



VISION FOR QUALITY EDUCATION IN NEW ORLEANS

Supporting Great Schools for Great Students

The United Teachers of New Orleans (UTNO) is an organization of educators. It is committed to ensuring that all students in our city have access to a high-quality, culturally relevant educational experience that develops them into well-rounded citizens who can contribute to our community and our nation. As a union of professionals, UTNO plays a significant role in providing teachers and other school employees with the supports they need to educate and equip students for a bright future.

Educating all students effectively and successfully will take the development of collaborative relationships that engage school administrators, students, teachers, parents and community members in efforts to improve teaching and learning. Specifically, UTNO's goal is to help facilitate the involvement of all stakeholders in all schools to ensure that our public schools have the resources to meet students' educational needs.

Public input in decision-making is essential to the success of our students and our schools.

Together, we can make the promise of great schools for great students a reality.



We believe children learn to their **fullest potential** when they have. . .

A Rich, Culturally Relevant and Responsive Curriculum

In today's global knowledge economy, providing a great education means ensuring that our schools offer a broad, rich curriculum that encourages children to become **creative problem-solvers** capable of exploring their identities, their communities and their world.

The goal of quality schools for well-rounded students means providing an educational experience that prepares students for life, college and careers. The classroom learning experiences that will help develop students as creative, critical thinkers go beyond teaching to the test and should:



- be discovery-based and student-centered;
- include art, music, dance, physical education and theater to foster student expression; and
- offer flexible learning opportunities, including technical career programs, internships and entrepreneurial training.

Here, in New Orleans, school curricula should reflect the rich history and traditions of our city. School must provide a space for students to participate in community

involvement and field trips to museums and locations of historical significance in New Orleans.

Successful Learning and Teaching Environments

Students and educators need **supportive, safe, well-equipped** and **productive** learning environments. Learning and teaching environments that set students and teachers up for success must include:



- smaller class sizes,
- safe and healthy buildings, and
- parental involvement opportunities.

UTNO encourages respectful approaches to school discipline that involve students and parents in helping young people become helpful, contributing members of school culture without losing their individuality and dignity. Such alternative approaches must minimize out-of-school suspensions and expulsions.

Support that Moves Beyond the Classroom

What happens outside our schools and classrooms has a significant impact on student success. As an **advocate** for the **whole family**, UTNO believes parents and families need to be supported to help fully develop students as lifelong learners. Supports for students and families must include wrap-around services, such as:

- counseling and mental health care;
- nutritional support;

- tutoring and academic support; and
- medical, dental and vision care.

Empowered Educators To Advocate for Great Schools

Teachers and school employees must be trusted **partners** in the school community. As professionals, teachers must be allowed the **trust, space** and **resources** to respond to the needs of our students and to introduce creativity into the curriculum.

Teachers must be equipped to implement dynamic instructional strategies that lead students through learning and discovery. UTNO provides educators with opportunities to collaborate with and learn from each other and community stakeholders. Our union continues to be a voice for educators as they advocate for schools and students.



Highly Skilled Teachers and Support Personnel

Teachers must take **responsibility** for our **profession** and be an important part of defining what it means to be a **quality teacher**. We believe the best resource for quality education is teachers helping teachers.

Ensuring high teacher quality means:

- supporting educators through mentoring programs;
- providing meaningful professional growth and development opportunities; and
- advocating for fair evaluation processes that support rather than punish educators.

Providing teachers and other school employees with the supports we need ensures every student receives the same high-quality education no matter what school they attend.



Inclusive School Leadership

Making the promise of **great schools** a reality requires **solutions** driven by **real people** – educators, elected leaders, parents and community members – with a vested interest in seeing high-quality public education. We know schools work best when they are accountable to members of the community. UTNO believes:

- parents and community members should have regular access to our schools and classrooms; and
- stakeholders should have the ability to publicly rate schools in important areas, such as
 - quality of education and richness of curriculum;
 - school safety, cleanliness and condition of facilities;
 - commitment to emotional health;
 - availability of technology and other resources;
 - fiscal management and accountability; and
 - full and equitable funding for all publicly-funded schools in New Orleans.

Schools should make every collaborative effort to engage with parents and provide a wide variety of opportunities to encourage parental participation.



United Teachers of New Orleans
4714 Paris Ave.
Oak Park Shopping Ctr.
New Orleans, LA 70122
Ph. 504.304.2160; Fax 504.304.2159
www.utno.org



Working Together

For Great Schools For Great Students

Take Action!

- ✓ Sign the petition to support quality education at www.utno.org
- ✓ Get five more people to sign our petition for quality education in New Orleans
- ✓ Join the conversation on social media as an ally with United Teachers of New Orleans

www.facebook.com/unitedteachers

www.twitter.com/UTNO_teachers

www.utno.org