

# GTA Today



GTA Member Sarah Hodgson  
with members of the local  
firefighters unions.

## From the President

Over the next few months, there will be many important things happening in Greece, in NYS, and in Washington.

First, the process for next year's school budget is well underway. Please take the time to make sure that your staffing numbers are correct, that you read the *Instructional Newsletter*, and visit the District's budget page regularly (<http://www.greececsd.org/district.cfm?subpage=51423>). The budget vote will be in May and it is important for all of us to support our local public schools during this difficult time.

Next, the online intention process has begun and transfer days will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

Thirdly, the GTA leadership will be coming to buildings to do presentations around the Constitutional Convention and the impact it can have on our profession and our students. At that time, we will be discussing what the Constitutional Convention is, what is at stake, and what we can do to protect and promote public education.

This is a challenging time. We need to work together to defend public education.

## Contents

- Page 2 Special Education  
Contract Language
- Page 3 Request for Referral to  
CSE
- Page 4 Member Benefits
- Page 5 Become a Union Activist

It is one of the characteristics of a free and  
democratic nation that it have free and  
independent labor unions.-FDR

# Special Education Contract Language

**Red Areas are explanation and not contractual language**

## Article 15-Teaching Conditions

A.

**8 b.** Through an annual shared decision making process, each school shall develop a plan for the assignment and use of special education aides. This plan must be developed after consultation with special education teachers and special area teachers and general education teachers who teach classified students (All teachers are have a right to input). The plan must follow students' Individual Education Plans and fit within the special education staffing resources allocated to the school. The purpose of the plan is to ensure that all teachers receive appropriate support for the instruction of students with disabilities.

## 14. Students with Individual Educational Programs □

a. Students with Individualized Educational Programs (IEP's) will be allocated to classes in as equitable manner as possible after consultation with the teachers involved. Student placements will be consistent with the legal requirements governing students with IEP's.

b. A teacher who has a student with an IEP assigned to him/her shall, upon request, meet with the Building Instructional Support Team to discuss matters relating to modification of the IEP. The teacher shall also be released from regular duties for the annual review of the student's IEP. (Regular duties does not include lunch or planning. Members should not give up either)

c. The District agrees to provide a minimum of eighteen (18) hours of training per year during the regular teacher work day to each regular education teacher assigned students with IEP's.

d. The District will establish a district-wide committee to develop a forum to discuss solutions to improve delivery of services to classified students which will include, but not be limited to, the following topics:

- In-service to all staff members regarding special education mandates, etc. □
- Prior notification to classroom teachers who have special education students. □
- Equitable distribution of special education students. □
- Reasonable balance between the number of regular students and the special education □ students (recognizing the teaching makeup/legal requirements). □

e. The District will support intra-district visitation days to provide access to classrooms where inclusion is effective.

E. 3. Any unit member who believes that a student's IEP is not currently meeting that student's needs has the right to request of the building level CSE committee on special education a review of the IEP (applies to students who currently have an IEP). The unit member shall receive a written response to a written request within thirty (30) school days. If the unit member is not satisfied with the response, such unit member may appeal in writing to the District Committee on Special Education, which shall respond to such appeal within sixty (60) days. The unit member may thereafter appeal to the Superintendent for final review, requesting the Superintendent's intervention to cause reconsideration by the Committee and/or action by the Board of Education. (Any member can appeal the content of an IEP all the way to the Superintendent)

## GREECE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

### Request for Referral for an Initial Evaluation

Part 200.4 (2) states that “a **written request** that the school district or agency refer the student for an initial evaluation pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subdivision is” being made by: (Referring Member’s Name).

Part 200.4 (2) iii:

The **written request** for referral **shall**:

- a) “state the reasons (**student concerns**) for referral and include any test results, records or reports upon which the referral is based that may be in the possession of the person submitting the referral” (**state assessments, district assessments, student records, etc**):
- b) “describe in writing, intervention services (**RTI, AIS**), programs (**support outside of RTI or AIS**) **or** instructional methodologies (**teacher differentiation for example**) used to remediate the student’s performance prior to referral, including any supplementary aids or support services provided for this purpose, or state the reasons why no such attempts were made” (**This is a legal requirement. Interventions must be attempted prior to CSE. But, RTI should have definitive end points and cannot be used to block CSE**);
- c) “describe the extent of **parental contact** or involvement prior to the referral”.

