

December 1, 2016

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Guardians Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) Strike Action

At this time, we are aware that the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) plans to engage in a form of strike action that includes a partial withdrawal of services in all schools in Nova Scotia starting on Monday, December 5, 2016.

Keeping in mind that things could change quickly, the following outlines what we can tell you as of today:

What will the strike action involve?

The NSTU has advised that teachers will continue to carry out their instructional duties in classrooms with students; focusing on teaching students in a safe learning environment, preparing and implementing lesson plans and maintaining contact with parents/guardians of students who are at risk and/or have special needs. The NSTU has directed their members **not to do** specific tasks including, but not limited to:

- Teachers will arrive 20 minutes before school and leave 20 minutes after school
- Teachers will not communicate on school matters (including with parents) outside the instructional day
- Teachers will not collect money or organize fundraising activities with students
- Teachers will not enter information in PowerSchool or TIENET, including information regarding attendance and assessments
- Teachers will not fill out assessment and diagnostic instruments from external agencies unless required by law
- Teachers will not administer Department or Board assessments.
- Teachers will not support or participate in extra-curricular activities
- Teachers will not update school or class websites or e-newsletters
- Teachers will not attend staff meetings, program planning or student success meetings
- Teachers will not participate in professional development provided by the Department or School Board
- Teachers will not provide extra help to students before, after school or over lunch
- Teachers will not accept or supervise student teachers
- School based administrators will not participate in School Advisory Council or parent group meetings unless due to an appeal of student discipline
- School based administrators will not conduct walk-throughs in classrooms for observation of teachers
- Teachers and school based administrators will not attend meetings with Board and Department staff

Who at my child's school is included in the NSTU?

Teachers, principals and vice-principals are NSTU members as well as speech language pathologists, school psychologists, school board consultants and guidance counselors.

During the strike action, do students still attend school?

Yes, as long as students are properly supervised throughout the school day, schools would remain open and students would continue to attend classes. Our priority will be to ensure all students are safe at all times.

Will there be supervision in place before and after school?

Student safety is a priority during any strike action at a school. Supervision will be in place 20 minutes before classes begin and 20 minutes after classes end. If you are driving your child to school, **they cannot be dropped off more than 20 minutes before classes begin.** If you are picking your child up after school, they must be picked up no later than 20 minutes after classes end. Please do not drop off/pick up students outside of this timeframe as there will be no supervision and school buildings will not be open.

Please check with your child's school to confirm the timing of both morning arrival and dismissal for students.

Will there be supervision at lunch time and recess?

Our priority will be to ensure all students are safe at all times. We are working with schools to ensure adequate supervision is in place at all times during the school day.

What happens to concerts and other activities during the strike action?

The NSTU has directed all teachers that no holiday concerts or travel (field trips) will continue during their period of strike activity – whether during the instructional day or outside of the instructional day. Any planned school or class outings (i.e., skating, swimming, etc.) will not go ahead.

Can parents, guardians or volunteers take over extra-curricular activities to keep them going?

No, extra-curricular activities will not continue during the period of strike activity.

The Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation has stated that all interscholastic sport will be suspended during any job action. This suspension of sport includes but is not limited to: games, including league (tournament, and exhibition), practices, training opportunities, and special events, **without exception.**

What happens to programs run by those who aren't NSTU members during the strike action?

SchoolsPlus, STEP Program, private Day Care Programs and Early Years Centres will continue to operate.

Will the Breakfast Program at my child's school be available during the strike action?

Breakfast Programs may be impacted. Any changes will be communicated to you by your child's school.

Will community groups be able to continue to use the school during the strike action?

Yes, community groups that use school buildings after school hours will continue to have access to facilities.

Will the strike action impact the International Students Program (ISP)?

The International Student Program (ISP) will not be impacted by the strike action.

Will student co-op work placements be impacted by the strike action?

Student co-op work placements will continue, however, our placements will be modified to align with the school day.

You probably have many more questions, especially ones that are specific to the school your child(ren) attend. Our schools are working to identify and address these impacts. You are encouraged to contact your respective school principal if you have questions that are school-specific.

We understand that any job action that impacts students can cause concerns for families. We will continue to keep you informed by sharing information as it becomes available on the Strait Regional School Board, www.srsb.ca and on Twitter (@StraitRSB).