

# Hearing Education Services

## CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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UFT Delegates: Amy Cohen and Donna Kafko

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### MESSAGE FROM Cecilia Cortez

The school year is well underway and I have not yet had a chance to even say “welcome back.” I hope you are having a good year so far and your program is going well.

There are many new changes to the HES program this year. One of them is the introduction of the SESIS – the **Special Education Student Information System**. Now we have to document every moment we are with our students. It takes time, training, and the use of a computer in a school building. Many HES teachers have not been trained on this process. I spoke to Ms. Kaufman; she is aware of our concerns.

SE SIS has the potential to be a positive development, but the union is well aware that the DOE has failed to provide the equipment, time, training and support that our members need to do this work. In addition to meeting with the DOE, the UFT has filed an improper practice charge at the Public Employment Relations Board and a union-initiated grievance. We are doing everything we can to force the DOE to come up with a sound and reasonable plan. We have set up a new SESIS mailbox to receive your emails: [SESISissues@uft.org](mailto:SESISissues@uft.org). Check the UFT’s Teaching Students with Disabilities webpage ([www.uft.org/teaching/students-disabilities](http://www.uft.org/teaching/students-disabilities)) for further updates and for information on when it’s appropriate to file a grievance and how to do it.



### You Should Know

**Teacher evaluations:** A joint letter on teacher evaluations was released from New York City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott, UFT President Michael Mulgrew and Council of Supervisors and Administrators President Ernest Logan makes clear: there is no new teacher evaluation process, and there will not be one until the union can successfully negotiate one with the DOE.

### Things to do

● Please fill out our online budget survey (<https://uft.wufoo.com/forms/20112012-school-budget-information/>). The survey will tell us how the cuts have affected your school’s staffing, programs, classroom resources and safety – all the factors that make a school successful. If you have a particularly egregious or telling example to relate, you can also describe it in an email to [dbenz@uft.org](mailto:dbenz@uft.org).



### Next Consultation Meeting

The next consultation meeting will be Wednesday, November 2 at 400 First Avenue. Send your questions, concerns, and suggestions for this and future meetings to [ccortez@uft.org](mailto:ccortez@uft.org).

**“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” ~ Martin Luther King Jr.**

