

Chapter Talking Points

February 28, 2022

Info for chapter leaders

Area meetings on Wednesday, March 16

- Our next Area meetings will be on Wednesday, March 16. After the challenging but critical task of identifying and prioritizing our bargaining goals, it is now time to get ready for the fight that it will take to attain those goals. At the Area meeting, we will discuss the strategies and campaign of collective action which are essential to secure a win at the bargaining table. Once our formal demands are developed. Be sure to attend this meeting or have someone representing your site.

Talking points for chapter meetings

Beyond Recovery: Building the campaign of collective action to win

- In the all-member vote, UTLA educators across Los Angeles voiced their overwhelming support for the Beyond Recovery platform — 96% of voters said YES to a commitment to fight for:
 - * pay increases and economic issues that UTLA members need addressed
 - * working and teaching conditions
 - * student learning conditions and needs
 - * community needs that impact LAUSD students

Now that our democratically developed bargaining goals have been approved, we shift toward the next phase: **Turning those goals into formal contract proposals and building the campaign of collective action that it will take to win them.**

The [Beyond Recovery platform](#) was developed through UTLA chapter meetings and community forums in advance of contract negotiations with LAUSD that will

begin in the spring. Within the seven pillars of the platform is our shared vision for addressing the issues that as educators we know were only worsened by the pandemic. These are the demands we are rallied around for what our school communities need to fully recover and move forward beyond that.

COVID protocols: No changes to indoor masking or testing in LAUSD

- Today the state and county released updated masking guidance. In the coming days, masking will no longer be required by the state or county for vaccinated individuals but will be *strongly recommended* for everyone in schools and childcare facilities.
 - **The indoor masking mandate for LAUSD students and employees will remain in place.** Any changes to the indoor masking mandate must be negotiated with UTLA. Last week, LAUSD implemented an optional outdoor masking policy.
 - Additionally, the district announced it will continue the weekly COVID testing program at this point, but may move to alter or reduce the program if COVID positivity rates continue to decrease.
 - LAUSD schools have been the safest and most well-equipped in the country because educators and families united to demand critical health and safety protocols. These protocols, including the current testing regimen, have protected tens of thousands of educators and more than half a million students, along with their families. It is premature to discuss removing these health and safety measures while there are still many unvaccinated youths in our early education programs and schools.
 - A [new poll](#) shows broad support for school-based safety protocols. **Nearly two-thirds of California voters, including a majority of parents, support mask and vaccine mandates in K-12 schools.** A significant number of Latino and Black parents — populations hit hardest by the pandemic — are concerned about COVID safety in schools, underscoring the need to move cautiously before making changes to health and safety protocols.
-

UTLA calendar

March 9: Citywide Steering Committee meeting

March 16: Area Meetings

March 23: House of Representatives meeting

March 23: HHS Committee meeting

March 30: Board of Directors meeting

UTLA meetings are family-friendly spaces