



TEACHERS FOR A
JUST CONTRACT
Not just an opposition, an alternative.

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We Are All ATRs!

The June Memo of Agreement between the DOE and the UFT will not solve the ATR crisis. The DOE largely “melted” its hiring freeze over the summer, adding Social Studies, Math and English to ESL and Special Ed as vacancies principals could fill with new hires, instead of with ATRs. Now, the DOE is placing ATRs in the few vacancies that remain. However, since the Central Office is paying their salaries, why should principals appoint these ATRs and put them on school payroll? The ATRs not placed in vacancies have it even worse. They will be shunted from one school to another on a weekly basis.

If you are not an ATR, why should you care?

Any of us could become an ATR. A large number of people in the ATR status got there when their schools were being closed by DOE. DOE closes schools for all kinds of reasons, often political. No school is safe from closing, and so no teacher can rule out the chance of being made an ATR.

This status is so punitive, that its threat can be used effectively by administrations to intimidate teachers out of standing up for their rights. The threat of their school closing and their being made into ATRs is used to impose crazy workloads, long unpaid overtime, and lower standards for students, on teachers. This weakens the union.

The existence of the ATR status in itself weakens our union, by creating second class citizens in our midst, who - even in the best case scenario of filling a vacancy - lack certain basic rights, such as program preference, session rotation and applying for comp time positions. The union movement flourished when it followed the maxim, “An injury to one is an injury to all,” and we need to return to that guiding principle.

Our union should be fighting for ATRs, educating all UFT members to support positions for all ATRs now. It should be mobilizing thousands, just as it has against layoffs. It will take a union-wide, militant, determined effort to force the DOE to do what is best for our students: make productive use of the excellent teachers now hamstrung as “ATR.”

Teachers for a Just Contract has worked to make the UFT a stronger and more democratic union for almost 20 years. Since 2004, TJC has run in UFT elections against the entrenched, do-nothing Weingarten and Mulgrew leaderships. In 2005, TJC fought to stop the contract that, when it did pass, led to the ATR crisis by ending the right of excessed teachers to be placed in existing vacancies. For more information, go to our website www.TeachersforaJustContract.org. You can contact us at JustContractUFT@aol.com, or at 212 831 3408



Under the new UFT-DOE agreement, ATRs pack their bags at week's end, and move on to a new school..

