



Family Resource Guide

preparing for a potential strike



Los Angeles Unified

Letter from the Superintendent and Board of Education

Dear L.A. Unified Families,

The Los Angeles Unified School District (L.A. Unified) wants every school to be a place of great teaching and learning. Every day, we work to ensure all students have access to safe and supportive learning environments. This mission is our central focus, and will remain our central focus even in the case of a potential strike.

We hope this **Los Angeles Unified Family Resource Guide** answers the questions you may have and offers the information you need to help your children thrive in school in the event of a strike. We encourage you to reach out to your school principal or visit www.LAUSD.net for more information.

L.A. Unified remains committed to reaching an agreement on a fair contract that both values our hardworking employees and puts our kids and families first. Working together, we can all help our students achieve great things.

Thank you,

Austin Beutner,
Superintendent

Mónica García,
Board President,
Board District 2

Nick Melvoin,
Board Vice President,
Board District 4

Dr. George J. McKenna III,
Board District 1

Scott M. Schmerelson,
Board District 3

Kelly Gonez,
Board District 6

Dr. Richard Vladovic,
Board District 7

Overview

This **Los Angeles Unified Family Resource Guide** provides information to help families and communities prepare for a potential strike. L.A. Unified is doing everything possible to ensure every student has access to a safe, clean and supportive learning environment.

Contract negotiations between L.A. Unified and United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) are ongoing. L.A. Unified remains committed to reaching a fair agreement that both values our hardworking employees and puts our kids and families first.

On September 27, 2018, the Public Employment Relations Board of California (PERB) began mediating these contract negotiations with the goal of finding a resolution and preventing any interruption to our schools. PERB is a state agency that oversees collective bargaining laws and helps to settle disputes.

In this guide you will find the following:

- Frequently Asked Questions that address student attendance, school schedules, and school meals.
- How to prepare for a strike and have a plan that includes staying informed, updating your information and volunteering at your school.
- How to talk about a strike with your child.
- Contact information for your school and other L.A. Unified offices.

Los Angeles Unified remains focused on keeping schools open and providing students with instructional programs.



Frequently Asked Questions



What is a strike?

When employers and employees are unable to arrive at a compromise during contract negotiations, employees may stop working, or strike, as a means of protest.



Should students attend school if there is a strike?

Yes. Students are expected to attend school every day. Schools will be open and students will participate in instructional programs.



Will school schedules change?

No. School hours, morning and afterschool programs, and meals will NOT change. The regular school schedule will be observed. In the unlikely event that any schedule changes do occur, you will be notified immediately.



Will schools continue to serve meals?

Yes. Food service will not change and each school will continue to provide regularly scheduled meals.



Will student learning take place during a strike?

Yes. Instruction will be provided by qualified L.A. Unified staff, which includes certificated and classified staff, qualified substitute employees, or reassigned administrators.



Is it safe to send my child to school?

Yes. Staff will supervise each campus to ensure student safety at all times.



How can I help?

You can volunteer at your school to help in the classroom, yard, or playground. For more information, reach out to your principal or visit <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page9647>.



We love our teachers, why can't L.A. Unified and UTLA arrive at a compromise?

We all value and appreciate our teachers, but we also want to make sure that the contract we agree upon is reached through the mutual understanding of what's best for students. This means that we have to safeguard the financial health of L.A. Unified, so that we can give our schools the resources necessary to prepare all students to graduate college- and career-ready.



The cost of living is high in California. Why doesn't L.A. Unified offer teachers higher wages?

In June 2018, the L.A. Unified Board of Education approved a 6% salary increase for all employees, including teachers. In addition, teachers received a 10% salary increase phased in for years 2014-17. L.A. Unified offers competitive teacher salaries compared to other large districts in the State of California, and while we would love to offer teachers more, we must operate within our financial means. The average L.A. Unified teacher salary is \$75,000 and the average total compensation, which includes full health care benefits for themselves and dependents, is \$110,000.



How can we increase funding for L.A. Unified?

The California state legislature controls education funding. L.A. Unified gets about 90% of its funding from Sacramento. The current per student amount of \$16,000 is simply not enough. L.A. Unified and all of its labor partners, students, families and communities, need to work together to increase funding for public education. The path forward begins in Sacramento.



Has L.A. Unified reached agreements with other labor partners?

Yes. The District has reached agreements with other labor partners totaling approximately 65% of the District's workforce, and hopes to do the same with UTLA.

How to prepare for a strike: *Have a Plan*



Speak to Your Children

In the event of a potential strike, speak to your children on a regular basis. This experience may be confusing for them.



Update Your Information

Make sure that the information on your L.A. Unified Emergency Card is updated, so that your school can notify you of any changes. Your school will need updated phone numbers, e-mails and home addresses.

Make sure your school has an updated list of your child's medications. Develop an action plan with your school administrator to administer medicine, particularly emergency injections like Epipens and Glucagon, in order to make sure all healthcare needs are addressed.



School Schedule and Activities

School hours, morning and afterschool programs, and meals will NOT change. The regular school schedule will be observed. In the unlikely event that any schedule changes do occur, you will be notified immediately. You can also check your school website for changes.



Cell Phone Use

The L.A. Unified cell phone policy remains the same.



Stay Informed

Your school will provide ongoing information. You can also stay informed through voicemail, email, text, and social media updates. Visit www.LAUSD.net for more information and updates.



Grades & Assignments

Be sure to check grades and assignments through the Parent Portal. Visit: <https://passportapp.lausd.net/parentaccess/>.



Get Involved

You can volunteer at your school to help in the classroom, yard, or playground. For more information, reach out to your principal or visit <https://achieve.lausd.net/Page9647>.

How to talk about a strike with your children

In the event of a strike, children may be confused. We recommend that you speak with your children on a regular basis to ask if they have any concerns. Here are some tips that will help you communicate with your children at their age level.



Reassure your children.

Explain that the strike is temporary, and that people will return to work.



Stay focused on schoolwork.

Encourage your children to continue to focus on their studies.



For children in grades K-5.

This situation could be used as a teachable moment. You can tell your children that sometimes adults have disagreements so they need to get together to talk about it, and work together to find solutions. Conversations about a strike should be personalized to the age of the child. Assure your children that they didn't do anything wrong.



With children in grades 6-12.

This situation could be used as a teachable moment. For older children, you can provide more information and invite a conversation about this issue. Explain that there are two sides: UTLA and the school district, and that they are both trying to arrive at an agreement that is fair to everyone.



For more information contact the Los Angeles Unified School District

CALL YOUR SCHOOL

Begin by contacting your school. For your school's contact information, please go to: schooldirectory.lausd.net/schooldirectory.

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