



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mayor Emanuel Continues to Insult Public School Educators; This is not a “Strike of Choice.”

Why The Chicago Teachers And School Personnel Have Called A Strike:

Teachers already accepted a much longer day—and now are not being treated with respect. We are on strike for a fair contract that includes the following:

- Pay Fairness.
The parties are not far apart on overall compensation, CTU seeks a fairer distribution of pay and to preserve the schedule for career advancement established 45 years ago in the Union’s first labor contract.
- Protect our benefits.
Maintain our existing benefits and sick days without increasing the contribution rate.
- Fair Evaluation Procedure.
After the initial phase-in period, CPS’s proposed evaluation procedures could result in 6,000 teachers, or nearly a third of all CPS teachers, facing discharge within one or two years. It places too much emphasis on standardized test scores, which diminishes children’s education and punishes teachers unfairly.
- Teacher Training.
CPS is imposing a new curriculum at all schools and a strict, stringent evaluation system. Teachers have asked for more training, but CPS proposes no increase, or in some cases decreased, teacher training.
- Timetable for air conditioning.
Teachers insist that CPS agree to a reasonable timetable to install air conditioning in student classrooms. In July and August, students sit in sweltering 98-degree heat, and air conditioning

Other issues of importance:

CPS-sponsored legislation bars teachers from striking over certain issues, but we nonetheless expect to include the following in our next labor contract:

- Fair recall procedure for laid off teachers.
This summer, CTU agreed to the Mayor’s longer school day, and the agreement included a fair recall procedure for laid off teachers. The new labor contract must include a fair recall procedure.
- Fair compensation for a longer school year.
If teachers are expected to work a longer school year, they should be fairly compensated for the extra work. Neutral Fact Finder Edwin Benn ruled that teachers should be paid for their extra work.

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The union is not on strike over matters governed exclusively by IELRA Section 4.5 and 12(b).

The Chicago Teachers Union represents 30,000 teachers and educational support personnel working in the Chicago Public Schools, and by extension, the more than 400,000 students and families they serve. The CTU is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers and the Illinois Federation of Teachers and is the third largest teachers local in the United States and the largest local union in Illinois. For more information please visit CTU’s website at www.ctunet.com.