
Q&A for Parents/Guardians: Teacher Contract Negotiations & Job Action 2011/2012

Updated Friday, September 2, 2011

Below is a Q&A to address some of the questions that parents and guardians may have about how job action will affect schools, students and classes in the Richmond School District.

Q: Will classes run as usual during job action?

A: During phase 1 job action, teachers will continue to carry out their normal classroom duties, including the delivery of the BC curriculum. However, teachers will not be required to perform some administrative duties as determined by the Labour Relations Board under the Essential Services Act.

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

A: As job action is intended to apply pressure on the administration of school districts, parents and students will undoubtedly feel some effect. Under the Labour Relations Board Essential Services Act, during phase 1 job action teachers will not be required to perform some administrative duties including, for example participating in any administration or school district organized meetings or completing any related administrative tasks; supervision of students before and after school, at lunch hour and during recess; preparation or distribution of formal report cards; or administratively organized parent/teacher interviews.

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

A: Yes. The safety of children is our highest priority and school district administrative and management personnel will provide student supervision during recess. These employees will be wearing SD38 identification.

Q: Will this job action apply to my child's educational assistant or other support staff within the school?

A: No. School support staff such as educational assistants, belong to the CUPE union and as such are not affected during phase 1 job action by teachers. Educational assistants and all other support staff are expected to perform their usual duties during phase 1 job action.

Q: Will buses be running during job action?

A: Yes. Buses will run during phase 1 job action. Should job action escalate to subsequent phases, it may impact bus operations, but the district will keep parents and the public informed.

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

A: Parents may ask questions of their child's teacher during phase 1 job action; however, teachers will not provide formal written reports or conduct parent/teacher interviews.

Q: Does this affect childcare centres and/or preschools housed either within schools or on school property?

A: Under phase 1 of job action, childcare centres and/or preschools housed either within schools or on school property will not be affected. Should job action escalate to subsequent phases, the district will keep operators and parents informed.

Q: How long will job action last?

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

Q: Where can I get more information about teacher contract negotiations and job action?

A: The Richmond School District will post information on our Facebook account at www.facebook.com/RichmondSD38, twitter account at www.twitter.com/RichmondSD38, and on our website at www.sd38.bc.ca. More information about teacher contract negotiations is also available at www.bcpsea.bc.ca, the BC Public School Employers Association website, or www.bctf.ca, the BC Teachers' Federation website.