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Central Unified School District
CUTA Negotiations Update - March 13, 2026

The District and CUTA met on March 13, 2026, for their third bargaining session, during which the District presented its counterproposal in response to CUTA's most recent offer. Members of the negotiation team representing the District included Dr. Javan Childs, Eliseo Cuellar, Julia McLennan, Patricia McCurley, and Amer Iqbal. Members of the CUTA negotiations team included Laura Bolton, Twylite Lawrence, Gregory Pullinger, Andrea Chase, Maria Ocegueda, and Krystle Pumarejo.

Throughout the session, the District remained focused on its core responsibility of ensuring students have consistent access to high-quality instruction, expanded learning opportunities, and stable school programs. The District's proposals were centered on minimizing disruptions to student learning while positioning the system to better meet student needs both now and in the future.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on the structure of the secondary school day, including the potential shift from a six-period to a seven-period model. From the District's perspective, this conversation is fundamentally about increasing student access and opportunity providing greater flexibility in scheduling, expanding course offerings, and reducing situations where students are forced to choose between academic classes, electives, or extracurricular activities. The District also noted that the current six-period model can create limitations for students, including restricted access to programs and inefficiencies in how courses are scheduled.

In addition, the District communicated that maintaining the current six-period day has long-term implications for staffing and program sustainability. Without adjustments to increase course sections and maximize existing staffing, the District may face continued or future staffing reductions in order to remain fiscally solvent. The District emphasized that these considerations are directly tied to its responsibility to preserve as many student programs and opportunities as possible over time. At the same time, the District acknowledged CUTA's concerns regarding workload and the importance of maintaining appropriate prep time, and remains open to continued dialogue to find a balanced solution that supports both students and staff.

There were several additional areas of discussion, including maintaining current class size structures to support effective instruction, strengthening professional development to better equip staff to meet diverse student needs, and preserving meaningful prep time and Professional Learning Community (PLC) collaboration to enhance instructional quality. The District also

reinforced the importance of student safety through appropriate supervision on a rotational equitable basis and maintaining continuity for students by limiting staff transfers.

The District further emphasized the need to balance student priorities with fiscal responsibility in order to protect programs and avoid future disruptions. Current financial constraints require careful consideration of proposals that would significantly increase staffing or long-term costs. In this context, the District is continuing to evaluate how to allocate resources in ways that most directly benefit students, including a proposed comprehensive review of stipends.

Additionally, the District clarified that certain topics such as facilities, job descriptions, and operational processes are best addressed outside of the collective bargaining agreement to allow for more responsive and efficient solutions that support students and school sites.

The District remains committed to working collaboratively with CUTA to reach agreements that prioritize student learning, expand opportunities, and ensure long-term stability. CUTA will provide counterproposals at the next session, and negotiations will continue on March 20, 2026.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Marshall, Ed. D.
Superintendent

District Administration
Mark E. Marshall, Ed.D. - Superintendent
Javan Childs, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent - Human Resources & Labor Relations · Amer Iqbal, Assistant Superintendent - Chief Business Officer
Marilyn Lopez, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent – Student and Family Services · Julia McLennan, Assistant Superintendent – Educational Services