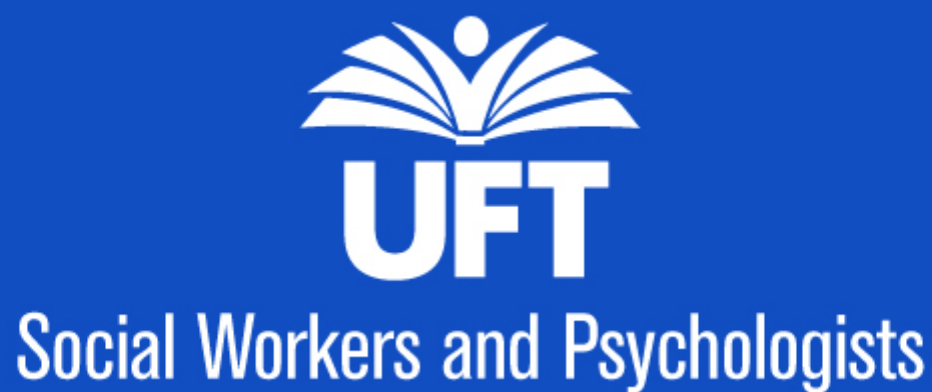


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Dear Friend,

We are excited that the DOE-UFT 2018 contract is now fully in effect, and on Feb. 14, we received a 2 percent raise. Furthermore, the union won the right for school consultation committees to address issues with professional development, curriculum, inadequate space, workload and basic instructional supplies in a timely manner.

Other additions for our chapter include:

- The annual cap for per-session activities for school social workers and psychologists will increase from 270 hours to 400 hours.
- A labor management committee will be established to discuss the creation of a standardized rating sheet for social workers.
- A labor management committee will also be created to discuss issues related to the Single Shepherd Initiative.
- The SESIS menu will now include state-required documents. (The DOE recently announced it will scrap SESIS in the near future but has not established a timeline.)
- A new psychologist intern position will be created in schools.

We look forward to the ways in which the new contract empowers our members. Additionally, we are hard at work addressing various issues faced by our members.

Find more important news for our chapter below.

Sincerely,

Raul Garcia
Social Workers and Psychologists Chapter Leader
rgarcia@uft.org

Updates

Pilot program: new assessment tools

At your request, we've been working with the DOE on building our assessment toolbox. The DOE is piloting two new assessment tools this year.

District 9 in the Bronx is piloting Bateria IV, a psychometric tool which measures cognitive abilities in Spanish; and District 18 in Brooklyn will begin the Feifer Assessment of Reading (FAR), a comprehensive assessment of reading and related processes which help determine students' dyslexia subtype and appropriate interventions.

Increasing the number of tools we have allows us to enhance our evaluations. We hope one or both of these pilot assessments is approved.

Pilot program: IEP translations

The DOE has initiated a pilot effort for translating the IEPs of children whose parents speak a language other than English in District 9 in the Bronx, District 24 in Queens and all of District 75.

In those three districts, translation is available for IEPs created during the 2018-19 school year. Translations are available to any language. Parents must affirmatively ask for the translation via one of three paths: online at tinyurl.com/NYCDOEIEP, by phone at 718-935-2013 or by asking the child's school to make the request. Parents should receive a letter with their IEP meeting notice informing them of their right to ask for a translation, but they don't need the letter to make the request.

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Current issues

Enhancing the Turning 5 experience

To improve the overall Turning 5 (T5) experience, the DOE has assigned middle school clusters up to 10 T5 cases per cluster. Last year, the DOE assigned middle school clusters up to seven T5 cases but these cases were never included as part of the data used during clustering. This year, we made sure that middle school clusters (social workers and psychologists) will receive credit for 10 T5 cases during the clustering process.

Please note that the assignment of 10 T5 cases in middle schools is per cluster not per middle school in a cluster. The assignments of cases is based on the school psychologist's cluster.

If a school psychologist has more than 10 T5 cases in their middle schools, please contact your supervisor and include your UFT borough representative and me in the e-mail. An example of a middle school cluster having more than 10 cases is as follows: Middle School A was assigned 10 cases and Middle School B was assigned nine cases. In this scenario, the DOE must reassign nine T5 cases since the DOE was supposed to assign only up to 10 cases to this middle school cluster.

We recognize the T5 experience continues to need improvement and we will continue working with the DOE to improve the experience beyond balancing assignments

Request help if workload becomes unmanageable

As we enter the second half of the school year, the frequency of referrals tends to increase. With the increase in referrals and the addition of Turning 5 assignments, your workload may become unmanageable. When you need support, ask for it! You should request help from your supervisor by using the Request for Assistance option on SESIS and/or e-mailing your supervisor. A response to your request should be received within five business days. If you do not receive a response, follow up with an email to your supervisor as well as the Office of Supervisors of Psychologist at Officesupsofpsych@schools.nyc.gov, your UFT borough representative and myself. You can find the name of your UFT borough rep on the [UFT website](#).

Clerical worker vacancies

Many members have told us they don't have a clerical worker assigned to their team. Per our contract, each School-Based Support Team school psychologist should have an assigned clerical worker.

If you are an SBST school psychologist who does not have a clerical worker assigned to work with you, please email [your chapter borough representative](#) and me (rgarcia@uft.org). We're working to ensure these vacancies are filled.

Observation of Single Shepherd and pre-K social workers

Earlier this school year, Single Shepherd and pre-K social workers were told of changes to their observation process. We don't agree with these changes and are working to address our chapter's concerns. If you're a Single Shepherd or pre-K social workers and you've been observed, please feel free to email me at rgarcia@uft.org and share your experience.

We're on Instagram!

Our chapter has an Instagram account! Follow us at [SWPSYChapter](#). We'll be sharing information pertinent to our chapter and union.

Chapter meeting on March 28

Our next membership meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at UFT headquarters, 52 Broadway, 19th floor, room F.

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