

WYANDOTTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
5 South First Street, P.O. Box 360, Wyandotte, OK 74370
Troy Gray, Superintendent --- (918)678-2255

**Work Stoppage Q&A
for Wyandotte Parents**

Q: Why are teachers planning a work stoppage in Oklahoma?

As a result of over a decade of neglect, public schools in Oklahoma have suffered the worst cuts in the nation. Due to these cuts, teacher pay has fallen to 49th in the nation. Teachers are exiting the state at such a rate that the Oklahoma Department of Education has been forced to issue more than 2000 emergency teaching certificates to people without teaching credentials. Regionally teachers can make over \$18,000 more in Texas, \$12,000 more in Arkansas, and \$6,000 more in Kansas and Missouri. Other repercussions of the cuts are large class sizes, educational programs eliminated, and lack of funding for textbooks, technology, and learning materials.

Q: Isn't this proposed work stoppage only about teacher pay?

The proposed work stoppage is to increase funding for schools, state employees, and health care that impact our children daily. The Legislature has been notified that if they do not meet the demand proposed below, then on April 2, every teacher, support professional and administrator are prepared to walk out of their schools until an appropriate funding bill is approved. The request includes:

- \$10,000 teacher pay increase, including a \$6,000 raise for the FY 2019 budget
- \$5,000 increase for full-time support professionals like school secretaries, bus drivers and custodians, including \$2,500 raises in the first year
- \$200 million to restore public school funding, which has been cut more than any other state in the nation since 2008, including \$75 million in the first year
- \$213 million for state employee pay raises, which breaks down to \$71 million each year for the next three years
- \$255.9 million in health care funding during the next two years.

Q: When will we know that schools will be closed and who makes that decision?

The Board of Education has given the Superintendent the authority to close school for up to ten days if the District does not have enough teachers or availability of substitutes to safely supervise and instruct students. The decision to close the Wyandotte Public School District in the event of a teacher work stoppage commencing April 2 will be communicated to parents and District personnel no later than Friday, March 30, 2018.

Q: How will we be notified?

The District will notify parents through our School Messenger System, SchoolWay mobile app, and the notice will be posted on our district website and social media sites.

Q: Will we have to make up days missed for a work stoppage?

We have one banked “snow day” remaining. I will request the Board of Education amend our original calendar at the April 9th board meeting placing us in school on April 13 and April 27. In the event the work stoppage has ended prior to these dates, this will allow us 3 days we will not have to make up. Any days missed after the first 3 days of a work stoppage will be added to the end of the school year. We do have the option of adding time to our school days to help offset days missed. We will keep you informed as changes are made.

Q: When will the walkout end?

Once the Legislature passes an appropriate funding bill to support education, the walkout will immediately end and school will resume. The preliminary plan is for the walkout to end around April 13. However, if the Legislature has still not acted, the suspension of the school year may be extended. Parents are advised to prepare for their children to be out of school from April 2 – 13, 2018.

Q: Are the teachers paid for the days school is cancelled?

Teachers are currently on a 175-day contract. As long as they are able to work 175 days by June 30, 2018 there will be no reduction in the teachers’ pay.

Q: How does the work stoppage affect district wide testing?

We will communicate testing schedules for elementary, middle school, and high school as soon as possible to parents and students.

All juniors are scheduled to take the ACT test on April 3. A make-up date of April 24 is also scheduled. If we are not in session on April 3, the ACT test will be given to all juniors on April 24. If your child is scheduled to take the ACT on a Saturday, that test is nationally scheduled and will not be changed.

Q: What does a work stoppage mean for a students’ grades?

Grades will be frozen as of 8:00 a.m. Monday, April 2, 2018.

Q: Will food services be available for students during the work stoppage?

The Wyandotte cafeteria will be closed during the work stoppage. For students that participate in our backpack program, food will go home with students after school Friday March 30. We are working to coordinate additional pickup dates if needed, and will notify parents when those services become available.

Q: What about graduation and prom?

Both graduation and prom will occur as scheduled:

Graduation - 7:00 p.m. Saturday May 12, 2018.

Prom - 7:00 p.m. Saturday April 14, 2018.

Q: My child is in concurrent classes with Northeastern A&M College. What happens to those?

All concurrent classes will continue and attendance is expected. The amended schedule for our concurrent students is:

U.S. Government	8:00-9:00 a.m. (MW)	Biology	9:00-10:00 a.m. (MW)
English	10:00-11:00 a.m. (MW)	Algebra	11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (MWF)

Q: My child attends Northeast Vo-tech. What happens with our NTC students?

All Northeast Vo-Tech classes will continue and transportation will be provided from school as usual. Student attendance is expected at NTC during the work stoppage. Students must provide their own transportation to meet the Vo-tech bus at Wyandotte Public Schools.

Q: What about student activities?

The district understands that activities cannot be easily postponed or rescheduled. We do not want our students to miss opportunities that may never be available again. Wyandotte Public Schools activities will continue as scheduled. Communication regarding all activities will come from the coach or sponsor. Transportation will continue to be provided as usual to all scheduled activities and events. For example, Wyandotte Public Schools will provide transportation for a group/team to get to an away contest location from the Wyandotte campus. Students must find their own transportation to and from practices and to leave for contests.

Q: Can practice occur for FFA, FCCLA, fine arts, athletics, and other activities?

Practices must be completed BEFORE 8:30 a.m. or can begin AFTER 3:30 p.m. Practices cannot occur during regular school hours.

Q: What do I do if I have a specific question about my child's activities?

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact the coach or sponsor of the activity.

Q: What can I do as a parent?

Be supportive and understanding. Teachers are doing this for a better future and education for our students. This has not been an easy decision for Board members, administration, teachers and support personnel. Take a few minutes to visit www.oklegislature.gov to contact your Legislators and encourage them to support permanent, sustainable revenue sources to increase funding for public education.

Please do not hesitate to call and visit with our administration if you have any additional questions. We appreciate your continued support of the Wyandotte Bears!

Troy Gray
Superintendent
Wyandotte Public Schools