

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

440 NORTH BROAD STREET, SUITE 301
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19130

WILLIAM R. HITE, JR., Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

October 27, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We have learned that the Transport Workers Union Local 234 voted to authorize a SEPTA strike effective November 1, 2016 if a new contract agreement is not negotiated by 11:59 pm, Monday, October 31, 2016. While SEPTA is optimistic that an agreement will be reached by the deadline, the School District of Philadelphia is committed to providing a safe and orderly learning environment for your child in the event of a strike. Please read the information below and continue to listen to KYW 1060 am, City of Philadelphia Announcements; monitor our website at www.philasd.org; and call the School District Parent Hotline at 215-400-INFO (4636).

SCHOOL HOURS: In the event of a SEPTA strike all schools, offices, and support facilities will maintain regular hours.

BUS SERVICE: All regular yellow bus services will maintain normal schedules, but some delays may be expected.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE: Students who normally use SEPTA, and are unable to attend school due to lack of transportation will be marked excused absence. A note from the parent or guardian will be required. Additionally, students who do not arrive on time, will not be marked late unless the Principal determines that the lateness is not due to the SEPTA strike.

We know you may have additional questions. Answers to key questions have been provided on the reverse side of this letter. Families are welcome and encouraged to contact their child's school for more school-specific information.

In the event of a prolonged strike, the School District will issue additional information as needed.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,



William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.

WRH/dpw

The School District of Philadelphia

Answers to SEPTA Strike Questions

10.27.2016

1. Will schools and administrative offices be open if there is a SEPTA strike?

Yes. All schools and administrative offices will be open and maintain regularly scheduled hours.

2. Will my child be able to ride a yellow school bus to school if there is a SEPTA strike?

All students who currently receive yellow school bus service will continue to be provided as scheduled, but parents should expect delays. Unfortunately, yellow school bus service cannot transport students who normally ride SEPTA to school.

3. Will my child be marked absent if he or she does not attend school?

Yes. Students who normally use SEPTA, and are unable to attend school because of lack of transportation, must be marked absent in accordance with the requirements of the Pennsylvania School Code. Note: This will be an excused absence, which requires a note from the parent or guardian.

4. If my child is late due to the Septa strike will my child be marked late?

Students who normally use SEPTA, and do not arrive on time, should not be marked late unless the Principal determines that lateness is not due to the SEPTA strike.

5. Will my child continue to receive breakfast and lunch?

Yes. All School District Food Services programs will continue as scheduled.

6. Will after school programs, such as Comprehensive Early Learning Centers, extra-curricular clubs, and athletics be held during the SEPTA strike?

Yes. All School District evening and Saturday programs will operate on normal schedules.

Parents who use SEPTA themselves to pick up children from after school activities, such as Comprehensive Early Learning Centers, Beacons, and other programs, must make alternative arrangements so that children are picked up promptly, even in the event of a SEPTA strike.

7. Will After School Athletics continue in the event of a SEPTA Strike?

Yes. Middle and High School After School Athletics will continue as scheduled; however, parents must make alternative arrangements for students to be transported home after the game or practice if they use SEPTA. Parents, especially those who ride SEPTA themselves, should make arrangements for children to be picked up promptly from after school programs.

8. Will my child be able to ride his or her bike to school during the SEPTA strike?

Yes. Principals will provide a safe, secure place to store bicycles for students who ride to school. Students and parents should be reminded that students should attach bicycle locks, and that the school is not responsible for damage to or theft of bicycles

9. If my child cannot get to school during the strike, how can the school help him or her keep up with lessons and homework during the SEPTA strike?

While there is no substitute for attending school classes in the event of a strike, the Office of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction will provide supplemental English, Language Arts and Mathematics Learning Packets for students in Kindergarten-Grade 8. Learning packets can be accessed using the following link: <http://webgui.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/c/curriculum/learning-packets>. High School Teachers will provide learning packets for their specific content areas. All teachers may provide homework assignments and additional supplementary work for independent study to students who normally use SEPTA.