

# Chapter Talking Points

May 3, 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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](https://www.utla.net/sites/default/files/utla_safety_violation_report_form.pdf) (UPD ATED)

## 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 to district: A mandatory extension of school year is not what students need

- The results of the member survey on a mandatory extension of the work year were clear: 75% of members responding to the survey chose no extension of the work year as their most preferred option.

We've taken that message into bargaining, informing the district that UTLA members do not support an extension of the 2021-2022 school/work year. "We can't follow the most stressful and emotionally traumatic year our learning communities have ever had with the longest school year we've ever had," UTLA President Cecily Myart-Cruz said. "Families need time to be together, recuperate, and prepare for our new normal in the fall."

The one-time state and federal money that would be used to fund an extended

work year can be used in other creative and meaningful ways to support students, such as a voluntary enrichment program, after-school learning opportunities, and staffing and program improvements we have needed for years.

Look for updates as developments happen.

## Update on COVID testing issues

- As many of us know, the district mobile testing units have been experiencing capacity issues that have disrupted the schedule of visits to school sites. Those schools that are approaching 14 days since the last mobile testing unit visit are being prioritized and will be prioritized this week.
- The UTLA agreement with LAUSD requires testing of all staff and 20% of students at a school site every two weeks while LA County is in the Orange Tier.
- The district has informed UTLA that they have 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.

They are working to finalize the schedules for the mobile units throughout the district and they expect to be able to notify schools through the principals of the schedules early this week, although they may not be able to give schools as much notice as we would like. They believe schools are more likely to receive three days' notice for now.

## Deadline extended to May 7 for Chapter Chair elections

- Given that the transition to hybrid teaching has taken up so much time and energy, the deadline to self-nominate for 2021-22 Chapter Chair positions has been extended to give UTLA members more time to complete the nomination process. Nominations for UTLA Chapter Chairs for the 2021-22 school year will now be open until Friday, May 7. For UTLA members interested in the position of UTLA Chapter Chair, submit the [self-nomination form](#) by 5 pm on May 7.

In the week of May 10, an email will go out to uncontested Chapter Chair candidates to notify them that they are uncontested and that upon submission of the completed Notice of Chapter Chair Elections (NOCCE) form, they will officially be the incoming Chapter Chair. The NOCCE form will be included with the notification email. For those chapters in which two or more members have been nominated (contested elections), an email will be sent to the current Chapter Chair with instructions on how to hold a vote of the membership at the chapter using a Survey Monkey poll. The current Chapter Chair should provide that information to the chapter's Election Committee.

Nominations are also open for UTLA Special Category Chapter Chairs. UTLA members who are interested should complete the fillable [Special Category form](#) by 5 pm on May 7.

UTLA Chapter Chairs have a critical role in organizing each school site and in helping to shape the work of our union — make sure someone you trust is nominated from your chapter.

## **Special Education campaign update: New guidance calls on states to address disparate impact of pandemic**

- The US Department of Education has released new guidance on the use of COVID-19 funds that addresses some of the demands in the legal petition filed by the national Special Education coalition [Fulfill the Promise](#), of which UTLA is a founding member. The coalition filed a legal petition in March asking the Education Department to make clear to school districts that they should direct significant K-12 funding from the American Rescue Plan to help students with disabilities — especially those of color — in recovering from disrupted learning due to the pandemic.
- In the new guidance, the Education Department calls on states to explain how they plan to use federal funding to address groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, including students from low-income families, students from racial or ethnic groups, students experiencing homelessness, English learners, and children with disabilities. The guidance also says that states should meet the mental health needs of students through SEL (social emotional learning) and access to mental health professionals, among other options, with more intensive support going to students with the most urgent needs. This guidance is an

encouraging initial recognition and a signal to states that they must, at the very least, consider disproportionate impact in their ARP funding plans.

- “The revised guidance amounts to the government saying to the Special Education community and other vulnerable communities, ‘We see you. We hear you,’” said UTLA Elementary Vice President Gloria Martinez. “For educators and parents of students with disabilities across the country, this is a small step on the long road ahead of us.”

## May 4: UTLA forum on Childcare

- Childcare is one of the biggest concerns for working families in our district — for UTLA educators, for our students’ parents, and for the larger community. UTLA will be hosting a Zoom forum on childcare issues on Tuesday, May 4, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

- If you are a parent educator and want to be invited to the forum, please use a non-LAUSD email and email Evy Vaughn at [evaughn@utla.net](mailto:evaughn@utla.net), using the subject line “Childcare Forum.”

[Email signup for Childcare Forum](#)

## 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](#)

## **Black Wellness Caucus for support & itinerant staff**

**For all Black support staff and itinerant staff working in LA Unified:**

- A new group has been formed — the Black Wellness Caucus — as a subgroup of the UTLA Racial Justice Task Force. This group is for Black support and itinerant staff who are interested in connecting for more social/professional support from fellow staff members and joining Black staff from across the district to center wellness, healing, and safety as tenets of Black student achievement. Sign up for the mailing list by sending your name, title, and non-LAUSD email address to [evamays86@gmail.com](mailto:evamays86@gmail.com)

## **UTLA calendar**

**May 5:** House of Representative meeting

**May 12:** PACE/Elementary meetings

**May 19:** Area meetings

**May 26:** Board of Directors meeting