



Social Workers and Psychologists

Dear Friend,

I hope you're settling into a great school year! Your job is demanding work, and I hope you had plenty of time for rest and relaxation during what must now seem like a distant summer.

My name is Raul Garcia and I'm the new chapter leader for the Social Worker and Psychologist chapter. For the past nine years, I've been a Bilingual School Psychologist at the Van Arsdale Campus located in Brooklyn. As you work through another school year, remember that we at the UFT are here to support you every day.

We ended last school year on a high note. After a lengthy campaign by thousands of UFT members, UFT-represented employees secured the right to six weeks of paid parental leave. In the first eight days after the leave application went live in August, 430 people had filed for this new benefit. This campaign is a concrete example of what we can accomplish when we stand together and take collective action.

Ironically, the same week that we won this historic fight, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling in the Janus v. AFSCME case that made our circumstances tougher. The Koch brothers, Betsy DeVos and her family and other members of the wealthiest 1 percent in this country seek to destroy unions. This shows that they realize the true value of union membership, which gives working people a fighting chance against unchecked power.

We at the UFT are fortunate to be members of a strong union. That's why we have valuable pension benefits, comprehensive health coverage, workplace protections and solid school funding. But we can't take anything for granted given the enemies we face. Your future well-being depends on your commitment to your union.

Likewise, your union is committed to you. I believe communication and transparency are key to improving our work experience. Therefore, I'd like to share the following information.

Chapter updates

- **Social workers' Continuing Education Credits (CECs):** We're pleased to announce that the UFT/Member Assistance Program (MAP) is a state provider of licensed clinical social work (LCSW) and licensed master social worker (LMSW) CECs. We'll be offering courses at a

discounted rate. If you are a social worker who has received extensive training in a specific area, consider yourself an expert and would like to become a trainer, please [fill out this survey](#) to be considered. Training sessions will be scheduled for mid-November. The deadline to apply is **Monday, Nov. 12**.

- **Single Shepherd social workers:** Thanks to the UFT's work with the New York City Council, Single Shepherd social workers will receive \$100 for items appropriate for educational use as part of the Teacher's Choice program. Learn more about Teacher's Choice [on the UFT website](#).
- **Parking permits:** School-based parking permits are set to expire on Nov. 1. To renew your permit or apply for one for the first time, complete the [DOE's online permit application](#) before the deadline of **Wednesday, Oct. 10**.

Issues we're working on

- **Testing materials and scoring:** We continue to work to ensure clinicians are provided with the necessary tools you need to complete your duties. We're also working to obtain access to a wider range of assessment tools which can enhance our evaluations. As a reminder, we have online scoring for most of our commonly used assessment tools (WJ IV, WPPSI, WISC, WAIS, WIAT, Vineland and BASC). Please contact your borough representatives or myself for support with access to testing materials or scoring.
- **Per session payment:** We're working on improving the per session payment experience. Many members have experienced delayed payment of their contractual case management hours. Per our contract, school psychologists are allotted up to 20 hours of per session for case management with supervisor approval for scheduling. If you experience difficulties with payment, contact your borough representative or myself for support.

Sincerely,

Raul Garcia
Social Workers and Psychologists Chapter Leader

OUR CHAPTER | OUR UNION



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