

Letter to parents regarding the Berlin teachers' strike on October 6, 2021

Dear parents,

On June 15, 2021, the Berlin branch of the German Education Union, GEW BERLIN, invited the Berlin Senate to negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement to regulate class sizes. As of today, the state of Berlin decides by itself how many children and young adults are put together in one class. Over the last few years, classes have gotten larger in general and the number of small classes has decreased, especially in more disadvantaged parts of the city. The reason is that more and more people want to live in Berlin and thus that their children need space in public schools. The schools have had to increase class sizes because the state of Berlin has failed to invest enough in classrooms and teachers. Increasing class sizes disadvantage learners but also hurt the health of teachers and early childhood professionals. We want to stop this development with a collective bargaining agreement to protect educator's health by decreasing class sizes.

The Minister for Finances of the State of Berlin stated on July 8th that he will not negotiate with us. For this reason, we see no other option but to go on strike on Wednesday, October 6th, in order to add pressure to our demands.

We know well that the cancelled lessons over the last few months due to the pandemic were a huge burden for you and your families. This is why we have called only a small part of teachers to join the strike, in order to limit the burden to families. We ask for your support and solidarity for striking educators. Smaller classes will benefit your children.

We are available if you have questions: info@gew-berlin.de

Sincerely yours,

Tom Erdmann

Anne Albers

Udo Mertens