

Chapter Talking Points

May 10, 2021

Info for chapter leaders

May 19: Last Area meetings of the 2020-2021 school year

- The last scheduled Area meetings of this school year will be on Wednesday, May 19. We need to review and learn from the challenges we encountered during the reopening and how we worked to overcome them. We will also review bargaining, summer school, and what is in the horizon for the 2021-2022 school year. Please plan to attend or send a representative from your site.

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 will be on the Task Force at your site, or identify your designee at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_VqQtc_OSTIbm28yb8N_02RWgQ9ZLI5fULZ16Y9LMtwlyXQ/viewform

Here is a sample agenda for the task force

meeting https://www.utla.net/sites/default/files/sample_agenda_for_first_covid_tsk_force_meeting1.pdf

- **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_02RWgQ9ZLI5fULZ16Y9LMtwlyXQ/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 (UPDATED)

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. **We will inform you by email if you have a contested or uncontested election.**

If you are not intending to run, 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

School Board hears educators & parents: No extension to school year

- The LAUSD School Board voted last week to follow the traditional school year calendar for 2021-22, setting aside the proposal to add up to 10 mandatory workdays to the school year.

The vote aligns with widespread LAUSD parent concerns about the longer school year and follows the clear-cut results of the UTLA member survey, in which 75% of survey respondents did not support extending the work year. We took that message into bargaining, informing the district that UTLA members do not support an extension of the 2021-2022 school/work year.

The state and federal money that would have funded an extended work year can be used in critical ways to support students, such as a voluntary enrichment program, after-school learning opportunities, social-emotional and health supports, and staffing and program improvements we have needed for years. The traditional school year will be coupled with a need-based funding formula that will send additional dollars to schools to develop a localized plan to fit student needs, which could include extended learning opportunities or teacher professional development.

The 2021-22 school year will begin with a pupil-free day on Friday, August 13, and the first day of instruction will be Monday, August 16.

Childcare win: District agrees to flexibility

- In response to fierce organizing by UTLA members, the district agreed last week to a new districtwide policy on flexibility for childcare issues related to the return to in-person instruction. This is a great win for families who have been struggling to figure out childcare.

If you are a member with a childcare issue, reach out to your administrator and

explore solutions, such as being able to Zoom from home or leaving at a different time to pick up your child. The district issued [this memo](#) and held a meeting with local district supervisors last week to tell local school leaders to be as flexible as possible in trying to find creative solutions. Even if you had previously asked for accommodation but your administrator said no, try asking again now that LAUSD has clearly communicated the need for creativity and flexibility districtwide.

If you receive an unreasonable denial, talk to your chapter chair, and reach out to your Area rep and UTLA Area leadership. Also send an email to UTLA President Cecily Myart-Cruz, utlapresident@utla.net.

The district has also agreed to extend the deadline for the \$500 per child for childcare subsidy for those who missed the previous deadline, until May 14, when the May forms are due. Check instructions at the district's Human Resources page.

[LAUSD Childcare Guidance](#)
[Childcare Subsidy Program instructions](#)

COVID testing issues

- Kinks are still being worked out on the district's mobile testing units, but the district reports that the situation is improving. As LAUSD fixes capacity issues, those schools that are approaching 14 days since the last mobile testing unit visit will continue to be prioritized.

The district hired a second vendor, particularly to focus on schools in LD South and LD West where there have been the most delays with the mobile testing units. The district recognizes that it is an issue when schools don't get enough notice of the testing schedule, and the goal is to extend notice to 5 days.

With LA County now in the Yellow Tier, according to our Sideletter Agreement 20% of staff and students at each school site are required to be tested every two weeks. However, the district can test more frequently if needed as has indicated their intent to continue weekly testing.

May 17: Quality of Life Virtual Rally & Campaign Kickoff

- Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities continue to be plagued with inequities in services and supports that have deepened during the pandemic. The Journey for Justice alliance is kicking off the campaign for a “quality of life” platform in support of national demands around education, safety, housing, health care, climate, economic development, and more.

The virtual rally and campaign kickoff to demand federal investment in the "quality of life" platform will be held **on Monday, May 17 from 12 noon to 8 pm. All interested can join the rally at the link below.**

- *Journey for Justice is an alliance of grassroots community, youth, and parent-led organizations in over 30 cities and growing across the country organizing to win community-driven alternatives to the privatization of and dismantling of public school systems. J4J is an organization led by Black and Brown parents, students, and families centered in racial, social, and education justice.*

[Register for Equity or Else: Quality of Life Virtual Rally](#)

WHO Award nominations

- We are now taking nominations for the CTA State WHO Award. The application can be found [here](#), at UTLA.net. The “**WHO**” **State Award** is for active UTLA/NEA members who have given outstanding service in support of UTLA/NEA and its members at the state or national levels of UTLA, CTA and NEA. The deadline to submit an application is May 27th. The winner will be recognized at the June CTA State Council and in the Spring of 2022 at the UTLA WHO Awards which we hope to have back in person.

[WHO Awards nomination form](#)

UTLA calendar

- May 12:** PACE/Elementary meetings
- May 17:** Quality of Life virtual rally
- May 19:** Area meetings
- May 26:** Board of Directors meeting