

# UTLA CHAPTER ISSUE DISCUSSION GUIDE

As we prepare for upcoming full contract negotiations with LAUSD, UTLA is engaging in a 3-step process to develop our platform of bargaining demands.

1. Each UTLA chapter to have one, or a series, of discussions to identify the important issues that we should collectively organize around to address at your school or chapter.
2. The UTLA Board of Directors will develop a draft bargaining platform based on common and pressing issues identified in those chapter discussions, along with input provided by parent and community allies.
3. The draft platform will be brought back to all UTLA members for discussion and ratification. UTLA's bargaining proposals will be developed based on the final bargaining platform.

Holding UTLA member discussions in your chapters to identify key issues is the critical first step in building our contract campaign. This guide is intended to help structure those conversations and to help make sure that the issues and comments generated can be reported back in a way that will allow them to influence the development of the union's bargaining goals for 2022.

Below are six open-ended questions to structure your chapter discussion, along with some tips to consider as you facilitate the conversation. Chapter Chairs will report back on these six questions through an online report back form link that will be emailed to Chapter Chairs in the first week of school.

## **Tips for Facilitating the Conversation:**

- Use the open-ended prompt questions below to get the conversation flowing. Allow some time for folks to respond before providing any examples.
- You may have to give some examples of issues to get the conversation started; if this is the case, try to limit the examples you provide and ask people to comment on those examples from their own experiences.
- Ask follow-up questions to clarify a comment or get deeper into an identified issue.
- Encourage colleagues to think about the course of the entire year; some things may be very urgent this month, but we do not want to forget about other critical issues we face later in the school year.
- Encourage members to discuss the issue in as concrete of terms as possible. For example, if someone says they have too many students in their class, ask how many they have, specifically, and how many do they think is reasonable.
- Take detailed notes so you can report back on the online form but also keep these issues in mind for future area meeting discussions.

# CHAPTER DISCUSSION

**School/Chapter:**

**Chapter Chair:**

**Date of meeting (s):**

**Number attending (if multiple meetings, list total number):**

1. What issues, if fixed, would make the biggest difference in improving teaching and/or learning at our chapter?
2. What pay, benefit, and working condition issues should we fight to address in our contract campaign?
3. What do our students most need when at school?
4. When our students go home, what issues are they facing that create challenges to their learning?
5. From your experience working and talking with parents and students, what fights for school improvements do you believe are most broadly and deeply felt by parents, youth, and community?
6. Special education in LAUSD is currently underfunded by nearly \$1 billion. As the underfunding of special education negatively impacts all students, special education and general education, should winning full state and federal funding for special education be one of UTLA's top priorities?
  - Yes
  - No