

September 9, 2024



Coachella Valley Teachers Association
California Teachers Association
National Education Association

Join our mailing list!



Coachella Valley Teachers endorse Trinidad Arredondo (Coachella), Thomas Tortez (Oasis), Altrena Santillanes (Thermal), and Adrian Rodriguez (Mecca) for CVUSD School Board.

Time for positive change!

Paid for by Coachella Valley Teachers Association Fund for Quality Education FPFC# 1271156

Good morning! We had a great day on Saturday at our annual Low Desert Leadership, which is our Site Rep Training and first Rep Council Meeting. Nearly all site reps and committee chairs were in attendance, and we had great sessions to attend. Your site reps will likely share their experiences with you at your next CVTA time. (We still have vacancies at CC, CVHS, DM, and SV.)

There is a CVUSD School Board Meeting this Thursday at the DO. Closed Session begins at 5:30 pm and Open Session is supposed to begin at 6:30 pm, although the board often does not return until much later. The link to watch online is in the calendar below, but we'd love to see you there in person! The board needs to know we are paying attention and holding them accountable.

CVUSD School Board Elections

As you can see above, we have 4 excellent endorsed candidates for CVUSD School Board. Your site reps will share information with you soon about volunteer opportunities. **If you'd like a window poster for your car or a lawn sign (different design than above), [please sign up here](#).** Not long to go to get these candidates elected and see some positive change in CVUSD. **Remember, every single aspect of your work environment and students' learning environment is decided by the CVUSD School Board!**

CVTA Organizing Committee Meeting Today!

4:00 pm @ Starbucks on Cesar Chavez - Community and CVTA members welcome! Please

plan to attend if you'd like to be part of the exciting work or organizing community members and CVTA members around critical issues affecting all of us. One of the main issues right now is the School Board Election. Don't be afraid to invite CVUSD families to these meetings. All are welcome and needed.

RIF Update

We still have approximately 22 people on the RIF list still waiting to be rehired. As mentioned before, we have a CTA lawyer working on our behalf to discuss errors or discrepancies related to this (in addition to the decisions made recently to withhold information or access from CVTA which impedes our ability to do our work). We will continue to update you as we have new information.

Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank

Open enrollment is from September 1-30. In order to withdraw from the Sick Leave Bank you need to enroll once and then donate one day each year as needed. If you ever need to use this bank, you get 40 paid days and will then have the option to seek donations for another 40 paid days. Please don't wait until it's too late to join. Contact Jasmine Persaud in HR to enroll.

Virtual Retirement Workshops

CTA is hosting several virtual retirement workshops. It's never too early to start planning! [Click here to view the flyer](#). There will be materials and discussion of the CalSTRS retirement benefit formula, options, Defined Benefit Supplemental program, survivor benefits, legislative changes, and Social Security Offsets.

Mainstreaming and Class Size Issues (Repeat)

In elementary, you may have students mainstreamed into your classroom for a period of time. Please remember that your class size ratios (gen ed) are 30:1 or 24:1 ([Article 17.1](#)). If students are placed into your classroom for any period of time that takes you above that ratio, it is a contract violation. It is a legal requirement, not to mention what is best for students, for mainstreaming to take place. However, if the district is not accounting for those students and leaving space in your rooms for mainstreaming to take place, you can and should file a grievance.

You cannot refuse to take students at any time. As we've always said, ***follow the directive and then grieve***. This is not about what's best for teachers, it is about the students. CVTA and the district agreed that 30:1 and 24:1 is the best ratio for learning to occur. So why would they violate that agreement? To save money. That's the reason. It appears as if the district is more concerned with saving money rather than ensuring students get a quality education that includes the new district initiatives.

CVTA wants to abide by what's best for student learning, so here is what you should do:

- Send an email (the informal grievance) to your administrator which states that when students are mainstreamed in your classroom, the student to teacher ratio increases to ____:____ instead of the agreed upon (30:1 or 24:1). As a resolution, the students need to be mainstreamed into a classroom with fewer students than you, or the district needs to move _____ students out of your classroom to allow for the mainstreaming to occur within the agreed upon class sizes. Make sure to state "This is my informal grievance on this matter."
- Give them a couple of days to comply and if they do not, contact me for a sample grievance you can edit and file for the formal Level 1 grievance.

Again, I want to reiterate that this has nothing to do with teachers not wanting to have students in their classrooms, as the district will try to convince you. Every student in your classroom deserves as much of your time as possible, and each additional student decreases the amount of individual attention available. Our special education students have goals you are to work on with them, and it is important to have the time to do so or we are doing them a disservice.

In the past, the district has told teachers that students being mainstreamed "don't count" towards class size because they are there for only a short time--which is an incredibly insensitive comment to make about any student who deserves attention for their academic

achievement. The issue is not your roster numbers, it is bodies in the classroom. The Association of Colton Educators won arbitration on this very issue. It is time for us to do the same.

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

[Visit Our Website](#)

Important Dates

- **September TBD:** CVTA Welcome Back Social
- **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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