

Facts About The Groups Working to Organize Noble Teachers

Recently, a number of staff have asked questions about the groups working to establish a union at Noble. This fact sheet is meant to provide some answers to these questions.

What is the Union of Noble Educators (UNE), and How Are They Related to ChiACTS/the CTU?

Legally speaking, there is no UNE. By signing up to support a union at Noble, staff members are signing up to join the Chicago Teachers Union.

- UNE is essentially just a name being used by organizers – it is not a legal entity in any form. The real organization behind the effort to organize Noble is Chicago ACTS – the union of charter school teachers in Chicago, which recently voted to merge with the Chicago Teachers Union. Each of these organizations is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers – one of the two largest teachers unions in the country.
- This is confirmed on the UNE website, where it says “Our union will be a part of ChiACTS, Local 4343, IFT and AFT”. Being a part of ChiACTS and CTU means that CTU would represent Noble in collective bargaining.
- Additionally, [a recent article in the Chicago Tribune](#) noted a couple of important changes to the CTU’s bylaws that came along with the merger. Unionized charter teachers dues payments - currently set at \$717 per year - will rise after this merger. Additionally, any teacher “crossing or working behind a Union picket line” is subject to union charges and penalties - meaning that charter teachers could be potentially drawn into future CTU strikes or penalized for working during CTU strikes.

What positions have ChiACTS and CTU taken on issues important to Noble?

The CTU has had a long record of opposing charter schools generally - and Noble specifically – for many years.

- CTU vocally opposed and mobilized against the opening of our Mansueto, Speer, and Noble Academy campuses.
- Most recently, when asked about the successful merger with ChiACTS, the Vice President of [the CTU openly stated](#) that the merger poses a threat to “the very survival of the charter venture in Chicago.”
- ChiACTS opposed SB 1947, the landmark school funding bill that passed this summer that provided our students with fair per-pupil funding and allowed us to implement our new salary schedule. At the same CPS board meeting where Noble teachers and parents testified in support of the bill, the ChiACTS president [testified against it](#), calling it a “bribe” that would benefit only “privatization vultures.”