



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
CITY HALL  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

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SPEAKER

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Dear New Yorker,

**We just received word that NYC school bus drivers will officially go on strike starting this Wednesday (Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>) if a new contract agreement isn't reached with the City.**

It's essential that all students currently using yellow bus service have alternative transportation to and from school during the strike.

Below is updated information from the NYC Department of Education (DOE) about what to do in the event of a bus driver strike.

Please contact your local school, 311 or the Office of Pupil Transportation at (718) 392-8855 for additional information.

### **MetroCards**

- All students who currently receive yellow bus service may receive a MetroCard. These MetroCards are being made available at your local school and should be requested through each school's general office. Schools will distribute student MetroCards beginning Tuesday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Parents of pre-school and school-age children with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) requiring transportation from their home directly to their school as well as parents of general education children in grades K-2 may also request a MetroCard for the parent or guardian to act as the child's escort to school. Parent MetroCards will be distributed beginning Wednesday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>. These cards can be used on subways beginning Wednesday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> and on buses beginning Thursday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Transportation Reimbursement**

- The DOE is offering reimbursement for actual transportation costs (subject to DOE guidelines) for students in grades K-6 who receive yellow bus service from home or a school bus stop and live in areas where public transportation is not readily available.

- Parents who drive their children to school will be reimbursed at a rate of 55 cents per mile.
- Parents who use a taxi or car service to transport their child to school will be reimbursed for the trip upon completion of reimbursement forms that includes a receipt for provided services.
- Requests for reimbursements should be made weekly on forms that will be made available on the DOE website and in each school's general office.

### **Route Finder**

- It's possible that some bus routes will continue to operate during the strike. There's a route finder on the DOE's web site at <https://www.opt-osfns.org/opt/Resources/SchoolRouteStSearch/SearchResult.aspx> that will show the status of all bus routes to each school. This tool will be updated daily at 7 a.m., beginning this Wednesday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Class Materials**

- In the unfortunate event that students cannot get to school, the DOE will be posting materials online for every grade and core subject so that students can continue their learning at home during the strike.

Again, for additional information about what to do now that a bus driver strike has been officially declared, please call your school, or 311 the Office of Pupil Transportation at (718) 392-8855.

And if you have any other questions or concerns regarding your child's education, please don't hesitate to contact Nick Rolf in Speaker Quinn's office. He can be reached by telephone at (212) 442-5765 or by email at [nrolf@council.nyc.gov](mailto:nrolf@council.nyc.gov).

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Christine C. Quinn  
Speaker



Robert Jackson  
Chair, Education Committee