

# Chapter Talking Points

August 16, 2021

## Info for chapter leaders

### COVID-19 Safety Enforcement

- As Chapter Chair, you play a critical role in the enforcement of COVID-19 safety regulations and guidelines at your worksite. Congratulations on the great job that kept us all safe during the last school year. Please continue doing this important work to ensure the health and well being of your coworkers and students.
- Chapter Chairs should confirm your role as the UTLA representative on the COVID-19 Task Force at your chapter or identify your designee [here](#).
- Use this checklist and [Safety Violation Report form](#) to identify any deficiencies that must be addressed.
- [Safety protocols and Frequently Asked Questions](#) are listed here.

### Leadership Conference Make-Up meeting - August 23

- **The August 23 Leadership Conference Make-Up Meeting** will include the important details which chapter leaders will need in the first few weeks of school to make sure that all members have a voice in our contract campaign and are part of our fight to protect and improve our schools. It is absolutely critical that any chapter leader who was not able to join the Leadership Conference, join the make up session on Monday, August 23 so that your chapter can fully participate in our bargaining platform development process.

Register here for the virtual meeting:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAKd-uvqDqG9YdTYFSn1-nNbwT-fYn-u\\_Z](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAKd-uvqDqG9YdTYFSn1-nNbwT-fYn-u_Z)

### 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](mailto: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](#)

## **Talking points for chapter meetings**

### **Bargaining update**

- UTLA has started conversations with the district about reopener bargaining, including the need for a salary increase for UTLA members. Those conversations will continue over the next few weeks and we will update you on developments.
- We are working with the other LAUSD unions to start bargaining for a new healthcare agreement. Healthcare bargaining happens collectively with all LAUSD unions at the table and bargaining will likely begin in September. Our current healthcare agreement expires December 31, 2021.

### **Safety at school**

- As staff and students return to school, we urge everyone to remain vigilant about all the layered mitigation strategies — from masking and ventilation to testing and tracing — needed to keep our learning spaces safe. There is a COVID Task Force at every site to consistently enforce the safety protocols. Last school year, the Task Forces were invaluable in identifying issues and getting a swift resolution. Promptly report to your ChapterChair, or to the designee Task Force representative, any safety violations or irregularities.

#### **Enforceable safety protocols negotiated in the UTLA agreement with LAUSD for the return to traditional instruction for the 2021-2022 school year:**

- Masks are required for all staff, students, and visitors while on campus.
- Regular testing of staff and students. At this point, the district will be testing all students and employees, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, once per week at school sites. This goes beyond our agreement and is an appropriate response to the current status of COVID.

- Physical distancing consistent with county guidelines, which currently require districts to maintain physical distancing to the degree that allows for daily attendance by all students.
- Daily symptom screening and regular cleaning and disinfecting.
- Monthly inspection and continued use of higher-rated MERV 13 filters for ventilation until at least October 1.
- Paid leave for those required to quarantine.
- Assignment to an online academy for members seeking reasonable accommodations for medically verified health risk factors and/or disabilities.
- A COVID Task Force at every site to consistently enforce the safety protocols. Last school year the Task Forces were invaluable in identifying issues and getting a swift resolution.

[Sideletter on Return to Traditional Instruction for 2021-2022](#)

- **Vaccination mandate**

Last week, the district issued a vaccination mandate requiring all LAUSD employees to be fully vaccinated by October 15. The UTLA Board of Directors also voted to support a vaccine mandate. Vaccines save lives and UTLA has been a leading voice for health and safety in our schools and communities.

UTLA also calls on the District to actively encourage and facilitate greater access to vaccination for parents, eligible students, and the communities we serve. The District and LA County Department of Health must work together to increase outreach, vaccination clinics, and testing in communities with low vaccination rates and high transmission rates.

- **FAQ on safety protocols**

An FAQ on safety protocols was emailed to all members Monday. The FAQ covers elements of the reopening such as vaccination requirements, COVID-19 exposure and quarantine information. All FAQs on safety protocols are available [here](#).

## Defeat the DeVos voucher scheme

- The district is pushing a Betsy DeVos/ALEC “voucher scheme” that will have disastrous impacts on our schools, especially those located in our most vulnerable communities.
- Student-Centered Funding (SCF) is essentially a voucher system and another attempt to weaken our public schools. It will dilute the impact of Title I funds in addressing the needs of students by making funds portable and taking money

away from schools by instead creating a \$ figure to follow each student to any school. There would be very little oversight over principals and how they use those funds with no required parent or community input.

- This funding system has already failed schools and families in Chicago, Denver and New Orleans. We must defeat this existential threat and stop it from harming our schools. Be prepared to join the fight to save Los Angeles public schools. We will soon have information on our fight-back campaign.

## **No on Recall**

- The recall of Governor Gavin Newsom is funded by anti-union millionaires attempting to roll back decades of progress on workers' rights in California. Anti-union special interests are funneling millions into the recall campaign to weaken or eliminate laws that protect our pay, health care, retirement and safety on the job.
- Members are welcome to join the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor in calling fellow union members across the state and urging them to vote "No" on the recall. The phone banks will be done using your mobile phone through Zoom, so you can help get out our union message without leaving home!

Click [here](#) to volunteer.

---

## **UTLA calendar**

**Aug. 23:** Leadership Conference Make-Up meeting

**Aug 25:** Board of Directors meeting

**Sept. 9:** Area meetings

**Sept. 23:** House of Representatives meeting