

August 19, 2024



Coachella Valley Teachers  
Association  
California Teachers  
Association  
National Education Association

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Good morning! It's almost that time again. We hope you were able to take some time off for yourself and you're recharged and ready to go!

As you may have seen in your work email, **Tuesday** will begin with a virtual Welcome Back, which you will watch at your sites. The remainder of the day is for staff meetings. You are supposed to be provided time to begin your mandated Keenan trainings, and should be provided additional time in later meetings if needed. You are not required to complete them on your own time.

**Wednesday** is the day you get to work in your room to prepare for the beginning of the school year. No mandatory meetings should be scheduled or held on this day. If there are concerns, please let your site reps know and they can contact the appropriate person.

**Thursday** is the first day with students. We are aware that several sites are understaffed and have not been provided enough teachers for the number of students enrolled. We can't tell you specifics because, although we have been asking for the details most of the summer, no one in HR or Ed Services has provided us with any information. We know some of the RIFd teachers were brought back for SV only, but we do not know how many or who they are, and those remaining do not know where they now sit on the rehire list. We understand that the lack of district transparency on this issue must be frustrating for you. We will continue requesting the information for which we have a right to access.

**Regardless of staffing, your class size may only go over the cap by two students (Article 17.1.10).** If the extra students begin on Thursday, the district may keep you over by two for 20 days. If the extra students begin on Friday or later, the district may keep you over by two for 15 days. At that point they must find another placement for the students, unless you volunteer to keep them for pay moving forward. Working together to ensure compliance of agreed-upon contract language is the best way to ensure we all have our legal rights and responsibilities protected.

### District Changes

CVUSD has a newly appointed superintendent, Dr. Esparza. Many significant changes have taken place under Dr. Esparza's leadership. There are too many details to share in just one email, so look for more information to come. One noteworthy change that is important for you all to know about is that CVTA Leadership is no longer allowed to meet with any administrators at the DO or Sites without that administration notifying Dr. Esparza about it first (supposedly this applies to CSEA leadership as well, but we will see). This is allegedly because we intimidate people and tell them how to do their jobs (as told to us by Dr. Esparza). We believe that our superintendent will (or should) be far too busy to manage our whereabouts as we do the work we are legally entitled to do, but can only wait to see.

The other day I was escorted out of HR after representing a teacher in a meeting, and was told it's because I'm not allowed to talk to anyone in HR but the directors. Now, obviously, this is retaliation for speaking out at board meetings all summer, but just like we tell each of you, ***follow the directives and grieve later***. Documentation is going to be very important in this matter. We will continue to represent our membership and monitor the application of the Collective Bargaining Agreement as we always have, and will deal with this newly hostile work environment as needed. More information to come.

### **CVUSD School Board Elections**

There are four seats up for reelection in November, and CVTA has three endorsed candidates and is working on endorsing a fourth. These are great candidates whose focus is on educating the students of CVUSD and not on personal or political agendas. **CVUSD deserves a board majority of student-centered trustees**. You can go to our website to view the three candidates we have already endorsed, and once we have finished the process and have a fourth, we will begin sharing information here (our website link is both at the top and the bottom of this email). We are going to ask for your help in the campaign activities, so please look for information to come explaining how you can participate.

**Finally, we wish you all a positive and happy first day of school with your students, and a great year to come.** I say this every year, and it's a quote from my dad who always made sure I understood help was available: "Don't suffer in silence." Things happen in our work that aren't always as they should be. Support is available. Reach out to us to let us know how we can help, from things as small as not having the supplies you need, to concerns with student behavior or administration interactions. See below for your first line of contact, your site reps.

### **2024/2025 CVTA Site Reps - No representation at AE, ECE, OA**

Get to know your site reps, as they are your first step to receiving support from CVTA. Reps will receive training and hold their first Rep Council Meeting on September 7th. If you are interested in filling one of these vacancies, please contact me!

AE (1) **vacant**  
BD (1) Kathy Akkerman  
CC (2) Raquel Delgado, **vacant**  
CDA (1) Richard Diaz  
CMA (2) Juanita Mendoza, Julia Cisneros  
CVHS (5) Maya De Leon, Leo Perez, **vacant**, **vacant**, **vacant**  
DM (4) Richard Ortiz, Maria Blackmon, Xochitl Zatarain, **vacant**  
DO (1) Kimberly Lopez  
ECE (1) **vacant**  
JK (2) Rachel Kuiland, Jessica Rubalcava  
LF (1) Matt Ellis  
LP (1) Kelly Reilly  
MA (2) Justin Brown, Monica Martinez  
MV (2) Blanca Ramirez, Elizabeth Cervantes  
OA (1) **vacant**  
PP (1) Melissa Boomer  
PV (2) Jazmin Gomez, Melissa Landfried  
SM (2) Sarah Reyes, Richard Reyes  
SV (1) Jessica Terrazas  
TC (2) Luis Barraza, Lisa Hall  
VDS (2) Stephanie Ortiz, **vacant**  
VV (1) Carlos Villa  
WS (1) Lily Zamora  
WSHS (1) John Sellers

Have a great week! We will visit your sites soon to check in. :)

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**Important Dates**

- **August 20th:** First Teacher Workday (Welcome Back and Staff Meeting)
- **August 21st: Second Teacher Workday (no mandatory meetings allowed, work in classrooms)**
- **August 21st:** Site Duty Schedule Due
- **August 22nd:** Students' First Day Back!!!
- **August 22nd:** CVUSD School Board Mtg. 5:30 pm @ DO ([Live Stream Link here](#))
- **August 27th:** CVTA Eboard Meeting, 4:30 om via Zoom
- **September TBD:** CVTA Welcome Back Social
- **September 1st to 30th:** Catastrophic Sick Bank Open Enrollment
- **September 2nd: Labor Day Holiday**
- **September 7th:** Low Desert Leadership and Rep Council Meeting (Site Rep Training)
- **September 9th: CVTA Organizing Committee Meeting,** 4:00 pm @ Starbucks on Cesar Chavez - community and members welcome!
- **September 12th:** CVUSD School Board Mtg. 5:30 pm @ DO ([Live Stream Link here](#))
- **September 17th:** CVTA Virtual Office Hours 4:30-5:00
- **September 19th:** Class Balancing Deadline
- **September 24th:** CVTA Eboard Meeting, 4:30 om via Zoom
- **September 26th:** CVUSD School Board Mtg. 5:30 pm @ DO ([Live Stream Link here](#))
- **September 27th to 29th:** CTA Special Ed Conference (cta.org to register, must pay for yourself)
- **September 30th:** Deadline for Admin to review Site Budget with Staff



**Carissa Carrera**  
CVTA President

"An injury to one is an injury to all."

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### Coachella Valley Teachers Association

[cvtaprez@gmail.com](mailto:cvtaprez@gmail.com)

PO Box 39

Coachella, CA 92236

Phone: (760) 619-9236

Contact Our Team



Coachella Valley Teachers Association | PO Box 39 | Coachella, CA 92236 US

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