



NEWS RELEASE

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Parents, community leaders and students to join the Chicago Teachers Union in today's contract talks

CHICAGO – For the first time, the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) has invited community organizations to participate in the process to bargain the next contract with the Board of Education's bargaining team. A number of key proposals will be presented by over a dozen allied groups today at 2:30 pm at a special session at SEIU Healthcare, 2229 S. Halsted.

The organizations, most which belong to the Grassroots Education Movement coalition and the national coalition Alliance to Reclaim our Schools, will be bargaining with the CTU include the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, Pilsen Alliance, Action Now, Logan Square Neighborhood Association, Parents for Teachers, Northside Action for Justice, Fight for \$15, SEIU Healthcare Indiana/Illinois, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Jobs with Justice, Teachers for Social Justice and the Grassroots Collaborative.

The proposals include demands for:

- 1) 50 sustainable community schools with robust anti-violence and social emotional interventions. Including but not limited to a full time counselor, restorative justice coordinator, social worker, nurse, and wrap around supports for every school.
- 2) An end to all tests not required by state law.
- 3) \$15 an hour for all CPS employees
- 4) Fund Grow Your Own instead of Teach for America to increase racial diversity of CPS teachers and establish a pipeline for CPS students to become teachers.
- 5) Prosecution of Bank of America and others that have undermined the finances of the district unlawfully with toxic swaps.
- 6) Full day, free and well-resourced pre-k for all 3 and 4 year olds whose families earn up to 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.
- 7) Lower class size levels that is enforceable.
- 8) Stop school closings and charter expansion.
- 9) Support legislation for a progressive income tax and Elected School Board.

The session shows that the CTU's demands, which have been summarily dismissed by the appointed Board of Education, have deep roots throughout Chicago's community areas and are shared by a broad spectrum of prominent community and labor rights organizations.

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The Chicago Teachers Union represents nearly 27,000 teachers and educational support personnel working in the Chicago Public Schools, and by extension, the more than 400,000 students and families they serve. The CTU is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers and the Illinois Federation of Teachers and is the third largest teachers local in the United States and the largest local union in Illinois. For more information please visit CTU's website at www.ctunet.com.

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