

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Job Action by OECTA and ETFO (Updated February 19, 2020)**

#### **Which Unions represent TCDSB teachers and ECEs?**

OECTA (Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association) represents all elementary and secondary school teachers in TCDSB schools.

ETFO (Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario) represents Early Childhood Educators in TCDSB kindergarten classrooms.

#### **What job actions are the unions initiating?**

##### **ETFO**

ETFO (Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario) which represents Designated Early Childhood Educators in TCDSB schools (Early Learning/Kindergarten classrooms) has indicated their members will engage in a province-wide strike on Friday, February 21st. Because this is a province-wide one day strike by all four unions including OECTA which represents teachers, all TCDSB schools will be closed on that day.

##### **OECTA**

OECTA (Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association) which represents all Catholic teachers in the province including TCDSB teachers, has announced that their members will be engaged in a province-wide strike on Friday, February 21, 2020 if no agreement is reached with the Provincial Government. OECTA will also be engaged in a one day strike on Monday, February 24, 2020. This means that **all TCDSB schools will be closed on Friday, February 21 and Monday, February 24.**

#### **Will childcare services be impacted by OECTA strike?**

- Child Care Operators will communicate directly with parents as to the status of their centre and hours of operation.
- Before-and-after school programs may or may not continue to operate in TCDSB schools.
- Please contact your provider for further details.

#### **Will EarlyON Programs be offered in TCDSB schools?**

EarlyON will remain open and unaffected by labour actions.

#### **Mychild is in grade 9. What is happening with the EQAO assessment of math?**

OECTA members will not participate in any EQAO-related activities, including field testing, marking, administrative duties, test preparation, and administration of the test. The assessment planned for January has been postponed. Parents will receive further information when available.

### **My child is in grade 9. What is happening with the EQAO assessment of math?**

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### **What impact does the escalation of the work to rule by ETFO have on ECEs in TCDSB Kindergarten classrooms?**

ETFO's work to rule sanctions effective February 3 include the following:

- Members will not plan or participate in any assemblies, except to provide supervision to students
- Members will not participate in field trips
- Members will not remain at the worksite later than 15 minutes after the end of the instructional day for students
- Members will not participate in any extra-curricular activities

### **What impact does the current work to rule by OECTA have on my child?**

OECTA has escalated its administrative work to rule job sanctions. Parents are encouraged to speak with their principal to confirm any potential impact on planned field trips and activities.

### **What is being done to compensate parents for childcare costs?**

The Province of Ontario has announced some support for parents who are incurring childcare costs due to the ongoing job action. Information can be found at [Ontario/ca/SupportForParents](https://www.ontario.ca/SupportForParents) or by calling a helpline at 1-888-444-3770

### **What will happen if one or both of these unions engage in a full walkout for an extended period of time?**

At this point in time, neither union has given notice of such large-scale job action. TCDSB will provide families with any new information as it becomes available.

### **Will the school year be extended because of these strike days?**

At this point in time there are no plans to extend the school year.

### **Who is involved in the negotiations?**

These negotiations are with the Government of Ontario. The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) represents the TCDSB at the central bargaining table in negotiations with the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA), which represents both the Toronto Elementary Catholic Teachers (TECT) and the Toronto Secondary Unit (TSU).

### **Why isn't the Board doing anything to keep schools open?**

TCDSB is not involved in the current negotiations. These discussions are happening at the provincial level. TCDSB does not take the decision to close schools lightly. The decision to close schools is only made when student safety and well-being is at risk.

### **How can I get the latest information?**

Make sure your child's school has the correct email contact information on file for yourself and any other family members who require critical information. TCDSB will issue labour updates that may impact your child using School Messenger. You can also follow TCDSB on Twitter <https://twitter.com/TCDSB> and review the Labour Updates website: <https://www.tcdsb.org/News/othernews/2020/Pages/LabourUpdate.aspx>

### **Why are ETFO and OECTA not engaging in job action at the same time?**

The teachers at TCDSB are represented by OECTA. The teachers in TDSB schools are represented by ETFO (elementary) and OSSTF (secondary). Each union is engaged in negotiations with the Province separately, and may be at different stages in the collective bargaining process.

### **Will this continue to happen?**

The Board encourages students and families to follow TCDSB on Twitter <https://twitter.com/TCDSB> and to visit the Board's website for any updates on the status of negotiations.

<https://www.tcdsb.org/news/othernews/2020/pages/labourupdate.aspx>