What can we do as educators and as unionists to ensure that our schools are safe and our students are educated in a respectful environment?
Striking the Balance

Successful schools are filled with engaging and challenging classrooms that support our students’ academic achievement and socio-emotional development as well as promote the health and well-being of educators.

Educational Activism

1. Work toward the creation of positive school environments.
2. Seek and participate in learning opportunities that support individual and collective professional growth.
3. Enter agreements that ensure that our schools are secure and our students are treated with respect.
1. Positive School Communities

- Academic engagement with our students should be culturally responsive and socially relevant.
- Employ strategies that move beyond punishment and discipline toward *restorative justice* -- including student led conflict resolution activities and creating spaces for community repair.

2. Professional Learning Opportunities

- Educator voice must inform the professional learning opportunities that enhance our ability to educate and connect with our students. “What and how are we teaching?”
- An important example of such professional learning is the *Dignity for All Students (DASA)* Workshop, offered by the United Federation of Teachers.
2. Professional Learning Opportunities

3. Collective Bargaining that Supports Safe School Communities

- Consultation
- Safety Committees
- Professional Development Committees
- Parent Engagement
- BRAVE Initiative
3. Partnerships to engage and strengthen the entire community

Be in touch!

Janella T. Hinds
Vice President of Academic High Schools
United Federation of Teachers
52 Broadway, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10004
jhinds@uft.org