

## Working with the Union Representatives at the School

Teacher union representatives at the various schools may be someone that you want to contact early. They often have the best knowledge of and access to the administration. They can also be of assistance in finding potential allies among teachers, administration and students.

Most teachers belong to either the American Federation of Teachers/CA Federation of Teachers or the National Education Association/CA Teachers Association. Both national unions have addressed the issue of “Opt Out,” with resolutions that at the minimum express the obligation of schools to notify students and parents of their rights under NCLB. Local unions may also have positions. United Teachers Los Angeles has one of the most progressive stands of local unions on all matters of recruiting.

If you want to find out the position of the union itself on issues of recruitment and various aspects of militarization you will want to contact the union directly. Often unions have Human Rights, Social Issue or Political Committees, the chairs of which you might be asked to be referred.

You can find out who the union rep is at a school by contacting the school or the union. If working at an LAUSD school, ask for the name of the Chapter Chair and ask to leave a message, or send a letter to them care of the school. Explain what it is you want to do, and ask them for whatever assistance you might need from them.

Depending on where you are in your process of school adoption, here are some ways the union representative might be able to support your efforts:

- Providing a list of teachers, students, and administration and parents who might be able to collaborate with your efforts
- Distributing your information to interested staff
- Providing a list of student clubs or organizations
- Providing a list of upcoming meetings, parent events, etc.

Local Union Contacts:

United Teachers Los Angeles – 213-487-5560 [www.utla.net](http://www.utla.net)  
Andy Griggs - 310-704-3217 [andyca6@aol.com](mailto:andyca6@aol.com)

State and National Affiliates:

California Teachers Association – 650-697-1400 [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org)

California Federation of Teachers – 510-832-8812 [www.cft.org](http://www.cft.org)

National Education Association – [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)

American Federation of Teachers – [www.aft.org](http://www.aft.org)