

LET TEACHERS TEACH!

Rally Nov. 24 Stand Up for the ATRs!

Outside Tweed Courthouse
4:30 p.m. – *Be there!*

Bring Teachers, Staff and Students



Fact: the NYC Department of Education has refused to assign at least 1,400 teachers to classroom positions.

Fact: more than 100 first-year teachers also have not been given classroom assignments, and face “termination” if they don’t find a slot by December 5.

Fact: New York City schools are more crowded than ever, as the DOE has illegally diverted millions of dollars mandated to reduce class size.

Problem: Overcrowded classrooms, unassigned teachers. Solution: *Let teachers teach!*

Teachers: the DOE is closing dozens of schools every year. If you are not an ATR now, you could be tomorrow. We must stand together.

The media claim the teachers in the Absent Teacher Reserve are incompetent. Wrong. They were placed in the ATR because their schools or programs were “reorganized.”

The media claim ATR teachers are being paid for doing nothing. Wrong again. The large majority of them teach every day, but without a permanent position.

The media are trying to blame our union, the United Federation of Teachers, for this problem the DOE created.

ATR teachers want to teach. Joel Klein and Mayor Bloomberg won’t let them. In Klein’s “business model” of education, teachers and students are disposable.

Parents: your kids are being jammed into overcrowded classrooms. Tell Bloomberg and Joel Klein you want to *let teachers teach*. **Let New Yorkers know what’s going on.**

We demand: Assign ATR Teachers Before Any New Hiring Takes Place! Stop the Smear Campaign Against ATR Teachers! Stop Union Busting! Stop Teacher Bashing! No “terminations” of RTR Teaching Fellows!

Rally Monday, November 24, at 4:30 p.m.

Outside Tweed Courthouse, 52 Chambers St. (btw. Bway and Park Pl.)

For more information, email supportatrs@gmail.com, website: supportatrs.blogspot.com

Not the *New York Post*

THE REAL FACTS ABOUT ATRs

(excerpted)

With the new school year, a triple-barrel assault from the *New York Post*, *Daily News* and the *New York Times* blamed the UFT for the fact that the NYC Department of Education is refusing to assign at least 1,400 teachers to classroom positions. The actual number is likely much larger.

Their main target is teachers who have lost their positions due to closures of schools or programs and who are now in the "Absent Teacher Reserve." In fact, these "excessed" teachers are some of the most experienced, talented, and dedicated educators in the NYC system. Many have been working among the neediest students in schools that have been systematically starved of facilities and funding by a DOE that has illegally diverted to other purposes millions of dollars mandated by the state to reduce class size.

We are demanding that the DOE give positions to all ATR teachers who want them and that no new hiring take place until these teachers, and the teaching fellows who are at risk of termination, are placed.

Here's the real story that the Department of Education and the media won't tell you.

- The number of teachers in the ATR has ballooned in the last several years, going from under 800 at the start of the 2006-2007 school to almost 1,400 reported ATRs this September. The actual figure is likely much larger. The actual figure is likely much larger. This is not because NYC teachers have suddenly become more "incompetent" but because the DOE has stepped up its closure of schools.
- Teachers are in the ATR pool because of a corporate scheme to "restructure schools" and cut the budget by excessing senior teachers who receive higher salaries. Teacher salaries are now paid for by each principal, which gives them a financial interest in lowering "personnel costs."
- This is what you get when you have a school system run not by educators, but by lawyers, privatizers and corporate money counters. The DOE has hired George Raab, III, former managing director of investment banking (!) at the failed Bear Stearns Wall Street bank to be the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Education for \$200,000 a year.
- Meanwhile, classes are more overcrowded than ever. According to the latest figures (February 2008), there are over 27,000 NYC students in classes that are larger than contractual limits.
- So while thousands of students need teachers, there are at least 1,400 certified, capable teachers who are being kept out of assignments by a Dept. of Ed. intent on enforcing its "principle" of total principal control of hiring in the schools. They are **tearing up the lives of 1,400 dedicated educators**, to be sacrificed on the altar on the Klein/Bloomberg "business model."
- The crisis of ATR teachers stems from the 2005 contract when the UFT gave up seniority transfers which guaranteed teachers a right to a position. Now, the DOE wants to go after teacher tenure and the "no layoff" clause in the contract. Bloomberg and his minions are making ATRed teachers into scapegoats because they want to get rid of any form of job security.
- The media howl about the city paying millions to teachers who supposedly sit around doing nothing. In fact, the large majority of ATR teachers teach every day and in difficult situations. Many are working in the same or similar job as they had before – only now they have no security in their positions. Others are working out of substitute teacher pools, having to teach out of license, coming in cold to face a classroom of students whose individual strengths, difficulties and interests are unknown to them.
- The DOE created an additional problem by hiring 5,400 new teachers, yet many of these have not been given assignments either. More than 100 teaching fellows have been given until December 5 to find a position or be "terminated." We must support these new teachers.

The mayor and his education chief are trying to use the situation of the ATR teachers as a battering ram against the union as a whole. We must stand up for our ATRed colleagues, our union, and for the students who are already suffering the consequences of the DOE's endless "reckless reorganizations."

Assign ATR Teachers Before New Hiring Takes Place! Stop the Smear Campaign Against ATR Teachers! Stop Union-Busting! Stop Teacher Bashing! Bring Back Seniority Transfer Rights!