Part 200.4 (2) iv

“**Upon receipt of the request for a referral that meets the requirements of subparagraph (iii) (the information above)** of this paragraph, **the school district shall** (**this means the District legally must**), within 10 school days, **either**:

- a) “request parent consent to initiate the evaluation; or”
- b) “provide the parent with a copy of such request for referral; and
  1. “**inform the parent of his or her right to refer the student for an initial evaluation for special education programs and/or services**; and
  2. “**offer the parent the opportunity to meet to discuss the request for referral and, as appropriate, the availability of appropriate general education services for the student, with the building administrator or other designee of the school district authorized to make a referral pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subdivision, and the party making the request for referral if a professional staff member of the school district.** Upon request of the parent of school district , any person making a request for referral shall have the opportunity to attend such meeting.”

# NYSUT Member Benefits

## Movie Tickets:

- Save over 30% at Cinemark Theatres
- Save up to 30% at Regal Theatres
- Save up to 45% at AMC Theatres

## Disney World Vacations:

- 3-DAY *MAGIC YOUR WAY*® TICKET WITH *PARK HOPPER*® OPTION  
*2 EXTRA DAYS FREE! (5-DAY TICKET FOR THE PRICE OF A 3-DAY TICKET) (\$379 Adult Tickets, \$359 Children Tickets)*
- 4-DAY *MAGIC YOUR WAY*® TICKET WITH *PARK HOPPER*® OPTION  
*3 EXTRA DAYS FREE! (7-DAY TICKET FOR THE PRICE OF A 4-DAY TICKET) (\$409 Adult, \$389 Children)*
- 10-DAY *MAGIC YOUR WAY*® TICKET WITH *PARK HOPPER*® OPTION (\$439)
- 3-DAY *MAGIC YOUR WAY*® TICKET WITH WATER PARK FUN & MORE *WITH FREE EXTRA DAY (UPGRADE TO 4-DAY) (\$369 Adult, \$349 Child)*

## Universal Orlando

- UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT™: 4 DAY PARK TO PARK TICKET  
**(BUY 2 GET 2 DAYS FREE) (\$214 Adult, \$204 Child)**

## Identity Theft Protection:

- NYSUT members receive at least a 20% savings with ID Watchdog and can purchase either individual, individual/spouse (or domestic partner) or family coverage.

Additionally, Member Benefits has program opportunities for auto and home insurance, life insurance, and legal and financial services.

There are many ways that you can use your NYSUT membership to save yourself money. Visit <http://memberbenefits.nysut.org/> to see all of the opportunities.



## Become a Union Activist

In order for the members of the GTA to protect their students and their profession, each must become involved. Involvement doesn't always mean walking a picket line or attending a rally. But each of us has something at stake. The attacks on public schools, and public school employees, may impact our working conditions, what we teach our children, what materials and programs are available, and salary and benefits.

Take these steps and become a "union activist":

- Take action on the NYSUT Member Action Center weekly. The MAC is simple and quick. Members can find the MAC at <https://mac.nysut.org/>.
- Visit the NEA Legislative Action site at <http://edadvocacy.nea.org/> to advocate for pro-public education issues on a national level.
- Visit the AFT's action site at <http://www.aft.org/action>.
- Be active on social media supporting pro-public education causes and sharing the good things happening in Greece, your local public schools, and your union.
- Donate to VOTE-Cope. NYSUT will be running ads against the Constitutional Convention
- Attend your building level GTA meetings
- Attend a GTA Rep Assembly
- Vote YES on May 17 and support your local public schools
- Vote NO on November 7<sup>th</sup> on the Constitutional Convention
- Contact your elected officials (use the NYSUT MAC to get the contact information
- Write a letter to the editor
- Attend a Rally

GTA President Jason Cooney speaking at the WNY Day of Action rally. <http://www.nysut.org/news/2017/january/day-of-action-western-new-york-activists-call-for-resistance-to-any-anti-public-education-policy>



*The Greece Teachers  
Association is the sole  
bargaining agent for the  
professional teaching staff of  
the Greece Central School  
District*

## Contact Information

Website: [greceteachers.com](http://greceteachers.com)

Email: [greceteachers@gmail.com](mailto:greceteachers@gmail.com)

Phone: 621-7970

