



Your chapter leader and the union fight for you year-round, making sure your contractual rights are upheld. Chapter leaders meet regularly with DOE officials to solve problems and bring your issues to the forefront. This Chapter Update is intended to keep members posted about these meetings and the progress we make negotiating on your behalf.

Hearing Education Services Chapter Update

- Number of sessions:** One of our priorities as a chapter is sticking to 25 sessions per week. We really need to focus on that going forward. The programs should be implemented as designed and not revised since that would undermine the seniority list. Teachers will receive their programs according to their selections and should remain with their assignments. You should not make changes after your selection. We follow the [Cascade seniority agreement](#), which outlines seniority rules and procedures for HES members.
- Computer and internet concerns:** Some HES teachers want advanced training on Chromebooks. We've discussed this in the past, but need to keep the issue on the front burner. Please tell your HES supervisors about what you want. I am also aware that some HES teachers work in schools where it is difficult to get internet access for their Chromebooks. In those cases, HES teachers still have to negotiate access to the internet.
- Our contract:** We have a strong contract that protects us in many ways. It's important to know your rights and benefits as a UFT member so please take a moment and read it or review it if you haven't read it in a while. Learn more about your rights in the [Our Rights section of UFT.org](#).



Cecilia Cortez
Chapter Leader

Issues we're working on

- We need dedicated space to work in the schools so we can better serve our students. Often, we arrive at buildings and cannot find space to teach. We only have between 30 and 45 minutes per student and finding an appropriate location takes up valuable time we could be spending with the children.

- We need dedicated time for writing our IEPs. We don't currently have enough time because we spend part of our time traveling between schools.

I want to remind you that we have our professional development training day on Thursday, June 7, from 8 a.m. to 2:50 p.m., at the Manhattan School for Career Development. I look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above issues, please contact me at ccortez@uft.org.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Cortez
Hearing Education Services Chapter Leader

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