

# Chapter Talking Points

*December 6, 2021*

## Info for chapter leaders

### Citywide Chapter leader meeting Thursday, January 6

10am to 12pm - 2pm to 4pm - 6pm to 8pm

- On Thursday, January 6, Chapter leaders will meet to vote on endorsing the final draft of the bargaining platform, which will have been updated based on chapter leader feedback in the December Area meeting.

After the January 6 meeting and vote, Chapter Chairs will distribute and review the platform with members in preparation for an all-member ratification vote in February. It is imperative that you are present at this meeting to vote on the endorsement and so that members at your site are well informed and prepared prior to the final vote.

Save the January 6 date and make plans to attend or have someone representing your chapter. Three meetings have been set up for your convenience. You can choose to join either the 10 AM, 2 PM, or 6 PM meeting.

- **The meeting links are:**

#### **10 AM to 12 NOON**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldu-trDgiHdeFY5gu9QDzrcO5fgSuBJGt](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldu-trDgiHdeFY5gu9QDzrcO5fgSuBJGt)

#### **2 PM to 6 PM**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctc-yurzovGtXcbSi\\_xi\\_pYQDd\\_nUsW2UV](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctc-yurzovGtXcbSi_xi_pYQDd_nUsW2UV)

#### **6 PM to 8 PM**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qde2pqz0sGtOOtCU4Y9OvZK95u14KxjzL](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qde2pqz0sGtOOtCU4Y9OvZK95u14KxjzL)

## UTLA Membership Drive

- At the Area Meeting on October 20, UTLA chapter leaders launched the first unionwide membership drive since our return to in person teaching. Over the last year and a half, thousands of new educators have been hired throughout LAUSD, but union membership is not automatic, they must fill out the UTLA membership application.

We know from experience that the highest rate of success comes when a chapterleader asks a new educator directly to sign up. Most have not been asked and will sign up immediately, as educators know we are only able to improve our pay, benefits, working conditions and our students' learning conditions when we are united in our union.

That is why we are taking the next few weeks to focus specifically on signing up non-members in every chapter.

The first step for Chapter Chairs is to access your chapter email using the instructions and default password that were emailed to Chapter Chairs on October 14. (NOTE: The chapter email is only accessible by current UTLA Chapter Chairs).

Your chapter email will contain an updated chapter roster that you can use to identify which educators in your chapter should be asked to sign up for UTLA membership (their name is written in red ink and there is an empty box in the "member" column).

Educators can sign up easily on [this electronic membership application](#), no paper necessary.

You can use [these talking points](#) to help with the conversation.

If you are meeting with a group of non-members over zoom you can use [this short PowerPoint presentation](#).

Be sure to emphasize the importance of contributing to PACE - it is how we fund our important political work, including our campaigns to elect pro public education candidates to the LAUSD school board.

Building our membership is one of the core elements of strengthening our union

and making sure that we have the power to win in our contract campaign and in enforcing our rights every day.

[Membership App Link](#)

[Membership recruitment talking points](#)

[Membership Drive PowerPoint presentation](#)

## **Recruit your Chapter Action Team (CAT)**

- Chapter Action Teams (CATs) are committees of member leaders in each school / chapter who work with the Chapter Chair to make sure that every member is engaged in the union. CAT leaders take responsibility for communicating consistently with about 10 members in order to build a strong union chapter that can hold principals accountable at the school site and contribute to holding the district accountable through Area and Union-wide struggles like the contract campaign and the fight against the “Student Centered Funding” voucher scheme.
- Here is a link to the [CAT recruitment training](#) that you can review as you think about who you will recruit and how you will approach them.
- Submit the names of those who have committed to join the CAT at your school/chapter to the UTLA office on this form [https://www.utla.net/sites/default/files/catformfillable\\_202122\\_final.pdf](https://www.utla.net/sites/default/files/catformfillable_202122_final.pdf)

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## **Talking points for chapter meetings**

### **Educators urge delay in changes to COVID safety protocols**

- In response to LAUSD’s plans to change some COVID safety protocols in January, we continue to demand that any major changes be delayed until we can assess the impact of holiday travel and the trajectory of the new variant.

The district has announced its intention to, starting January 10, test only unvaccinated students; allow students at schools where at least 85% of students are vaccinated to be maskless outside; and modify quarantine protocols for close

contacts. Weekly testing for unvaccinated students, indoor mask requirements, and the Daily Pass system would stay in place.

In multiple meetings with LAUSD, we have stressed that we are opposed to any changes in the COVID testing program at this point. The district is moving too quickly in the face of too many unknowns, and it is both critical and logical to continue testing all students and staff, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, through at least January.

The district has not agreed to a delay, but they have agreed to meet on December 13 and look at the data on COVID positivity rates that they will get in December to see if Thanksgiving holiday travel had an impact on positive test rates and to revise the quarantine checklist as required by our September bargaining agreement.

## **Effects of student vaccine mandate**

- One of the features of our September bargaining agreement with LAUSD was the creation of a task force to deal with potential displacements resulting from the student vaccine mandate, which is effective starting January 10.

The task force had its first meeting last week. The district informed us that roughly 82% of eligible students have provided proof of vaccination at this point, and they say they are confident the number will rise exponentially as we get closer to the deadline.

However, we didn't see evidence of solid "contingency" plans, nor do they have a plan to accelerate student vaccinations beyond what they're doing now. We strongly criticized their lack of a concrete plan for both and stressed the importance of having deadlines to notify teachers and students of possible changes before winter recess. We're meeting with LAUSD again this week and will share updates as new information becomes available.

## **Be UTLA's voice at the AFT Convention in July 2022**

- UTLA/AFT members will elect delegates at the virtual January 20 AFT 1021 General Membership Meeting at 6:00 p.m. to represent the union at the National Convention of the American Federation of Teachers in Boston, July 14 - 17.

At the convention, AFT members from around the country will gather to debate and vote on important resolutions and constitutional amendments. The biennial AFT convention is the most important policy-making body of the national federation.

All UTLA members are eligible to be elected delegates to this event; delegates who fulfill their official obligations will receive a stipend to cover a portion of their expenses. Interested members can fill out [this coupon](#) to nominate themselves. The coupon must be returned by January 12.

[UTLA/AFT Resources page](#)

## **CTA conference this weekend for new educators**

- The California Teachers Association, one of our two state affiliates, is hosting a virtual conference for new members, from Thursday, December 9 through Sunday, December 12. The conference is open to all CTA members and offers professional development that will benefit all educators regardless of their years of teaching. The New Educator Weekend will include sessions about classroom management, creating engaging classrooms, lesson plans and ideas, connecting with your union, member benefits and more. For a detailed schedule, workshop descriptions, and more information visit the [conference web page](#).
- [CTA New Educator Weekend conference](#)

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## **UTLA calendar**

**Dec. 8:** House of Representatives meeting

**Dec. 15:** Board of Directors meeting

**Dec. 20:** Winter recess begins

**Jan. 6:** Citywide Chapter leader meeting