

Special Education is Under Attack!

The Chicago Board of Education has declared war on special education. Anyone involved in the process of acquiring and maintaining special education services for our students knows this firsthand. The new MTSS process, as well as paperwork needed to justify paraprofessional support, has added thousands of hours of work onto staff members who are already overloaded with caseloads that should be (and many times are) criminal.

On average in CPS, social workers are handling more than 5 times their recommended caseloads; psychologists are responsible for nearly 4 times their maximums; and school nurses are handling nearly twice their recommended caseloads (while CPS continues to privatize this sector of our union). And good luck finding a crisis counselor if your school has suffered anything less than a recent shooting.

Under federal law, school systems cannot deny special education services based on bureaucratic paperwork, which means the current policies of the Chicago Public Schools may soon lead to another “Corey H”-type case. Apparently we have to file these lawsuits every 20 years or so to remind CPS that there are laws protecting special education.

Many members of CORE have led the charge to fight against these egregious violations of education law, but our work is not done.

There will be a “Special Ed Rights Meeting” next Monday to help members use their legal rights to push back against CPS bureaucracy. Additionally, *Teachers for Social Justice* is conducting a workshop on special education rights at their annual Curriculum Fair on Saturday, November 19th. (See the back of this flyer for details.)

A resolution written by rank-and-file special education teachers and activists is on the House of Delegates agenda today. The resolution spells out some of the ways we can fight back against this injustice – as a union. One tactic is to create and distribute sample grievances – to help members efficiently push back through contract language. Another tactic is to use “Report Card Pickup” days to inform parents of the situation – and their rights in the process.

Finally, the Special Education Taskforce has been fighting mightily with CPS bureaucrats, and has achieved some recent wins. They have pushed CPS off of some of the paperwork requirements being mandated, but the wins gained so far are not enough. We need more people to join the fight. The taskforce meets every first Tuesday of the month (at the new CTU building at 1901 W. Carroll).

All members of the Chicago Teachers Union must stand up and fight for our students’ special education rights!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Camaraderie at Connie's Pizza

New CORE members get free pizza.

Wednesday, November 2

2373 S Archer Ave – just around the corner!
After the House of Delegates

Special Education Rights Meeting

Monday, November 7, 4:30 - 6:00

Blackhawk Fieldhouse (2318 N. Lavergne)

Know Your Rights!

Special Education Law Workshop – at TSJ Curriculum Fair

Saturday, November 19, TBD

Uplift High School (900 W. Wilson)

CORE General Meeting

Monday, November 28, 4:30 - 6:30

Letter Carriers Hall (3850 S. Wabash)

Special Education Taskforce

(1st Tuesday of every month)

Tuesday, December 6, 4:30

New CTU Offices (1901 W. Carroll)

Camaraderie at Connie's Pizza

New CORE members get free pizza.

Wednesday, December 7

2373 S Archer Ave – just around the corner!
After the House of Delegates



Caucus of Rank-and-File Educators
COREteachers.org

JOIN CORE!

Help CTU continue to take on corporate privatizers and the Board's dirty tricks. Join at **COREteachers.org** or mail \$35 (working CTU teachers) or \$20 (CTU PSRPs, retirees, displaced, and associates*) to:

CORE
P.O. Box 47687
Chicago, IL 60647-7217

*Associates are supportive CPS parents and community members. They have speaking

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Street _____

City, State Zip _____