

# Our New Deal for Public Schools

## Our Students. Our Movement. Our Future.



This school year we amplify the power of our historic strike by vigorously enforcing the new contract, expanding our relationships with parents, and pushing a broad platform to reclaim the promise of public education: Our New Deal for Public Schools.

The New Deal of the 1930s called for attacking the Great Depression on multiple fronts – RELIEF for the unemployed and working poor, RECOVERY of the economy, and REFORM of the financial system. U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal calls for an end to global warming, with an economy built around more green jobs and clean energy programs.

**Now our movement for public education needs a similarly big, bold transformation.** We take the worksite power we built through the strike to our communities and to the ballot box, using the five principles in Our New Deal for Public Schools to restore, reinvest, and reclaim the promise of public education.

### Nurture the Whole Child

- Expand Community Schools
- Lower class sizes and hire more librarians, counselors, and health and human services professionals
- Broaden the curriculum and reduce standardized testing
- Create safe schools through increased staffing and restorative practices
- Increase investments in adult education, early education, multilingual education, and special education
- Support movements for economic, racial, gender, LGBTQ, and social justice
- Expand green space and win free public transportation for students
- Use the district's leverage and unused land to win expansion of affordable housing
- Increase parent and student decision-making on local councils and beyond

### Respect Educators

- Vigorously enforce the contract
- Pay educators like professionals, with high-quality healthcare and a secure retirement
- Improve working conditions by ensuring that principals support educators
- Empower educators to make decisions about their work, their instruction, and their school

### Respect Students & Parents

- Ensure that all students and families, including immigrant families, are free from harassment, surveillance, and random searches at school

### Fully Fund Public Schools

- Build the 20 X 20 campaign (\$20,000 in per-pupil funding by the year 2020)
- Close corporate tax loopholes (Schools and Communities First ballot initiative)
- Massively expand special education (IDEA) and Title I funding

### Stop Privatization

- Halt the growth of charter schools and stop co-locations
- Hold all schools to the same standards of transparency and accountability
- Fight the corporate charter industry's influence in politics

### Action Steps

- » Vigorously **enforce our contract wins** on class-size maximums; special education support; co-location; more nurses, librarians, and counselors; and other improvements.
- » Campaign to **win contract reopeners** beginning in January 2020 on salary and two other items.
- » Organize to **protect our healthcare** from cuts. Agreement expires in December 2020, and bargaining begins this academic year.
- » Campaign to **win four School Board seats** in 2020.
- » Build **support for the Schools and Communities First** initiative on the November 2020 ballot to restore more than \$11 billion in funding.
- » Push for a **charter moratorium** and local control over charters.
- » Press US presidential candidates to commit to **increase IDEA and Title I funding.**