

Know Your Rights

Equal access to school facilities

Miffed by a principal who has an “office staff only” policy for the fax machine? Ever been at a school where the administrators reserve parking spaces for themselves while teachers have to park on the street? These incidents not only inconvenience you, they also violate your rights under the UTLA-LAUSD contract.

Our contract states that you have the right to have equal access to all telephones (this includes the fax machine), restrooms, lounges, and lunch areas with the understanding that “such access rights must be exercised in a reasonable manner.”

You also have equal-access rights to on-site parking spaces, except for the following parking spaces, which are to be reserved:

- * Parking for identified disabled staff members and disabled visitors
- * Parking for the school nurse, near the school entrance
- * Parking for staff having official school business requiring individuals to leave the school premises and return during school hours on a *specific* day. No more than two spaces in elementary, three spaces in secondary, and three spaces in adult schools are to be saved for this purpose. Principals can’t claim these spaces every day on the basis that every once in a while they have to travel downtown to headquarters.

If any of these policies are not followed, please contact your Chapter Chair.

For more information: See Article XXXI, Section 9.0, of the UTLA-LAUSD contract. Our contract is one of the most comprehensive in the United States and it protects a wide variety of your professional rights. For the full text of the collective bargaining agreement and more “Know Your Rights” columns, log on to www.utla.net.