



www.cloviseducators.org  
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June 10, 2021

Dear Clovis Unified Community,

We are school psychologists employed by the Clovis Unified School District and are proud to be members of the Association of Clovis Educators (“ACE”). In our work as school psychologists, we serve and fulfill many roles in the development of the whole child – focusing on academics, behavior, and social and emotional wellness. We serve as liaisons by building connections and fostering collaboration between general education and special education. We strengthen bonds between our families, students, teachers, and administration as we work collectively to improve student outcomes. Through our dedication and efforts, we are encouraged to be a part of school site infrastructure plans involving the allocation of evidence-based practices to address student needs in prevention, intervention, and postvention using a multitiered framework. It is exactly this collaborative, collective, and mission-driven work that has driven our passion and involvement with ACE.

Since our union organizing campaign launched on April 5, 2021, nearly 75% of our school psychologist colleagues have signed our union support petition. Due to the immediate and critical needs of our students as we handle the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are excited to officially announce our collective decision to immediately file for union recognition as school psychologists. With unprecedented resources coming in from the state and federal government, it is imperative our students not only recover from this pandemic, but thrive. Our school psychologists would not be where we are today but for the great work done by our ACE colleagues who are classroom teachers, counselors, itinerant specialists, and other educational professionals. While we file for union recognition today, we will continue to work closely and collaboratively with all of our ACE colleagues, as we continue to grow ACE among all educators in Clovis Unified.

We are building ACE because we believe that school psychologists and all educators in Clovis Unified should have a real voice in the decisions that impact our students and educators. It is our desire to create an inclusive culture that honors our diverse backgrounds and experiences – a culture that is based on collaboration and respect, a culture that fosters open dialogue, transparency, and advocacy, in order to best serve both the academic, social and emotional needs of all of our students. It is our hope ACE makes our district a safe and risk-free workplace to advocate for improvements, as well as provide quick and timely action on high priority matters according to the voices of Clovis educators.

Going forward, we ask Clovis Unified to respect our legally protected, collective decision in filing for union recognition with the Public Employment Relations Board. We further expect Clovis Unified to not exercise influence, interference or intimidation around our efforts, but instead to work with us collaboratively as we embark on negotiating our first collective bargaining agreement.

Sincerely,  
ACE School Psychologist Organizing Committee

**Tamara Soemali**, School Psychologist

**Melissa Saunders**, School Psychologist/Mental Health Support Provider

**Janet Ryska**, School Psychologist

**Cy Hiyane**, School Psychologist