

The TORRANCE TEACHER

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Inclement Weather Remains on the Front Burner TTA & TUSD Sign MOU for Make-Up Days As Needed

On Wednesday, September 30th, TUSD administrators met with the TTA Negotiations Team to address the potential need to dismiss school early or altogether due to inclement weather. With another heat wave and a super El Niño on the horizon, TUSD finally agrees with the Association that inclement weather days and protocols need to be built into the annual school calendar—and that this is a matter to be addressed with urgency.

The Association welcomes the District reaching out and working in a collaborative and expedited manner to address the upcoming forecasted heat. The [MOU](#) outlines that if minimum days are declared, that PLC days will be converted to regular school days at the elementary and high school levels to make up the needed instructional minutes. Middle schools are not impacted because they remain above the number of instructional minutes required by the state.

It also outlines that if full days of instruction are dismissed for inclement weather, that March 19th and potentially February 8th will be used as make up days. February 8th is a paid holiday for TUSD classified employees, so that date might be changed in the future if a second day is needed. TTA proposed the March 5th PD day as a make up day as a potential solution, but that date would have to be made up at the end of the school year if used. So, in the interim, TTA and TUSD agreed on using March 19th first and February 8th second.

While the MOU has been signed by both TUSD and TTA—and it has been shared across school sites along with bell schedules—it has not been approved by the Board of Education yet. The Association expects that TUSD is working with the other local unions on developing a similar MOU to address all employees' safety in inclement weather and working out the calendar issues.

TUSD is working on the protocol for how to get the word out to all stakeholders, how to ensure that all students get picked up, feeding students, bussing students, etc. These logistics have not been part of the TUSD culture in the past but must become so now. As the weather becomes more extreme, the District must adapt to keep students and staff safe. This MOU is a step in that direction. The MOU is linked above and will be on the TTA website.

FAQs: STRS Benefits

A law signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2024 will go into effect on July 1, 2027. That law simplifies the rules around what compensation counts toward STRS members' pensions. Compensation will now be looked at through four lenses:

1. Specifically excluded types of pay
2. Salary (from a salary schedule)
3. Special Pay
4. Supplemental Pay

Specifically excluded types of pay are defined as pay for which there is no pension benefit. It includes fringe benefits, relinquishment of unused sick leave, expenses paid or reimbursed, severance pay, employer-provided allowances, compensatory damages, and compensation paid in lieu of benefits.

Salary is the heart of the defined benefit (DB). But the DB is determined based on the class of the employee. For example, taking a 1/6th class assignment does not enhance the defined benefit. An employee is paid on a schedule as part of a class of employees. That salary determines the defined benefit. The 1/6th pay would fall under supplemental pay.

Special pay is pay that is paid for education, experience, or classification that is paid in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement to everyone in a class of employees, such as a stipend for a doctorate, CLAD certification, or National Board certification. This is pay that is in addition to salary for completing or possessing educational units, certificates, licenses, credentials, or degrees and is paid to each member in the class who meets the criteria. Experience refers to longevity pay. This pay is not paid a limited number of times but is ongoing. This pay is also part of the employees defined benefit.

Supplemental pay is any other pay. It may or may not be paid to everyone in a class of employees. Examples include pay for a 1/6th assignment (not everyone in a class of employees) and off-schedule bonuses (everyone in a class of employees).

So, what is a class of employees? The law defines a class of employees as those performing similar job duties with employment in the same type of program established by law and/or the LCAP. For example, teachers are a class of employees. School psychologists are a class of employees. Counselors are a class of employee.

TTA Negotiators are working with TUSD to ensure that our salary schedules and recognitions article properly identify all the necessary information for each class of employees so there are no problems with Cal STRS for our employees as they retire. The law states that all salary schedules must identify the position title of the established class of employees with an effective date, the annual pay rate, and the board adoption date.

If you have further questions about your retirement benefits, you can contact TUSD’s HR department and/or Cal STRS for more information. CTA has information at [Retirement Security - California Teachers Association](#).

Midterm Elections 2026

How to help with the November Election



Ryan Rauzon
TUSD Board of Ed
Area D



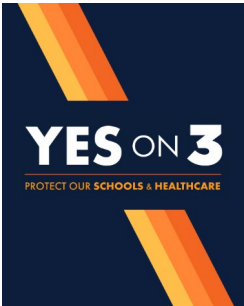
Sara Deen
Assembly
District 66



John Erickson
State Senate
District 24



Richard Barrera
Superintendent
of Public Instruction



Proposition 3

- 10/3—Canvassing with Ryan Rauzon (4620 Highgrove Ave, Torrance 90505, 10:00 AM)
- 10/3—Tabling with Torrance Democratic Club @ Torrance Farmer’s Market (9-11 or 11-1)
- 10/5—Meet & Greet with Sara Deen and Ryan Rauzon (7-8:30 PM)



- 10/10—Canvassing with Ryan Rauzon (4620 Highgrove Ave, Torrance 90505, 10:00 AM)
- 10/10—Tabling with Torrance Democratic Club @ Torrance Farmer’s Market (9-11 or 11-1)
- 10/12—Riviera Homeowners Association Candidate Forum with Ryan Rauzon (375 Palos Verdes Blvd.—Riviera United Methodist Church, 7-9 PM)
- 10/12—Torrance Democratic Club with Sara Deen and John Erickson (Mimi’s Café, 7 PM)
- 10/17—Flyers, signs, and participation in No Kings Rally @ Torrance City Hall (11 AM -1 PM)
- 10/18—Skechers Pier to Pier Fun Walk (carry signs for candidates or Prop 3 if participating)
- 10/19—Last day to register to vote for November 3rd election
- 10/24—Canvassing with Ryan Rauzon (4620 Highgrove Ave, Torrance 90505, 10:00 AM)
- 10/24—Tabling with Torrance Democratic Club @ Torrance Farmer’s Market (9-11 or 11-1)
- 10/24—Bingo Night with Ryan Rauzon (4620 Highgrove Ave, Torrance 90505, 10:00 AM)
- 10/31—Canvassing with Ryan Rauzon (4620 Highgrove Ave, Torrance 90505, 10:00 AM)
- 10/31—Tabling with Torrance Democratic Club @ Torrance Farmer’s Market (9-11 or 11-1)

Prop 3 canvassing can be on any day. Just reach out to Julie Shankle at 424-247-3763 for literature and a turf.

For more information on each of the campaigns, visit: [electryanr.com](#), [saradeenforca.com](#), [johnerrickson4senate.com](#), [barreraforedu.com](#), and [yesprop3ca.com](#).