

Chapter Talking Points

March 1, 2021

Info for chapter leaders

March 3 Area meetings

- Our next Area meetings will be held this Wednesday, March 3. This is a crucial time as we continue to bargain hybrid instructional models, an extended school calendar and the safe return to our schools. Please be sure to attend or have someone representing your site. Here are the Zoom links for each Area. Links will also be emailed by Area this Monday.
- **NORTH - Wednesday, March 3 at 4:00 PM**
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYtfuqhbjotGdFJFGjOZcwiEDQlxSzlqA01](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJYtfuqhbjotGdFJFGjOZcwiEDQlxSzlqA01)
- **SOUTH - Wednesday, March 3 at 4:00 PM**
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEocu-qrDlRHNZelzNFRuXU3P2ogeVUUeG1](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJEocu-qrDlRHNZelzNFRuXU3P2ogeVUUeG1)
- **EAST - Wednesday, March 3 at 4:00 PM**
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcocO6qrj0tH9SGqncCc-eB2pyFQI4LzRXM](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJcocO6qrj0tH9SGqncCc-eB2pyFQI4LzRXM)
- **WEST - Wednesday, March 3 at 4:00 PM**
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUrdiuoqTssGdAZ-oZ5HNhaucmyMqEmuoqR](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJUrdiuoqTssGdAZ-oZ5HNhaucmyMqEmuoqR)
- **HARBOR - Wednesday, March 3 at 4:00 PM**
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0oce-uzgliHtycmF5HdTVv0dk0F5XAxRCx](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJ0oce-uzgliHtycmF5HdTVv0dk0F5XAxRCx)
- **VALLEY EAST - Wednesday, March 3 at 4:00 PM**
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUpcemprisuGNOKS0h16G_GP7pvMGflyvkU](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJUpcemprisuGNOKS0h16G_GP7pvMGflyvkU)
- **VALLEY WEST - Wednesday, March 3 at 4:00 PM**
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMld-GrqD4rEt001PKgkFYPxAiZg2-LKOgc](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJMld-GrqD4rEt001PKgkFYPxAiZg2-LKOgc)
- **CENTRAL - Wednesday, March 3 at 4:00 PM**
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclfuyprj8uE9BdFXadVh4A0RGOFgORUd2Y](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJclfuyprj8uE9BdFXadVh4A0RGOFgORUd2Y)

EEC - Thursday, March 4 at 6:00 PM

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJltce6vrzMqHNcX2-X1BL2DRjkbJ4ZTjkJF](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJltce6vrzMqHNcX2-X1BL2DRjkbJ4ZTjkJF)

Vote on an Unsafe Return to School Sites

- Encourage members to participate in the vote. Most members would have received their voting email from Integrity Voting Systems. Voting will be from 8:00 am this Monday to 5:00 pm Friday, March 5. If a member has not received an email from Integrity by 10:00 am Monday, refer them to [these instructions](#).
- Rosters
Chapter Rosters are updated regularly and sent to your chapter email. New rosters will be sent this Wednesday. Please use these rosters to make sure you talk to every member in your chapter about voting yes to refuse any return that does not meet our 3 safety demands and to follow up with them to encourage them to vote. If you have not received your special chapter email and password or are having any issues logging in, please visit <https://www.utla.net/resources/tech-help-request-form> and fill out the form.

Rebuild your Chapter Action Teams Now

- While we are bargaining over hybrid instructional models, the extension of the school calendar, and what constitutes the conditions for a safe return to our schools, 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 force a return to schools 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. 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

March 1-5: Member vote on unsafe return

- We are voting this week on an unsafe physical return to school sites. **The UTLA Board of Directors and chapter leaders have voted to organize against a premature and unsound return and are encouraging a Yes vote to refuse a return to school sites until three safety conditions are met:**
 1. LA County is below the purple tier in terms of COVID-19 infections.
 2. Vaccines are made available to educators.
 3. Safety protocols are in place including PPE, social distancing, ventilation, and a cleaning regimen.

A YES vote means you agree with the UTLA leadership and will join your union brothers, sisters, and siblings in organizing to resist a forced return to school sites until the three conditions for safety have been met. **UTLA members will be voting on this issue from Monday, March 1 at 8 am to Friday, March 5 at 5 pm.**

[Read here](#) the facts, the science-based information, and the powerful and compelling reasons why we are advocating a YES vote at this time. Be sure to vote, and to reach out to your colleagues and encourage them to vote. Everyone's voice needs to be heard.

The vote is being handled by an outside company, Integrity Voting. UTLA members who were members as of February 19 and who have a non-LAUSD email on file at UTLA will receive an email from Integrity with a PIN and instructions for voting.

UTLA independent, non-LAUSD charter school members who do not receive an email from Integrity Voting and need your UTLA ID/Member number to retrieve your PIN to vote, please contact UTLA at 213-487-5560 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and ask for the Membership Department. Remember, to check your "SPAM" and "junk" folder before contacting the UTLA Membership Department.

More info, including what to do if you have not received the email by Monday, is posted [here](#).

Bargaining update

- Last week, we presented a detailed proposal to LAUSD for the necessary health and safety conditions to physically return to schools for hybrid instruction.

