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Statement from Acero Schools CEO Richard L. Rodriguez on Teachers' Strike

Classes at all Acero Schools are unfortunately cancelled today due to the CTU's decision to walk away from the bargaining table and strike.

We are very disappointed that union leaders have put their anti-charter political agenda ahead of the interests of our students. There is absolutely no good reason to put students and parents through the upheaval of a strike.

We value our teachers and staff and have made every effort to reach a fair and reasonable agreement that also maintains the attributes of our network that produce strong educational outcomes for our students.

The union is striking because they are insisting on removing students from classrooms. The union has made this decision when Acero continues to be one of the best performing charter networks in Chicago. This year 87% percent or 13 of 15 schools are ranked at Level 1 or higher.

We care so much because we relate to the students and families we serve. Our network leaders are overwhelmingly people of color raised here in Chicago or in border communities. Many of us are the children of immigrants. We have dedicated our careers to service.

The sad fact is that interests from outside our community are using our students and our schools as a means to advance their national anti-charter school platform. They don't want our schools to succeed because it doesn't serve their agenda.

It appears that it has always been the CTU's intent to force a strike, so we have prepared for one. We have kept families informed through materials we have sent home and shared on our website and social media channels. This information is available on our website – Aceroschools.org.

Moving forward, our goal remains unchanged – we seek to honor our commitments to students and families and treat our educators, professionals ***and students*** with respect and fairness.

[YouTube video of the statement](#)