



## Hearing Education Services

### CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Dear ,

I hope the year has started smoothly for you. As the school year progresses, I want to thank all of you for doing your job so well. I'm aware that we don't often receive recognition for the work we do.

I know you are frustrated because you often spend valuable time looking for a parking space. And then, once in school, we spend so much time dealing with SESIS. We recognize how these issues affect your daily life and we will continue to fight for your rights as members.

I urge you to vote on Nov. 8. There is a tremendous amount at stake with not only the presidential election, but also with other national and state offices. See the [Voting NYC website](#) to find your poll site, confirm your registration status and obtain important ballot information such as a list of the different contests and candidates.

Remember that your union is here for you. [Visit the UFT website](#) any time and use the tools there, such as the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) and the [Ask the Union tool](#). You can also find contact information for your [UFT borough office](#), where there is staff to assist you with issues and questions.

You should also regularly check our [Hearing Education Services Chapter page](#), which I will update regularly throughout the school year with news, events and information pertinent to our chapter. And, always feel free to contact me at [ccortez@uft.org](mailto:ccortez@uft.org) with any questions specific to hearing education services.

Despite these last few warm days, I can tell by the weather that the school year is moving forward; colder nights and crisp days mean heavier blankets and warm jackets. It's hard to believe but we're already looking ahead to the winter holidays.

In unity,

Cecilia Cortez  
Hearing Education Services Chapter Leader

## Walk4Hearing on Sept. 25

Many of you participated in the Walk4Hearing in Riverside Park on Sept. 25, part of a national effort sponsored by the Hearing Loss Association of America. About 1,500 New York area residents walked in this 5K and raised more than \$125,000. (Last year, our team raised \$1,800.) Part of the money we raise goes directly to important services we provide our members with hearing loss. This annual event is a fun opportunity for us to come together and support our students and others with hearing loss. Furthermore, the walk raises awareness about hearing loss and communication access.

It was truly empowering to witness so many New Yorkers working together to support hearing services and those with hearing loss. Learn more about the walk at the [Hearing Loss Association of America website](#). Visit the [photo gallery on UFT.org](#) to see more photos from the day!



Hearing Education Services team members gathered to raise awareness for students and others with hearing loss at the NYC Walk4Hearing in Manhattan on Sept. 25.

## Consultation committee meetings

During our consultation meetings with Assistant Superintendent Helen Kaufman, which occur at the end of every month, we discuss many topics including the budget, audiology, school-based options, the HES newsletter, paperwork, parking and SESIS. [Consultation meeting minutes](#) are posted on our chapter website.

## SE SIS update

We understand the significant need for computers so you can access SE SIS and update student IEPs. We have been promised computers and are still waiting for the DOE to address our request. We will continue to emphasize the importance of computers in completing your daily tasks.

The UFT has made progress in improving the SE SIS system. This summer, a working group including members from the UFT, the city's Office of Management and Budget, the city's Office of Labor Relations and the DOE discussed how to make SE SIS easier to use. UFT Secretary Howard Schoor says that the system has improved which should make SE SIS more accessible to users. For more information, read the New York Teacher article.

## Helpful information from audiologists

Our colleagues in the Audiologists Chapter have been joining us at our monthly meetings since September to answer questions about students' hearing loss. By including them in our meetings, the goal is to create a regular opportunity for teachers and audiologists to exchange information and ask questions.

The audiologists have reported that new technology is coming to the students. We are eagerly awaiting more details about the types of technology and will keep you posted.

## Upcoming events

Tuesday, Nov. 8: Please join us for Professional Development Day at the UFT Brooklyn borough office from 8 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. and learn how to better serve your students.

March 4 – 5, 2017: HES teachers will again participate in the UFT training in Rye, NY next year. We hope that it will be an enjoyable and informative experience for members, and we look forward to learning new information about the UFT's programs and events.

## Know your work schedule

It is important for you to be familiar with your work schedule so that you know both the duties and benefits of your position. Your work day is six hours and 50 minutes long, including a 50-minute

duty-free lunch period. You also have a 40-minute preparation period. We are itinerant teachers, which means we travel frequently. We typically travel 20 minutes from site to site.

You are required to track student IEPs using the SESIS system and must spend 30 minutes on SESIS each day.

As teachers of students with hearing loss, you must have a program that includes 26 to 30 sessions. If you work during your preparation period, make sure you get paid per session. Speak to your HES supervisor about receiving per-session pay.

Remember: It is very important for you to sign in at every school you visit. Signing in allows you to document you were there.

## We celebrate Teacher Union Day, Nov. 6

Teacher Union Day commemorates the 1960 strike that led to the UFT becoming the strong labor organization it is today. It's a day set aside to honor past and present UFT leaders. The day includes an awards ceremony, breakfast and lunch at the New York Hilton Midtown, 1335 Avenue of the Americas. I hope to see many of you there.

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