

THE ADVOCATE

The fight against layoffs and for L.E.A.R.N.! is on

SDEA members are swinging into action to say NO to LAYOFFS and YES to a L.E.A.R.N.! union contract that gives our kids and schools the resources they really need.

SDEA members at schools throughout the District are finding ways to involve parents and the public in the fight. At UC High School, members wore red in solidarity with laid off members (bottom left).

At Chavez Elementary School, members have been wearing no layoff buttons every day (bottom right). On Cesar Chavez Day, members ramped up the fight to put direct pressure on Superintendent Cindy Marten, who attended the school's Chavez Day Festival. She arrived to find that all 400 parents in attendance had "NO to LAYOFFS and YES to L.E.A.R.N.!" flyers in their hands, and left early to chants of "save our students!"

On April 10, hundreds of laid off members rallied and marched before the permanent

layoff hearings at Madison High School (right). Laid off members occupied all four corners of the busy Clairemont Mesa and Doliva intersection, chanting to honks of support from passing drivers as the media covered the story live.

These are just a few examples of powerful actions that SDEA members are taking union-wide to fight back against the District's devastating cuts.

It's not too late to join the fight! Educators and parents are holding Town Hall meetings with all five School Board members and Marten on April 26, 27 and May 1 from 4-6 p.m. at the SDEA union hall (10393 San Diego Mission Rd.). These Town Halls are your chance to make sure District decision-makers hear your story before they vote to finalize layoffs on May 9. Schools are encouraged to adopt a Town Hall and pass out flyers to invite parents to attend as well. Wear red, bring a friend, and be ready to hold their feet to the fire!





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NO to layoffs and YES to L.E.A.R.N.!

The fight heats up at the local and state level

Welcome back from your well deserved Spring Break! We hope you are all energized and ready for the continued fight of No Layoffs and Yes to L.E.A.R.N.! bargaining campaign. SDEA members have been holding site-based leaflets, site-based rallies, emailing our elected officials and attending District-wide actions at the School Board meetings.

We know this pressure is working and we must continue to apply increased pressure to the Superintendent and School Board. The District has begun to rescind initial layoffs notices that were issued wrongly or over-issued. This is due to the hard work of our SDEA staff and legal team, as well as the pressure from our collective actions. Hundreds of laid off SDEA members attended the RIF hearings and put a face to the drastic cuts the District is making.

This pressure must increase and continue! There will be many opportunities to get more involved in the coming weeks and months. Those opportunities include:

- Attend one of three town hall meetings with the SDUSD Board members and Superintendent where we will call on them to rescind the layoffs and support L.E.A.R.N.! (See page 1 for details.)
- Conduct a site leaflet (if you have not already done so) and inform our parents about the L.E.A.R.N.! campaign.
- Plan a site based action for the May 1 National Day of Action.
- See your AR to sign the statewide petition calling for the schools all our students deserve.

We want to take some time to explain a little more about the power of this statewide petition. United around common struggles and a shared vision, eight California teachers' union locals have joined forces in a groundbreaking new coalition, the California Alliance for Community Schools.

With the strength of more than 50,000 educators behind it, the California Alliance is aiming to fight the Trump/DeVos agenda to privatize our public schools, and will join organizing efforts with labor and community partners across the state. Coalition

members currently represent the largest cities in the state: Anaheim Secondary Teachers Association, Oakland Education Association, San Bernardino Teachers Association, San Diego Education Association, San Jose Teachers Association, United Educators of San Francisco, United Teachers Los Angeles, and United Teachers Richmond.

Large urban school districts face many of the same challenges: disinvestment in schools and communities, especially those with the greatest needs; educational policies that discourage authentic teaching and learning; and the rapid expansion of privately managed and unregulated charter schools at the expense of our neighborhood schools. The coalition is committed to reversing these trends through statewide demands for the Schools All Our Students Deserve.

The coalition's five-point platform addresses the sustainability of public education by calling for:

- Low class sizes.
- Adequate resources for all schools, with additional resources for high-needs sites.
- Shared decision-making at local school sites.
- Charter school accountability.
- Safe and supportive school environments.

Many of the unions in the coalition have collective bargaining agreements that expire around the same time, creating the opportunity to exponentially increase leverage at the local level and state level. The coalition's coordinated actions will harness the energy of contract campaigns to support each other's bargaining and to push for two critical items that require statewide action: increased funding for public education and increased accountability for unregulated charter school operators.

By participating in the statewide coalition, joining in site and district-wide actions, and pressuring the district to do what's right, we will WIN our FIGHT for NO LAYOFFS and YES to L.E.A.R.N.!

Lindsay Burningham
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SDEA President

Kisha Borden
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SDEA Vice President

New legislative push for charter accountability

CTA, SDEA and our partners across the state are organizing in support of new legislative bills that would bring much needed accountability, transparency and equity to charter schools. A package of proposals introduced this month would hold privately operated charters to some of the same standards as traditional public schools, including ensuring equal access for students and the prohibition of practices that discourage enrollment or push enrolled students out of schools. The California Charter Schools Association, the charter school lobby funded by billionaire privatizers, will likely spend millions to oppose the accountability bills. SDEA members must organize in support of the legislation, working with parents and community groups to press Sacramento legislators

to pass these critical bills.

AB 1360: Equity and Student Access at Charter Schools

What it would do: **AB 1360** would prohibit discriminatory admissions practices and ensure due process in pupil discipline at charter schools.

Why it's needed: Like public schools, charter schools should have nondiscriminatory admission policies, as well as suspension and expulsion policies that guarantee all students due process rights. Any practices that serve to weed out certain children or families are not acceptable. Charter schools should be required to serve high-need students such as English learners and special education students at the same level as neighborhood public schools.

AB 1478: Accountability and Transparency at Charter

Schools

What it would do: **AB 1478** expressly states that charter schools and the entities managing charter schools are subject to the Brown Act (open meetings), Public Records Act (open books), and two laws preventing conflicts of interest: the Political Reform Act and Government Code 1090.

Why it's needed: More than \$80 million of waste, fraud and abuse of tax dollars has been documented in California's charter school environment. Secret meetings to discuss how tax dollars will be spent is not acceptable. This bill also prohibits charter school board members and their immediate families from financially benefiting from their schools. Public schools' conflict-of-interest laws and disclosure regulations should apply to charter schools.

SB 808: Local Control at Charter Schools

What it would do: **SB 808** requires that all charter school petitions must be approved by the school board of the school district in which they reside.

Why it's needed: Because of the significant investment of time and resources to review proposed charter school petitions, the local school board is best equipped to make decisions regarding education programs and needs within its jurisdiction. The recent practices of certain county offices of education and the State Board of Education in summarily overruling evaluations of charter petitions by local school boards is undermining the practice of local control, wherein districts develop priorities and plans with input from all stakeholders.



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