

Parents & Guardians

Frequently Asked Questions

Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) Strike Action

On November 21st, the NSTU announced they are planning strike action beginning on Monday, December 5th.

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 or after the 20 minute arrival and dismissal period or over lunch (to be clear, extra help is provided within the 20 minutes before and after arrival and dismissal)
- 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
- Recess / break at secondary schools not regularly supervised by teachers will be suspended until the strike is over. Break time will be considered instructional time during the strike; essentially classes on either side of the break will be extended to envelope the break period.

When will the strike action begin?

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

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 classes continue and students are properly supervised throughout the school day, schools would remain open and students would attend classes.

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 school and 20 minutes after school. 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 at school, they must be picked up no later than 20 minutes after classes end.

Will there be supervision at lunch time and recess?

Starting December 5, there will be non-teaching supervisors in your school to cover lunch hour and recess where it is not a part of the instructional day. By the end of this week, please make all staff and students aware that these people are covering and to treat them with respect and kindness.

What happens to extra-curricular activities during the strike action?

As advised by the NSTU, teachers will not participate in any extra-curricular or voluntary activities.

Unfortunately, the list of directives from the NSTU to its members for activities from December 5th and onwards advises them **not** "to plan, participate in, supervise or facilitate extracurricular activities including holiday concerts whether scheduled during the school day or not."

What about sport teams?

The Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation has stated that all interscholastic sport will be suspended during any strike 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**.

Can parents, guardians or volunteers help during the strike action?

Yes, they may perform duties that are non-instructional as long as they have valid criminal record checks and child abuse registry checks. If you require checks, please contact Donna Halverson at 902-541-3080 or dhalverson@ssrsb.ca to arrange them to be expedited.

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

They will continue.

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

They will continue, starting no earlier than twenty minutes before instructional time.

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)?

At this time, it is not expected that the International Student Program (ISP) will be impacted by the strike action.

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

At this time, it is not expected that student co-op work placements during the school day will be impacted by the strike action. It is unknown whether placements outside of the school day will continue. Further direction will come as soon as possible.

Will Virtual School be impacted by the strike action?

At this time, it is not expected that students enrolled in virtual high school will be impacted by the strike action

We understand that any job action that impacts students can cause concerns for families. We will continue to make you aware of information as it becomes available. Please watch the SSRSB website and school websites for updates.