



# PARENTS & GUARDIANS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) Labour Action

**Q What will the strike involve?**

**A** 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:

- Teachers will not arrive at school earlier than 20 minutes before the school day starts and not leave later than 20 minutes after the school day ends
- Teachers will not collect money from students
- Teachers will not perform clerical duties or data entry tasks
- Teachers will not support/participate in extra-curricular activities
- Teachers will not update school/class websites or e-newsletters
- Teachers will not attend staff meetings, program planning or student success meetings
- Teachers will not provide extra help after school or over lunch

**Q When will the strike begin?**

**A** The Nova Scotia Teachers Union has officially notified the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education that strike activity will begin on Monday, December 5th.

**Q How long can a strike last?**

**A** That is a question best answered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

**Q How will a strike affect my child?**

**A** The NSTU has described the strike activity in this way: Teachers will prepare to teach, and actively teach, students in safe classroom environments. No more and no less.

The NSTU has indicated that teachers will arrive 20 minutes before school and leave 20 minutes after.

The NSTU has directed teachers that all activities like concerts, coaching teams or supervising clubs and field trips will not go ahead.

The CCRSB Strike Management Team is working to determine the full impact of the strike activity, as it applies to our schools, and will have more information in the coming days.

**Q What time is my child allowed to arrive at school if they don't take a CCRSB bus?**

A Morning arrival time at every school is 20 minutes before the first bell. **No students who walk to school or are dropped off by a parent or guardian may arrive before this time.** At the end of the school day, students who walk or are picked up by a parent or guardian may not remain longer than 20 minutes after the final bell. **Supervision will not be provided to students (except those on CCRSB busses) outside of these times.**

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

**Q Will holiday concerts and activities still take place?**

A No, the NSTU has directed all teachers that no holiday concerts or travel (like 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.

**Q Can parents and guardians take-over extracurricular activities to keep them going?**

A No, extracurricular activities will not continue during the period of strike activity.

The Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation, the body which oversees all school sports, has announced that all sporting activities are cancelled during the period of strike activity, this includes but is not limited to: games, including league (tournament, and exhibition), practices, training opportunities, and special events, **without exception.**

**Q Will the Breakfast Program at my child's school be able to continue?**

A We are working to figure this out now. It is our hope that breakfast programs will be able to continue during the period of strike activity, but this will need to be determined on a school by school basis.

**Q Will SchoolsPlus, Early Years centres and the Four Plus Program continue during this strike action?**

A Yes. Schools Plus, Early Years centres and the Four Plus Program will continue to operate during the strike activity planned to begin on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

However, should the NSTU move to a full strike the operation of these programs may need to be adjusted.

**Q What is CCRSB doing to make sure that there is supervision in place before and after school, as well as at lunch time and recess?**

A The supervisory duties of NSTU members vary from school to school. We have many schools where staff (who are not NSTU) provide student monitoring along with NSTU staff. We are working now to gather information so that we can, if necessary and possible, assign staff (who are not NSTU) to provide more assistance in student monitoring during the period of strike activity.

**Q Will my child's co-op placement be able to continue?**

A We are working to continue co-op placements, provided it is safe to do so, and are assessing each situation to ensure that there is appropriate supervision in place.

**Q Will the strike impact the International Students Program?**

A The International Student Program will continue during the strike activity planned to begin on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Q My child participates in activities at their school in the evenings, will these activities continue?**

A It would depend on the activity. If it is organized and supervised by school staff then it will not continue. If the activity is organized by an outside group who rents the school facility (and has signed a community-use agreement) then it may be able to continue.

At this time we are gathering all community-use agreements from our schools. Once we know how many community-use agreements exist, and their purposes, we will be able to determine what may be able to be done to support the continued use of our facilities.

**Q Will there be a warning if the work-to-rule changes into a full strike?**

A The NSTU is not required to tell school boards or the Province if it plans on changing to a full strike.

However, if the NSTU decides to go on full strike (stop attending work) we will notify parents and guardians as soon as possible through the CCRSB website, our social media channels and the mainstream media.

We will also issue an Alert Message via email and text. If you are not yet signed up for Alert through your child's school now would be a good time to do so. Contact your school office to begin this process.

It is very important to check <http://www.ccrsb.ca/nstu-labour-action-information> regularly for updates and developments.