
Outsourcing, Contracting Out – PRIVATIZATION OF EDUCATION

We are at another point in time when tightened budgets are leading to discussions about laying-off student/learning support staff and contracting with outside resources to meet mandates that cannot be waived.

Many who fight this trend stress that it contributes to efforts to privatize public education. For example, the NEA has called for activism to resist “the privatization of Education Support Professionals.”*

We agree that active steps must be taken quickly. The best approach, however, is not *just* to fight against layoffs and outsourcing. This is the time to also emphasize

- (a) how the actions being taken will compound the continuing horrific impact of COVID-19 on students, teachers, schools, families, and neighborhoods
- (b) how the impact can be minimized by maintaining the limited resources currently and necessarily allocated for addressing barriers to learning and teaching and using them to start transforming the existing fragmented and marginalized approach to student/learning supports into a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system of learning supports.

See

*COVID-19 is Killing District/School Budgets:
What to Do and Not to Do about Student/Learning Supports*
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/budgetx.pdf>

And see the Call to Action as part of the *National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports* – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html>

*On November 19, 2020, NEA is offering a Webinar on *Fighting Privatization in a Time of Crisis*

Description:

The current state of affairs in our nation and schools should not paralyze our activism, particularly when it comes to resisting the privatization of Education Support Professionals. Social justice has always been a hard fight in this nation, and we have seldom been able to choose ideal timing or conditions in which to assert our rights. We can and will fight privatization today, and tomorrow, regardless of conditions. Participate in this webinar to learn logistics and techniques, and be inspired to do what is necessary to keep public education out of the hands of profiteers. Register here.

<https://www.nea.org/resource-library/upcoming-esp-webinars>

Let us know your views. Send to Ltaylor@ucla.edu .