The proposal includes protocols and parameters for vaccination of school staff, COVID testing, health screening, physical distancing, PPE, daily cleaning and disinfecting, ventilation, and other issues, in alignment with our three key safety demands:

1. LA County must be out of the purple tier.
2. Staff required to return to in-person work must be either fully vaccinated or provided access to full vaccination.
3. Safety conditions must be in place in our schools, such as PPE, social distancing, ventilation, and a cleaning regimen.

As covered in an email earlier this week, the district is lifting the Safer at Home provisions. As of March 4, voluntary services that were happening before the winter surge can now restart. Our previous Sideletters on Voluntary Services will be in effect once again.

We encourage those who wish to deliver these voluntary services — which especially impact Special Education and English Language Learners — to read the sideletters so you understand your rights and what to expect around conditions for service, process and procedures, and materials that should be available.

UTLA members also may return to school sites to teach from classrooms or work from offices, under the terms that were in place prior to the winter shutdown. This also is completely voluntary.

Note: This is NOT a hybrid or full return to school sites, and no UTLA member is required to return. LAUSD officials have told the media that schools might be able to reopen on April 9 if safety conditions are met, including vaccines for staff. There are no current plans to arbitrarily reopen schools on April 9. The April 9 date has not been presented in bargaining between UTLA and LAUSD,

and we will reject any fixed date that ignores the elements of a safe return.

[UTLA Proposal on Necessary Health & Safety Conditions 2-25-21](#)

Vaccinations now available for EEC and Elementary school staff

- Last Friday, the district sent letters to all EEC and elementary school staff inviting recipients to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment. This invitation is not transferable. If you received an invitation, read the letter and attached information carefully. Vaccinations are available at four sites:

SoFi Stadium

1000 S. Praire Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90305

Edward R. Roybal Learning Center Gym

1200 Colton Street
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Diego Rivera Learning Complex

6100 S. Central Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90001

Panorama High School

8015 S. Van Nuys Blvd.
Panorama City, CA 91402

District sites will be open 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, Monday-Friday and the Hollywood Park site will also be open Saturdays. Transportation to Hollywood Park will be available weekdays from each of Los Angeles Unified's 44 Community of School offices.

The district will prioritize vaccinations for those already working at school sites and people who work with our youngest learners and students with learning disabilities. All Los Angeles Unified employees will be allowed to get vaccinated during the workday, whether through Los Angeles Unified's program or an outside provider, including time for travel to and from a vaccination site.

Supervisors should be notified in advance and substitute teachers will be available, as needed.

If you have received your vaccination elsewhere, please notify the district by calling the COVID testing and vaccination helpdesk or [submit](#) the attached form. If you get your 1st. dose of vaccine elsewhere, you must plan to get your second dose there as well.

If you have additional questions, please visit <https://achieve.lausd.net/covidvaccine> or call the Los Angeles Unified COVID testing and vaccination helpdesk at (213) 241-2700 which is open 6 am to 6 pm Monday-Saturday.

Media campaign launched to support safe return

- To support our fight for a safe return, last week we launched a new paid media campaign, with ads on the LA Times, La Opinión, and other news sites in English and Spanish.

Our ads read “We Demand a Safe Return” and “United for a Safe Return” and they link to our revamped public-facing website, We Are Public Schools. Billboards with the faces of families and educators are going up in strategic locations, including downtown near the LA County Board of Supervisors.

Women’s History Month and the Powerful Women of UTLA

- Each of us has a story and a journey. With Women's History Month coming up, we plan to highlight the powerful women in UTLA and provide inspirHERation to our students, families and communities. The UTLA/NEA Equity Team is inviting you to record and submit a short video (30 seconds max) using the prompts below:

i. I AM _____ (name)

ii. I AM _____ (role)

iii. I AM A WOMAN

iv. I AM UTLA

v. Quick responses:

1. *What brought you to education?*
2. *What does being a woman mean to you?*
3. *What do you hope for the future?*

- Please send submissions to utla.equityteam@gmail.com by Thursday, March 4.

UTLA East and North Areas announce their 49th Annual Ruben Salazar Scholarship

- All graduating seniors enrolled in any LAUSD High School, Continuation School, or High School Completion Program are eligible. Ruben Salazar, a journalist for the Los Angeles Times, was killed in 1970 while covering the National Chicano Moratorium Against the War in Vietnam and the ensuing riot throughout the streets of East Los Angeles.

The Ruben Salazar Scholarship Committee invites graduating seniors to apply and submit a noteworthy piece. The Scholarship application and information may be downloaded at www.utla.net/scholarships. Application form and essay or a poem **must be received by 5:00 PM — Friday, April 16, 2021** via email to ebarrientos@utla.net. Winners will be notified by April 27, 2021. Scholarship presentation will be at the 49th Annual Virtual Awards Program on May 6, 2021.

[Application](#)

[Scholarship flyer](#)

- **UTLA calendar**

March 1 - 5: All-member vote on a safe return

March 3: Area Meetings

March 10: PACE/Elementary/Secondary meetings

March 17: House of Reps meeting

March 24: Board of Directors meeting