

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE ED FUND?

The Region 9A Education Fund (Ed Fund) was originally established as the District 65 Education Fund. Units of UAW locals participate in it and help support it through negotiated contributions from their employers, although the bulk of the Ed Fund's financing comes from the \$250,000 contributed annually by the Consortium for Worker Education.

The Ed Fund's benefits are offered on a "subscription" rather than a "pay as you go" basis. This and the subsidization by the Consortium account for the "bang" that is obtained for the employer's "buck".

The Ed Fund offers tuition reimbursement, access to existing classes, and even some classes tailor made on demand and taught on the worksite. Tuition reimbursement is available to members. Access to existing classes are available not only to union members but to their families. GED classes in both Spanish and English, and English as a Second Language classes, are also made available even to clients and associates referred by members. The Fund does not charge extra for any of these.

Tuition reimbursement of up to \$840/yr. is for undergraduate classes, and many UAW members have obtained their college degrees with the support of the Ed Fund. However, reimbursement benefits are *not* limited to non-professionals and other non-college graduates. A broad range of courses for certification (e.g. in Mandarin) as well as for college credit qualify for reimbursement, and this benefit is extended to attorneys among others.

The Ed Fund offers access to a number of existing classes, at varied levels of proficiency and with start dates in fall, winter and spring. These include , Spanish, an assortment of computer skills, and college prep, as well as the GED classes mentioned above.

Specialty classes taught on the worksite, such as Advanced Spanish for Legal Services Advocates, satisfying the employer's contractual obligation to provide such training, can and have been organized at no additional cost to the employer.

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