

January 29, 2020

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) has announced that it will engage in a one-day province-wide strike on Tuesday, February 4.

If a tentative agreement with the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) and OECTA is not reached in advance, **the DPCDSB will, out of an abundance of care for the safe supervision of students, close all schools to students on Tuesday, February 4.**

Student transportation will be cancelled on Tuesday, February 4.

Childcare Centres in DPCDSB schools will be open on Tuesday, February 4.

**Please contact the extended day service provider at your school, i.e., PLASP, YMCA, Family Day, regarding their respective program offerings on Tuesday, February 4.**

Permits in DPCDSB schools and facilities are not impacted and permitted activities will proceed as scheduled.

We anticipate that picketing will occur at schools and other DPCDSB locations. Peaceful picketing is lawful for the purpose of obtaining/communicating information. There is a legal obligation on the part of anyone crossing or attempting to cross a picket line to do so in a manner that does not endanger the safety of any person. Picketers can stop an individual and speak for a short period of time without breaking the law. When driving a vehicle, approach the picket line from the right-hand lane in order to avoid traffic congestion.

On January 15, the Ontario government announced that it will provide financial support for parents/guardians during strikes. Eligibility is limited to parents/guardians whose children are enrolled in a school or attending a school-based child care centre that is fully closed due to a strike. Eligible parents/guardians of children up to age 12 (Grade 7), or up to age 21 for children and youth with special needs, in a publicly funded school, qualify for:

- \$60/day for children aged 0 to 6 who are not yet enrolled in school, but attend a school-based child care centre that is required to close on account of a strike
- \$40/day for students in Junior (JK) or Senior Kindergarten (SK)
- \$25/day for students in Grades 1 to 7
- \$40 total/day for students in JK to Grade 12 (or aged 21 and under) with special needs

For more information about financial support and to apply online, visit the Government of Ontario website at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/education-contract-talks-stay-updated>

DPCDSB schools and the Catholic Education Centre (40 Matheson Blvd. West, Mississauga) will also provide copies of the application upon request. NOTE: Applications must be submitted up to four weeks after the labour disruption has ended.

We will continue to communicate frequently through Community Information Bulletins sent to DPCDSB parents/guardians who have registered contact email addresses with their child(ren)'s school. These bulletins are sent via SchoolMessenger. If you have not provided a contact email address to your child(ren)'s school, we encourage you to do so.

We also encourage you to monitor the Labour Relations page on the DPCDSB website and watch for linked messages on the yellow ALERT banner on the main webpage ([www.dpccsb.org](http://www.dpccsb.org)). In addition to these communications options, please consider following us on social media through Twitter (@DPCDSBSchools) and Facebook (@DPCDSBSchools), where we post current information.

We respect that the imposition of sanctions is a legal part of the collective bargaining process. DPCDSB actions during any job action will focus on the safety and well-being of the students entrusted to our care and to our staff.

We continue to pray for a speedy resolution and please be assured that we will continue to keep you updated as developments occur. Again, we encourage you to closely monitor the DPCDSB communication channels outlined above.

Communications & Community Relations  
Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board