

The CORE Platform

CORE is dedicated to reforming and revitalizing the Chicago Teachers Union based on a 5-point platform.

A Member Driven Union

CORE believes ultimate Union power and authority rest with the members themselves. Teachers and PSRPs must be the Union's driving force - we must take back our union, redefine its values, leadership structure, and direction. All elected leaders must be true servants of the entire CTU membership.

Transparency & Accountability

CORE believes that all Union information should be available, without exception, to CTU members and the House of Delegates. CORE insists on and welcomes holding all leadership, delegates, caucuses, and members accountable on the issues. Open access to information is the first step to building unity.

Support of Publicly Funded Public Education

CORE believes education is a public service not a private enterprise. CORE fights for the educational needs of all of Chicago's communities, schools, families, and students. CORE supports equitable school funding and is fiercely opposed to high stakes standardized testing and school privatization.

Partnerships

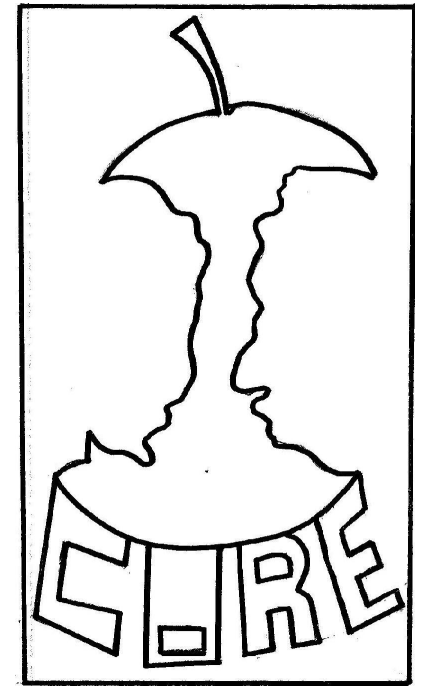
CORE believes in organizing and joining forces with all CTU caucuses, community organizations, parent and student associations, LSCs, fellow labor unions, local government offices, higher education, churches, and others to build a multi-faceted movement in support of the greater Chicago education community.

A Strong Contract

CORE believes in fighting aggressively side-by-side with teachers, PSRPs, and other education employees for a stronger collective bargaining agreement informed by the real needs of members who work in the trenches. Strength in bargaining is established through openness, integrity, & member participation.

CORE
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General Distribution



The Caucus Of Rank and File Educators

*A democratic caucus
of the Chicago Teachers Union*

Take the CORE Values Survey
Visit our website
www.coreteachers.com

Join our e-mail list
core2@lists.riseup.net

For more information
teachersunitedinaction@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

To learn more about CORE events and activities visit coreteachers.com or sign up for our e-mail list.

Wednesday, September 3, 4:30 p.m.

House of Delegates meeting.

Saturday, September 6, 7:30 p.m.

'Rent Party' to raise funds for displaced teachers.

Wednesday, September 24, 4:00 p.m.

CORE meets the last Wednesday of each month.

Monday, October 6

Day of action against testing. Stay tuned for more!

Current Issues

Removal of the Vice President

CORE is greatly troubled by the radical nature of the removal of any elected officer without input from the House of Delegates. CORE believes the appropriateness of the accusations, motivations, trial process, conviction, and punishment in the case of the recent officer removal should be reassessed. CORE calls for full access to the financial expenditures of all elected officers, not just a select few. Transparency for one - transparency for all!

CTU Budget Crisis

In 2004, the CTU had a \$5 million budget surplus. Today, our Union owes a \$3 million debt. Given such stunning financial mismanagement, CORE calls for full transparency on all expenditures and audits, including a line item budget that should be available to any member or delegate upon request. CORE's governing philosophy of accountability requires complete openness without exception. There is no such thing as information that can be legitimately withheld from members or delegates.

Privatization

CORE strongly opposes privatization of our schools. CPS wants to pile high our class sizes, deprofessionalize teaching, proliferate charter schools, and divest from our pensions - all in an effort to bust our Union. The fight to retain our bargaining rights, and ensure future rights, requires CTU to re-build from the bottom up - with teachers and PSRPs taking back their union, redefining its values, leadership structure, and direction.

Summer Summary

Jinny Sims event

CORE invited Jinny Sims, past president of the British Columbia Teachers Federation (BCTF), to talk to Chicago teachers at a community center in Pilsen. Sims spoke of the need for informing quality public education through strong unionism in the face of massive privatization efforts in education in major cities around the world. The BCTF's effectiveness during Sims' tenure was based upon its perseverance ability to form partnerships with community groups. She advocated this type of outreach for the Chicago Teachers Union.

Joint community forum

CORE held a panel discussion on how teachers can work together with community organizations to better serve the needs of parents, students, and communities. Participants included the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization, Pilsen Alliance, Blocks Together, Clergy Committed to Community, Access Living, and Parents United for Responsible Education (PURE).

Contract study group

CORE sponsored a study group that engaged in a detailed analysis of the current collective bargaining agreement.

Attended budget hearings

CORE took initiative (that the CTU did not) by attending CPS budget hearings to speak out on behalf of CTU members and students.

CTU history

CORE sponsored a study group and panel discussion on the long and rich history of the CTU, including information on past successful strikes.

Other CORE issues

CORE will support and fight for paid and pensionable family leave, grievable class size restrictions, full funded pensions, and a daily prep for all elementary teachers. CORE will fight against charter school proliferation, merit pay that divides our Union, school closings, mass firing of tenured teachers, and all privatization of schools and positions. CORE also seeks to establish a strike fund to support members during future job actions by bringing officer and field representative salaries into line with what real teachers make.

Member Statement - Karen Lewis

I joined CORE because the Chicago Teacher's Union has been unwilling or unable to bring all the stakeholders to the table. Parents, students, community groups, and others are all partners we need to include to improve education in Chicago. We are fighting a mighty foe - the corporate-sponsored attack on public funding of public education. CORE holds this dearest among its issues. The systematic dismantling of our schools and neighborhoods and relentless assault on teachers is an affront to us all.

CORE listens to teachers, PSRPs, students, teachers and communities; it does not hand down edicts from above. CTU must evolve. If Daley gets his way one-half of all city schools will be charters, in effect destroying the CTU. I hope every stakeholder will join CORE as active participants to bring an end to the annihilation of our schools and communities.

Member Statement - Jim Cavallero

I joined CORE for two reasons. First, I believe very strongly in unions. I am a delegate and I have never been a part of any caucus. The longer I have served as a delegate the more I have become disenchanted. I feel our union has forgotten that it is about its members. We, the members, have been ignored and underserved for far too long. It is time for a new generation of union teachers to step up and return this union to an organization that will protect and enhance the professional abilities of its members, will advocate for quality, equitable, publicly funded public education, and will function as a pillar of democracy. CORE has been founded on these principles and I believe all its members are in serious pursuit of these goals.

Second, I am a parent of a CPS student. I believe that my daughter is entitled to and can get a quality education in the Chicago Public Schools. I also recognize that education in Chicago does need improvement. CORE is the only caucus I found that is looking to involve parents and community groups in the school reform movement. I feel that this collective movement will truly bring the reform we need to our schools.