



# 1274 NEWSLINE



North Suburban Teachers Union – Local 1274, CFL, IFT/AFT, AFL-CIO

## Unions Make our Schools Safer

Despite constantly changing conditions, your union leaders have worked tirelessly to negotiate safer working environments for members and students during the pandemic. The most recent challenge was the transition from mandated masking to optional masking. It's a credit to unions that this transition went relatively smoothly in Local 1274 school districts.

Our schools suffer when unions are not involved in the process. One example is when the superintendent of Lincolnwood School District 74 abruptly and unnecessarily lifted the mask requirement following a downstate judge's ruling. The judge had granted a temporary restraining order on mask mandates for 145 school districts on Friday, February 4th. District 74 was not listed in the lawsuit and was not affected by the ruling. Despite this, the superintendent sent an email that Sunday evening informing stakeholders that the masking policy would change the following morning from "required" to "recommended". Union leaders were excluded from the discussion and there was no time for building leaders to make transition plans. The result was an atmosphere of confusion, fear, and uncertainty for students, teachers, and parents.

This disastrous episode illustrates the harm caused by poor planning and decision-making regarding COVID policies. All could have been avoided had union leaders been at the table, but they were denied their right to bargain the impact of the change in their working conditions. As a result, the Lincolnwood Teachers Association has filed an unfair labor practice charge with the state labor board.

### [Lincolnwood Teachers Deserve a Voice](#)

Letter to the editor by Stacy Panoutsos and Travis DuPriest (Co-Presidents, Lincolnwood Teachers Association)



## Northbrook Federation of Teachers D28 Joins Local 1274

Please welcome the Northbrook Federation of Teachers D28 into NSTU Local 1274! This new council is made of 230 teachers and certified staff in three elementary buildings and one junior high. By joining the union, they will be able to use their collective voice to improve learning for their students and working conditions for teachers and support staff.

Northbrook Federation of Teachers D28 is the third new union to join Local 1274 in the past three years.



**IFT LEADS THE AFT IN NEW MEMBERS! ONE OUT OF EVERY SIX NEW AFT MEMBERS IS FROM THE IFT.**



## PEGGY COUCH PSRP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Local 1274 offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who has been accepted to a college or university and whose parent is a NSTU member and a PSRP. These scholarships are renewable for four years!

### Peggy Couch PSRP Memorial Scholarship

**Deadline: March 31, 2022**

[Scholarship application](#) - [Renewal Application](#)

The North Suburban Teachers Union established the Peggy Couch PSRP Scholarship Fund in honor of the late, outstanding union member Peggy Couch and her tireless commitment to the members of the District 39 support staff and the NSTU.

Peggy was elected President of the Wilmette Support Staff Union in District 39 in 1996 and held the office until 2002. As president of the young council, she helped negotiate three contracts, increasing benefits for the membership. Peggy believed that all employees should be treated fairly and with respect.

Peggy became involved with the NSTU when she was elected Chair of the Constitution Committee, the Executive Board, and served as one of the representatives of NSTU on the IFT committee for Paraprofessional and School Related Personnel. She attended various leadership conferences, always working hard to learn more about how to help her fellow union members.

## A Little Good News...

A recent national [survey](#) of 1,308 public school parents shows that parents overwhelmingly approve of teachers, teacher unions, and their public schools:

- More than seven in 10 public school parents give a high performance rating to their children's schools.
- A remarkable 78% of parents feel that the quality and performance of their children's teachers is excellent or good.
- Parents feel overwhelmingly that teaching during the pandemic has been a hard job (79%).
- Eighty percent (80%) say that their children's teachers have made an extra effort to help students during the pandemic.
- Fully 78% express satisfaction with their school's overall handling of the pandemic.
- By a remarkable 31-point margin, parents feel that teachers unions are having a positive (48%) rather than negative (17%) effect on the quality of education provided by public schools.
- Parents clearly identify the top education problems that need attention from leaders today. Their top concerns include inadequate school funding, students falling behind academically and socially during the pandemic, low pay for teachers, and shortages of counselors, nurses, and teachers.

