

A COVID CHARTER OF DEMANDS FOR STUDENTS

Where do we turn when there are no good options??!!

Remote learning

prevents student organizing and doesn't provide an adequate learning experience.



In-person classes

without proper safety precautions put students and staff in danger.

We don't have to choose — both remote and reopen scenarios, as they've been carried out so far, have stalled education, compromised our safety, and weakened the student movement.

Just like businesses, universities take advantage of the pandemic to further their own interests: cutting costs and implementing permanent changes, like the move to virtual learning. This harmful tendency can also be seen in the replacement of workers with self-check-out machines at grocery stores. **Universities will make full use of this opportunity if we let them.**

In order for students to win demands, we need to organize and demonstrate. But closed campuses and bans on gatherings make it impossible — dispersing us and keeping us weak. A premature and rushed return to campus is a safety risk, but keeping teachers and students away from the physical campus prevents their organization and collective action. **If it's safe enough to go to class, campuses should be fully open!**

We refuse to put our lives on hold because the state and schools won't formulate the plans and spend the money to keep us safe. During surges we need short, temporary closures, but as the waves die down we need safety measures in place so we can return to campus.

We demand FREE and EQUAL access to a SAFE and QUALITY education:

- 1. Suspend all tuition NOW** - and for the remainder of the pandemic.
- 2. Safely and FULLY reopen campus** - give students full access to the entire campus and school resources. Implement vaccine and mask requirements as necessary.
- 3. Offer a remote option in all courses** - for students who cannot risk in-person learning. In case of another surge, be prepared to go fully remote if needed.
- 4. Provide free, high-grade PPE** - in sufficient quantities for students, teachers, and staff.
- 5. Rehire all teachers and staff laid off during the pandemic** - and no more job cuts! Guaranteed protections for faculty and staff unable to work in-person.

Which side should we take in the political crisis?

Revolutionary students need to stake an independent political position in the current crisis.

We don't have to side with either political camp of the bourgeoisie:

The liberals

who hypocritically say “listen to science” but won't provide adequate protections, financial relief, or health care.

The far-right

and COVID skeptics who refuse to get vaccinated and deny the real dangers and risks.

Neither of these positions meet the needs of students.

Neither of these positions represent the politics of the working class.

It's not red vs blue: the whole ruling class is to blame. Since March 2020 — *under both a Republican and a Democrat in the White House* — the government has allowed a pandemic to decimate our lives. They offer empty promises of financial support, debt forgiveness, and safe working/school conditions. Crises are opportunities for the ruling class to consolidate their power, enact policies that impoverish the working class, and disorganize revolutionary and democratic forces — just like the “security measures” of the War on Terror, or the bailouts after the Great Recession.

The schools want to profit while they offer us less. University administrations have shown that they only care about taking our \$\$\$\$: charging tuition while campuses are closed, kicking us out of dorms, cutting health care programs, preventing student gatherings on campus, and firing teachers and staff.

Across the board, the people in charge have mishandled both the lockdowns and the reopenings. With the turn to remote learning, students from working families, already struggling with high costs of living and unemployment, were left without the necessary technology to access quality education. Closing campuses cut off important resources for students. The leaders of faculty and staff unions made compromises with the administration, allowing jobs to be cut and wages to be lost. **Every aspect of the current crisis has been an occasion for the bourgeoisie to attack students and the working people.**

In New York City, essentially a one-party city, where worker layoffs and budget cuts are carried out by Democrats, we take a firm stand against liberals and so-called “progressives” while also opposing the anti-scientific paranoia of the COVID deniers and right-wing reactionaries.

COVID is the symptom, capitalism is the crisis.

Socialism is the solution.



Join the May Day Student Organization: bit.ly/joinmdso