

Reina Tello: Meet the Candidates #7 full response

First, Teachers need manageable class sizes and additional support for the students who need it. Teachers and para[educator]s need adequate prep time, this is a key concern I've heard over and over. Yes, the negotiated contract was a good start to attract new educators as it included medical benefits. But we need to onboard more efficiently, I've seen it take up to six months!

Retention will not happen if we continue to ignore the deplorable working conditions caused by budget cuts.

My daughter's school was just notified that the Special Education Central Office has reduced our teacher allocation from **6.0 to 4.5 teachers**.

This reduction will have several significant impacts:

Staffing: We currently have one vacant special education teaching position due to delays in the district's onboarding process. That position will now be eliminated rather than filled.

Part-time position: We will also be required to consolidate one of our five current teaching positions into a part-time position. This will very likely result in a year-long vacancy.

Case managers: Due to the reduction in staffing, case manager assignments will change and all teachers' caseloads will increase.

Class schedules: Student schedules will also need to change. Study Skills/Reading classes will be combined, resulting in significantly larger class sizes. In addition, all 6th- and 7th-grade SDC Math, Science, and History classes will be combined. As a result, students in these classes will no longer receive the same grade-level content as their general education peers.

This cut is not only going to impact students in special education, it will affect the school community. This is just one example of the changes we need to make to retain existing teachers.