncontested, you must submit a [Notice of Chapter Chair Election](#). There is no automatic extension of your assignment as chapter chair - you are required to submit the form via email to Princess Sykes at psykes@utla.net. You were informed by email if you have a contested or uncontested election.

If you are not intending to run, and no one from your chapter self nominated in the nomination window, please share this announcement with others at your site so that a chapter chair can represent your school. It is important that we receive

this form as soon as possible to complete the election process for your chapter and officially record the name of the 2021-2022 Chapter Chair.

[Notice of Chapter Chair Elections](#)

UTLA Virtual Leadership Conference August 4-6

- We will be holding our annual Leadership Conference virtually again this year, from August 4 to 6. Over three days, Chapter leaders will strategize and organize as we fight forward for the healthy, healing, and equitable return that our students and communities deserve. Registration and more info coming soon.

Rebuild your Chapter Action Teams Now

- We need to 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

Bargaining update: Progress on safety

- Progress was made in bargaining with LAUSD last week on the physical reopening of schools for 2021-22. LA Unified plans to fully reopen for next school

year, with an overwhelming majority of staff and students physically attending school five days per week, unless pandemic conditions change for the worse.

With Early Education Centers reopening, itinerants on various schedules, and summer school starting on June 23, it is imperative that we get health and safety measures in place as soon as possible to protect students, families, and educators who are in our school buildings year-round.

The agreement taking shape could include:

- Maintaining most of the concrete, enforceable COVID protocols from our current hybrid agreement that have proven to keep students, staff, and families safe, including protocols for COVID testing, screening, ventilation, cleaning and disinfecting, and a COVID-19 Compliance Task Force at every school. LA Unified has the lowest number of COVID infections among the nation's largest school districts because of the safety protocols we fought for and won, and we will not compromise on health and safety.
- Masking requirements for students, staff, and visitors when the school year begins, with a provision that either party can demand bargaining over a potential change to this requirement after September 1, 2021. Having more children vaccinated may move us closer to eliminating the mask mandate, but as of now masking is a critical way to protect our learning communities and the most vulnerable among us.
- Eliminating the hybrid instructional model. In the recent UTLA member survey, educators rated hybrid schedules as the most challenging aspect of the physical return to school. Fully eliminating the hybrid model will require changes to the current physical distancing protocols, but other layers of protection, including large numbers of vaccinated staff members, remain in place.
- School staff who are high-risk can continue to seek a remote work assignment through formal requests for Reasonable Accommodations. We are also bargaining elements of an online academy for students families who choose to stay with remote learning.
- Signing bonuses for new hires for next school year. When we return to physical campuses next year, our learning communities will need additional staff members to provide students with increased academic and social-emotional support. Hiring that staff will be a challenge for LA Unified in the face of a historic educator shortage in the labor market. This would be one step toward addressing

the serious issue of both attracting educators and retaining them.

Any agreement reached will be voted on by the UTLA membership.

Organizing and bargaining continue for other elements of a healthy, healing, racially just return as reflected in the member priorities in the recent UTLA survey. Those priorities include lowering class size, raising educator pay, investing in Special Education, and hiring additional health and human services staff. In current bargaining, we have withdrawn our salary proposal, but any agreement reached would obligate both parties to immediately begin reopening contract bargaining, which will include salary.

As part of the same struggle, we're working with the Reclaim Our Schools LA coalition and other community partners to build a district budget for next year around a similar set of demands that meets the needs of our students and communities.

LAUSD Childcare Subsidy extended through July

- The LAUSD Childcare Subsidy has been extended through the end of July. While the subsidy is not a comprehensive or permanent solution for all staff facing childcare issues, it has helped some families. Childcare challenges are a continuing conversation in our union. Women across the country face hurdles to employment because of the lack of high-quality, affordable childcare, and we will keep advocating for sustainable solutions, on the local and national level.

Have a restful and safe summer break

- You have done incredible and difficult work this year and have earned this break. Your UTLA leaders will continue working to ensure the necessary health and safety protections are in place for the new school year and that the funding coming to LAUSD is used to build the thriving, educationally and racially just schools our students deserve.

UTLA calendar

June 11: Last Day of Instruction

Aug, 4-6: UTLA Virtual Leadership Conference