

Chapter Talking Points

May 31, 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_02RWgQ9ZLI5fULZ16Y9LMtwlyXQ/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

UTLA Member Survey results

- The UTLA Member Survey results shows that LA educators overwhelmingly feel that union-negotiated safety protocols have kept schools safer from the spread of

COVID-19. The survey of UTLA members was conducted via email from May 19 through May 25.

81% percent of survey respondents agree that the negotiated protocols contributed to a safe physical reopening of schools. 87% report that their schools or worksites are consistently implementing the safety protocols.

With parent and community support, UTLA educators negotiated the strongest COVID-19 safety protocols in the country, securing an agreement for staff and students to return only when vaccines were available, when LA was out of the highest tier of infections, and when necessary safety and health protocols were in place.

These COVID-19 safety negotiations are responsible for the lowest number of infections among the nation's largest school districts. According to the online dashboard for New York City's schools, NYC has had nearly 26,000 coronavirus cases since reopening in September. According to Chicago's dashboard, schools there have had about 1,700 cases since they opened in March. LAUSD has had fewer than 300 cases since reopening in April.

Our hard-fought battle helped suppress the spread of COVID-19 and saved lives, especially in our most at-risk communities of color.

- **PHYSICAL RETURN**

The survey also asked about the impact of the physical return to schools.

Most challenging aspect: Top answer (27% of respondents) was hybrid schedules

Most rewarding aspect: Top answer (43%) was in-person engagement with students

- **PRIORITIES FOR RECOVERY FUNDING**

The survey asked members to prioritize ways to spend the infusion of funding coming to the school district. LAUSD will be receiving between \$2 billion and \$4 billion in one-time money for pandemic recovery and an additional increase in ongoing state funding when the state budget is passed. The top 6 priorities from the results:

1. Class size reduction
2. Salary increase
3. Technology upgrades for staff and students

4. Investment in Special Education
5. Educational enrichment programs for students
6. Hiring of additional health & human services staff

“The most powerful way we can impact students is to have more caring adults on campus — more staff members teaching, counseling, providing mental health support, working with our special needs students, and engaging hearts and minds with a rich curriculum that includes arts, physical education and music,” UTLA President Cecily Myart-Cruz said. “That is how we lift our students out of the stress and trauma of the past year and build the joyful, restorative learning communities that our students deserve.”

Bargaining update: Prioritizing safety before start of summer school

- We are in bargaining with the district over the necessary conditions for schools to physically open in a traditional model for the 2021-2022 school year. The member survey results are critical to our next steps and for prioritizing our ongoing bargaining and organizing demands.

LA Unified plans to fully reopen for the 2021-22 school year, with an overwhelming majority of staff and students physically attending school five days per week, unless pandemic conditions change for the worse. There will be a virtual option for families who choose it, and the district has acknowledged that some staff members may need to stay at home for health reasons.

Safety continues to be a priority at the bargaining table, so that we can ensure that COVID-19 protocols are in place before summer school begins and to protect students, families and educators who are in our school buildings year-round, including our early childhood education community. It’s important that we get those health and safety measures in place before some in the education community return to campuses later this month. We bargained last week and are back in bargaining this week.

We also continue to press for the supports our students need for a healthy, healing and equitable return next year. UTLA’s proposals include lower class sizes, increased social-emotional support for students, expanded support for special education and arts instruction, and educator recruitment and retention

measures.

- As part of the same struggle on a different playing field, we're working with the Reclaim Our Schools LA coalition to build a district budget for next year around a similar set of demands that meets the needs of our students and communities. Rallies and news conferences are in the works, and delegations of parents, educators, and students are meeting with the LA School Board to press for the new federal and state money to be spent in a racially just, educationally just way.

UTLA calendar

June 11: Last Day of Instruction

Aug, 4-6: UTLA Virtual Leadership Conference