Although support staff/PSRPs were not explicitly listed in the survey, the results are also a reflection of their hard work and commitment. Our schools could not function without dedicated professionals working with our students and keeping our schools running.



**Northeastern Illinois University &  
North Suburban Teachers Union**

## Union Benefit!

[NSTU-NEIU Information Flyer](#)

Local 1274 has an agreement with Northeastern Illinois University to provide our members with a 40% tuition discount for a *Master of Arts in Community and Teacher Leaders* or a *Teacher Leader Endorsement*.

## NSTU AFFINITY SPACES

**APIDA AFFINITY SPACE**  
(ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER DESI AMERICAN)

**BLACK AFFINITY SPACE**

**JEWISH AFFINITY SPACE**

**LATINX AFFINITY SPACE**

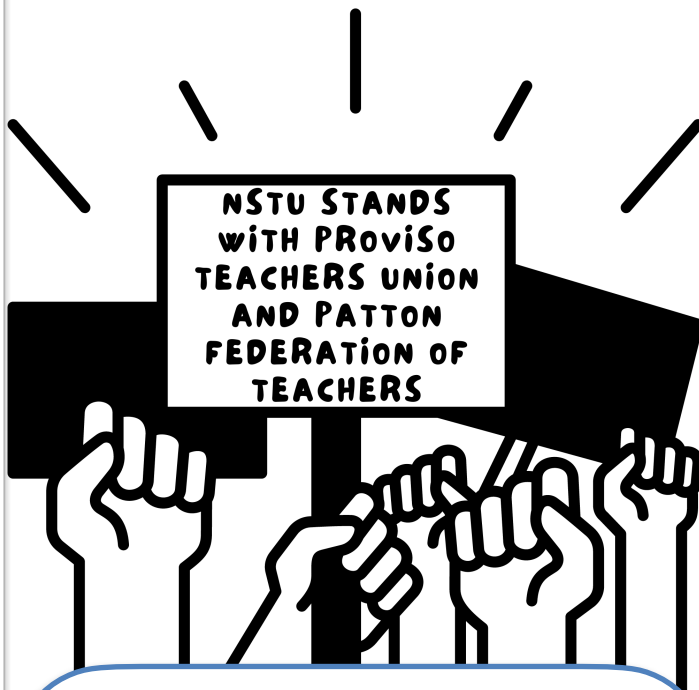
**LGBTQ+ AFFINITY SPACE**

**MENA AFFINITY SPACE**  
(MIDDLE EASTERN / NORTH AFRICAN)

**WHITE ALLY SPACE**

## The following councils are gearing up for contract negotiations:

- District 28 Northbrook Federation of Teachers (first contract!)
- District 39 Wilmette Support Staff Union
- District 64 Support Staff Council
- District 73.5 Support Staff Council of Skokie (first contract!)



### 1274 Newsline

Produced and published by the North Suburban Teachers Union Local 1274 – IFT/AFT, AFL-CIO

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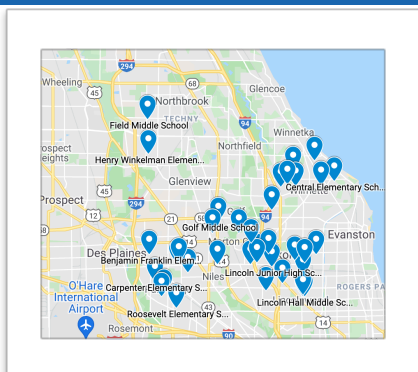
Lenny Nieves  
Deb Takehara



@NSTU1274

Fill out [this form](#) if you are interested in joining or facilitating an affinity group for Local 1274.

Affinity spaces are for people wanting to engage with others who share common identities. White ally spaces are for people who identify as white to work together towards antiracist practices that dismantle white supremacy.



## Schools in Local 1274 Councils