



OAKLAND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

272 EAST 12TH STREET, SUITE C, OAKLAND, CA 94606 (510) 763-4020

AN AFFILIATE OF THE CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Dear Oakland Families and Communities,

Oakland teachers will be holding a one-day strike on April 29.

Why have we taken this step? Teachers have not had a contract for almost two years. In that time, working conditions have worsened and many teachers have left out of frustration, creating instability in our schools.

What do teachers want? We want fair wages, safe working conditions and the support to provide your child with a quality education. That means small class sizes, programs like art, physical education and music - all programs that are facing huge cuts. We seek to create long-term stability and optimal learning conditions for our schools.

What is the district offering? Oakland Unified is proposing increased class sizes, teacher layoffs and zero increase in pay.

We know that we are in a recession and that times are tough - yet teachers have not received any significant raises or Cost of Living Adjustments in years; meanwhile, the district's budget has ballooned, spending millions for standardized tests, outside consultants and additional administrators. **We maintain that the district has the money - that it is a matter of priorities.**

What can you do? We need your vocal and visible support! Please join us at your child's school on the picket lines on April 29th. At noon we will come together at Frank Ogawa Plaza for a community rally. Express your support to your teachers - the resulting morale boost is significant. And contact Superintendent Tony Smith, State Administrator Vince Matthews, and State Superintendent Jack O'Connell to demand that they settle a fair contract:

Superintendent Tony Smith
1025 2nd Ave, Rm 301, Oakland CA 94606
879-8200 email: Tony.Smith@ousd.k12.ca.us

State Trustee Vince Matthews
1025 2nd Ave. Oakland CA 94606
879-4600 email: Vincent.Matthews@ousd.k12.ca.us

Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
1430 N Street, Suite 5602, Sacramento, CA 95814-5901
916-318-0800 email: www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/cd/ap/mainpage.aspx

Please be aware that the district is hiring emergency replacements for the day of our strike, but they are far less qualified than your child's regular teacher and substitute teachers. We are concerned that this poses a real safety threat. Support our strike and our demand that all students have a qualified teacher in every classroom!

Sincerely,

Your teachers

