

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**  
440 NORTH BROAD STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19130-4015

ARLENE C. ACKERMAN  
Superintendent

**GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS IN THE EVENT OF  
A SEPTA STRIKE**

October 27, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you know, there is the possibility of a SEPTA strike. While I am hopeful that a strike can be avoided, we must take the necessary precautions should a SEPTA strike actually occur. Please be aware of the following:

- *All Philadelphia Public Schools and administrative offices will be open.*
- *All after school programs will operate as scheduled.*
- *Yellow school bus service will continue to be provided for those students who normally receive yellow bus service. Unfortunately, yellow school bus service cannot transport students who normally ride SEPTA.*
- *Parents, especially those who ride SEPTA themselves, should make arrangements for children to be picked up promptly from after school programs.*

**PLEASE REVIEW THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BELOW**

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

Yes, all schools and administrative offices will maintain regular hours.

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

Yes, all children who normally ride a yellow bus to school will continue to do so. Due to traffic congestion caused by the strike, parents should anticipate that yellow buses for pick up and drop off may run late.

Unfortunately, the School District yellow buses will NOT be able to transport students who normally ride SEPTA.

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

Yes, all after school programs will operate as usual. However, parents are still responsible to pick up young children after school during the strike. Parents who use SEPTA themselves to pick up children from after school activities should also be reminded that they must make alternative arrangements to pick up children promptly, even in the event of a SEPTA strike.

**4. 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 and coded "10" in accordance with the requirements of the Pennsylvania School Code.

Note: This is an excused absence, which requires a note from the parent or guardian. **\*\*These absences will not disqualify students for any awards where attendance is a factor.**

5. ***Will my child be able to ride his or her bike to school during the SEPTA strike?***  
Yes, school 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.
6. ***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, teachers will provide homework assignments and supplementary work for independent study to students who normally use SEPTA and may be unable to attend school during the strike.
- Learning packets will be developed and available for pickup at the Regional Offices by students or parents in the event of a prolonged strike. More information will follow.
7. ***What else can my child do to keep up with studies during the SEPTA strike?***  
Students who are unable to attend school because of the strike should be encouraged to use public libraries as a supplemental resource.
8. ***Will School District Saturday and evening programs be held during the SEPTA strike?***  
Yes, all School District evening and Saturday programs will operate on normal schedules.
9. ***What will happen to the school year if there is a long SEPTA strike?***  
In the event of a protracted strike, further information will be issued by the School District.
10. ***If there is a SEPTA strike, how can parents be kept informed about school issues?***  
Parents should listen to KYW(1060 am) regarding updated strike information, listen to City of Philadelphia announcements, contact elected officials, check the School District website, [www.philasd.org](http://www.philasd.org), or call the School District Parent HOTLINE, 215-400-INFO.

Respectfully,

Arlene C. Ackerman, Ed.D.

AA/jf

CC: Tomás Hanna  
Chiefs  
Regional Superintendents  
Principals