On March 30, the UFT launched a new campaign to collect data and protect services for special education students. With yet another reorganization of special ed on the horizon, the campaign will ensure that systemic issues are identified and students get the services, support and resources they need.

**THERE IS NO EXCUSE**

The campaign posters, flyers, buttons and website remind members:

“Accept no excuse. Defend the IEP. It’s the law.”

**How does this apply to you?**

Has your child’s school refused your request for an evaluation to determine if your child is eligible for special education services?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Has your child’s school failed to develop an IEP for your child or failed to update your child’s IEP on an annual basis?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Has your child’s school failed to provide related services (speech, counseling, occupational therapy, physical therapy, school health services) according to the frequency, duration and location specified on your child’s IEP?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Has your child’s school failed to provide IEP mandated paraprofessional services for your child?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Has your child’s school failed to arrange IEP mandated special transportation for your child?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Has your child’s school failed to place your child in the setting recommended on his or her IEP?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If your child is not progressing in the grade level curriculum or meeting his or her IEP goals, has your school refused your request to reconvene the IEP team to consider additional or different supports and services?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If your child is exhibiting challenging behavior, has your child’s school failed or refused to conduct a functional behavioral assessment and develop or review a behavior intervention plan?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If your child receives integrated co-teaching services (collaborative team teaching) has your child’s school failed to provide two appropriately certified teachers (one general education or content area and one special education) for all periods specified on your child’s IEP?  

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If you answer yes to any of these questions...

**REPORT! REPORT! REPORT!**

The union has put additional resources in place for you, including a new hotline number to report violations, 212-701-9499, and a new online complaint form. Campaign posters, flyers, bookmarks and additional information were mailed to all chapter leaders. You can find more information (and additional copies of the flyer to download) on the campaign’s webpage. Click on the “THERE IS NO EXCUSE” button on the home page or visit the special ed page at www.uft.org/chapter/teacher/special. You will also find information there on the city’s whistleblower law and how to seek coverage under it.
Special Education
Complaint Form

We have created a new simplified Special Education Complaint form to track trends and facilitate problem solving around special education issues. Once we receive the complaint, a member of the union’s special education staff will review it. You will receive a call or an email to verify the information and obtain additional details. We will then work with you to determine the appropriate mechanism for resolving the issue. We will not share your name or any information on this form with administrative, supervisory or managerial personnel in the Department of Education without your approval.

Questions marked with a * are required

Date: ____________________________

Name: (Last, First): * ____________________________ Email Address (Non-DOE): ____________________________

Mobile or Home Phone: * ___________ Position / Relationship to Child: * ____________________________

Borough: * _______ District: * _______ School: * ____________________________ Work Phone: * ___________

Your Chapter Leader: * ____________________________

Did caller discuss issue with:

☐ Child’s parents (or teacher if caller is parent) ☐ Chapter Leader ☐ Principal / Supervisor

Area of Complaint (Check all that may apply):

☐ Special Class (Self-contained in district, high school, District 75, etc.)

☐ Collaborative Team Teaching (CTT)

☐ Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS)

☐ Related Services

☐ Para Supports and Services

☐ Bilingual Programs and Services

☐ ESL Instruction

☐ Referral

☐ Placement

☐ Assessment and Evaluation

☐ Discipline and Suspension of Students with Disabilities

☐ Copy of IEP Not Provided (General Education IEP Teacher, Special Education Teacher, Cluster Teacher or Related Service Provider), Access to IEP Denied (Paraprofessional) or Failure to Inform of IEP Implementation Responsibilities

☐ IEP Implementation (Test Accommodations, Behavior Intervention Plan, Supports for School Personnel, Assistive Technology, Transition Services, etc.)

☐ IEP Process (Team Meetings, Changes to IEPs, Notice, Consent, etc.)

☐ Other, please describe:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Please fax this form to Carmen Alvarez’s office at (212) 514-8083. If you wish to get in touch with Carmen Alvarez, you may call her office at (212) 598-9546 or you can send an e-mail to calvarez@uff.org.