

Independent Study Contracts (AB 130) Bargaining

On Monday, [the District presented their counter proposal](#) on the impacts and effects of [AB 130](#), the 2021-2022 school year state budget bill, specifically the implementation of independent study contracts at comprehensive sites and the live instruction/interaction/services that are required starting on the 15th day of cumulative IS contracts. This was in response to SDEA's last counter proposal on September 23.

With student absences and IS contract days accumulating during the Omicron surge and without clear guidance provided by the District, school sites have been forced to scramble on a site-by-site basis to implement the law, leading to practices that are widely divergent throughout the District. And despite the 4 month delay in responding to SDEA, the District's counter proposal leaves us further from a solution that meets the requirements of AB 130 while also [protecting educators from burnout](#) during this time of unprecedented staffing shortages.

The good news is that the District's counter proposal now aligns with AB 130 and has no minimum minutes requirement for the daily synchronous instruction for grades TK-3 and weekly synchronous instruction for grades 4-12 that must occur.

The bad news is that the District's counter proposal would compensate educators \$100 a month to provide synchronous instruction or live services either simultaneously with classroom instruction or afterschool, as opposed to the almost \$40 an hour for this additional work in SDEA's last proposal.

Also, the District rejected our proposal for a process to seek volunteers to provide synchronous instruction or live services that we had already reached consensus on in the fall. We will be presenting our counter proposal on Thursday, February 10 that incorporates appropriate compensation for the increased workload and reintroduces the system for determining volunteers to be the teacher of record providing synchronous instruction or live services for students on IS contracts for 15 or more days.

COVID Leave Proposal

Several weeks ago, we made a proposal to SDUSD on expanded COVID leave benefits for educators who need it. [This SDEA proposal](#) to further expand COVID leave would ensure that SDUSD provides leave to unit members who are impacted and are making every effort to stay safe and keep our schools safe.

SDUSD has yet to respond to our proposal—but their staff say they will be getting a response to SDEA representatives soon.

Because ***Together We Are Stronger***, writing to your school board member will go a long way in ensuring SDUSD takes this seriously. Send a message to the school board, ask them to:

1. Respond to SDEA on the COVID Leave Proposal

2. Expand the leave for educators who had to quarantine pending a negative result, and for parents who had to stay home with their children because of COVID related closures.

See below for the contact information of the school board members.

- [District A -Sabrina Bazzo](#) - Board Vice President
- [District B - Kevin Beiser](#)
- [District C - Michael McQuary](#)
- [District D - Richard Barrera](#)
- [District E - Sharon Whitehurst-Payne](#) - Board President

Seniority Verification

The District sent out an email recently requesting that unit members electronically verify their seniority/date of hire. SDEA members are strongly encouraged to NOT verify their seniority date. The District is responsible for maintaining accurate personnel information, not individual employees.

The difficulty with asking an employee to verify their seniority date is that the California Education Code, and relevant court decisions on certificated employee seniority dates, are very complicated. So a date which may appear accurate to you could potentially be wrong because of the complicated legal system dictating seniority dates. Verifying a seniority date, which may later prove to be inaccurate, could hinder our collective efforts to defend members during layoff procedures.

If you are explicitly directed by your supervisor to verify your seniority, write the following statement in the electronic comment box: "I cannot verify this information."

Please note, all SDEA members are encouraged to update their current credential/certification information that the District has on record. For example, if you are an English teacher who has recently become credentialed in Earth Sciences, it is important that you make District Human Resources aware of your new credential.

In summation:

Don't: Verify your seniority date.

Do: Update your credential/certification information if necessary.

Access Your SDEA-SDUSD Union Contract

Our current union contract, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022, is now available in an online/digital format. You can find it on the [SDEA website](#) or [directly at this link](#). *Pro tip: The online/digital version is searchable!*

Bargaining Input Sessions

Since our contract expires at the end of June, we must go back into bargaining with the District soon. Bargaining Input Sessions are taking place now at schools and programs throughout the District through the end of February.

Member feedback is vital as SDEA members determine bargaining priorities for our upcoming contract negotiations. Contact your AR to see when your site's bargaining input session is being held. All members should plan on participating in this important democratic process of our union.

And remember, only SDEA members give input on our union contract. If you are not a member, [join now!](#)

Insurance Carrier Reimbursement for At-Home COVID Tests

Our health insurance trust, VEBA, is monitoring the new reimbursement policy for over-the-counter (OTC), at-home COVID-19 diagnostic tests, which became reimbursable by health insurance on January 15, 2022. You can find the latest reimbursement information from each of our carriers here. Please visit the [VEBA COVID-19 resource page](#) for updates about reimbursements for COVID-19 tests.

As a reminder, all VEBA members are also eligible for the free at-home COVID-19 tests from the U.S. government. Each U.S. household can receive 4 rapid antigen at-home COVID-19 tests by visiting [covidtests.gov](#). The tests are completely free and will usually ship in 7-12 days.

Check the [VEBA COVID-19 resource page](#) for full information, helpful links and the latest news.

Join the Worldwide Climate Justice Teach-In on March 30

[Sign up](#) to join the [Worldwide Climate Justice Teach-In](#) on March 30 by leading a lesson, watching a film, having a discussion or writing letters.

Also, check out the [climate justice education resources](#) created by UCSD CREATE Climate Champions leaders.