



Information Release

Q&A Job Action

Updated Tuesday, August 30, 2011

When will we know if teachers are taking job action?

Before teachers can take job action the BC Teachers' Federation must give 72-hour notice. If the BCTF intends to take job action on Sept. 6, the first day of school, 72 hours notice will have to be given by Friday, Sept. 2, 2011. Parents will be informed on the district web site if 72 hour strike notice is issued by the BCTF.

Will classes run as usual during job action?

If the BC Teacher's Federation serves 72-hour notice and implements Phase 1 job action, teachers will continue to carry out their classroom duties. However, teachers will not be required to perform some duties as determined by the Labour Relations Board under the Essential Services Act. Those withdrawals of service will affect student, parents and the school environment.

Will my child be safe at school while job action is taking place?

Yes. The safety of children is the highest priority of school communities and supervision will be provided at all times. Administrative and management personnel will provide before school, after school, recess and lunch hour supervision as required. If there is not sufficient administrative personnel available to provide adequate supervision teachers will be assigned.

What will be different for me as a parent and for my child?

Teacher job action is intended to apply pressure on the management and administration of school districts. Parents and students and will be affected, however. There are many tasks which teachers will *need not* perform during Phase 1 job action, including: preparation of report cards; attendance at staff meetings unless the meeting deals with an emergency situation; supervision of students before and after school, at lunch hour and during recess; parent-teacher meetings; organization of assemblies. These withdrawals of service will affect students, parents and the way schools operate during job action.

Will my child be taught the regular BC curriculum?

If the BC Teacher's Federation serves 72-hour notice and implements Phase 1 job action, teachers will continue to carry out their classroom duties, including delivery of the BC curriculum.

What are the issues that have led to a strike vote?

How long will job action last?

Contract negotiations around the main issues are between the BC Public School Employers Association and the BC Federation of Teachers. The negotiating parties will provide information about the progress and the resolution of issues.

Will buses be running if job action occurs?

Yes.

What provisions will be made for students with special needs?

Meetings to develop Individual Education Plans (IEP's) will take place, however administrators will not be able to participate in or facilitate those meetings unless they are directly involved in the delivery of programs to the student.

What's the difference between 'job action' and a 'strike'?

A strike can refer to the complete withdrawal of services by members of a union; job action often refers to a partial withdrawal of services during contract negotiations as a means of applying pressure on management.

How will I know how well my child is doing at school?

Parents may request information from their child's teacher during Phase 1 job action, but the administrator at a school will not be able to facilitate such a request.

Where can I get more information about teacher job action?

Langley School District will post information specific to Langley School District on its web site. More general information about teacher contract negotiations is available at www.bcpsea.bc.ca, the BC Public School Employers Association web site. BCPSEA is responsible for bargaining major, provincial level contract issues with the BC Federation of Teachers.