



CORE Issues

www.coreteachers.org



“At the founding of our country, it was outlawed for people who looked like me to be educated and literate. My very history in this country as a black woman is grounded in legislative action and legal decision. So the concept that our union work should not be political makes no sense.

Everything bad that has happened to our union manifested itself in our state legislature. Our enemies went to Springfield to create the infrastructure to fire black teachers, to proliferate private options, and to take our retirement security from us.

Yet, our ability to win didn’t just start at the legislature or the ballot box. Our ability to win started with organizing. Our union, under CORE’s leadership, invested in research, organizing, and political departments so we could fight and win.”

~ **Stacy Davis Gates**

“For the first time in CPS’s 150-year history, we will have a school board elected by the people, starting in 2024. This introduces a new era, and the end of mayoral control. It has the potential to change the entire bargaining paradigm and center the needs of parents, students, and educators in our future efforts.”

~ **Jackson Potter**



“Our 2019 contract has enforceable language for clinicians that includes a nurse and social worker in every school, every day, and the elimination of subcontracting and privatization of teacher and PSRP clinicians by the end of the contract term.”

~ **Maria Moreno**

“As a PSRP for life, I am proud of our union’s commitment to our professionalism. For the first time in the history of our union we have lanes in our contract that increase pay for educational advancement. This is huge!”

~ **Christel Williams-Hayes**



CORE MEMBERS IN ACTION!

The Importance of the RIGHT Leadership

A letter from Lori Torres to CTU membership

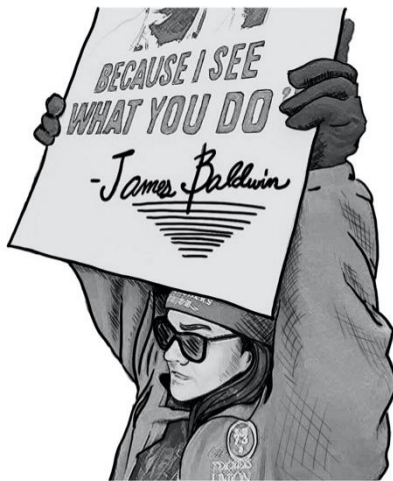
Dear fellow educators,

I started teaching at a strange time: I was hired in 1998 as a FTB (full-time basis substitute) with a Type 29 temporary bilingual certificate, shortly after Chicago schools came under mayoral control. Hiring was descending into a state of chaos. At the beginning of my second year, I was released on the 20th day due to changing enrollment numbers. I was able to secure a position at another school in Logan Square soon after, where I continued as an FTB until 2005. Then I was one of the first group of teachers who could be let go with no reason required. So for seven years, I was kept in a position of permanent impermanence, vital but disposable.

Our union leadership at the time agreed to the terms that repeatedly put me out of a job. I was in my *last year* before finally securing tenure. I had to find another position before October 31, 2005, or I would lose the years toward tenure that I had already earned. To that end, I was hired at my current school on October 30. No teacher should go through that much uncertainty for that long when our students need qualified bilingual staff and other supports so badly.

The relationship I had with my union leadership was one of me paying dues and having no voice as to how or what would happen to me or my colleagues. Decisions were made *for* me, not *with* me.

Fast forward a few years and a new caucus, CORE, formed out of many of the same frustrations that dogged me for my first decade in CPS. When Karen Lewis was elected President of the Chicago Teachers Union at the top of the first ever CORE slate, I saw a version of my union where diversity of voice mattered, and I found my place in this new movement where organizing, political action, building allies in the community, and listening to our members matter.



I cannot go back to times when all we were offered at bargaining is pay, when we had no voice, and when members felt so disposable.

CORE has taken the collective voices of members, families, and community and strengthened our standing in this city. We became a voice that requires others to listen. Under CORE's leadership:

- Our bargaining rights are restored.
- We enshrined pension protections.
- We won enforceable class size provisions.
- We strengthened bilingual education foundations.
- We secured substantial raises for PSRPs.
- For the first time in our history, an Elected Representative School Board is on the horizon.

CORE helps us understand that WE the members are our union. I am proud to say that I AM CORE and I will stand by this caucus.

Our Vision

We, the Caucus of Rank-and-File Educators are a group of CTU members.

We are united by the principles of member-driven unionism, transparency & accountability, equitable high quality education for all students, defense of publicly funded public education, a strong contract, and anti-racism.

In the spirit of Karen Jennings Lewis, we believe that building broad coalitions of the entire school community - including students, families, and community partners - strengthens us in the fight for improved working conditions for staff and learning conditions for students.

JOIN
US!

CORE



THE CAUCUS OF RANK-AND-FILE EDUCATORS TRANSFORMING CTU SINCE 2008

