

September 30, 2025

Dear Families,

We are writing to update parents and caregivers about the Alberta Teachers Association (ATA) labour action, specifically the possibility of strike action beginning **Monday, October 6**. We will notify families immediately if a strike is confirmed and encourage you to begin planning for alternate arrangements in the event that schools close.

We have activated our contingency plan to ensure families are informed and supported in the event that a strike occurs, and schools are closed (with certain exceptions, see below) on October 6. We will provide timely updates via email and through [our website](#) if changes occur. We understand that a strike raises questions and concerns, we remain committed to providing timely and transparent communication to families. Below is a summary of what you can expect:

EXCEPTIONS TO SCHOOL CLOSURE

The two independent childcare programs located in MHPSD schools will remain open and operational (**Kids Play and Au Chapeau**).

Our intention is to keep support staff employed for as long as feasible during a strike. Support staff include custodians, EA's, Clerical, FSLWs, CYCWs, Success coaches, central office and facilities.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DURING A STRIKE

Public Access | Even though there will be staff onsite, **schools will be closed to the public**, *with the exception of parents picking up and dropping off their kids from Play and Learn and the independent childcare centres.*

- Scheduled school events, activities, school council meetings, fundraisers, etc. will be cancelled and/or rescheduled for when schools reopen. *Please watch for an email from your child's principal about how this change may impact your school.*
- **All school sanctioned clubs, sports and extracurricular activities will be temporarily suspended.**
- **Joint use agreements** with the City of Medicine Hat will be suspended during a strike.
- As we do not know the duration of the labour action, pre-paid programs, field trips, or other time-sensitive fees will be addressed as the labour action progresses or concludes.

School Bus Transportation | School bus transportation will not operate during a strike.

Students | Students are encouraged to take home any **personal items** they may need, and to clear lockers of **perishable items**.

YMCA | YMCA Before and After School Care in schools will be closed. However, the YMCA will offer approximately 100 care spots at two community locations, prioritizing families currently enrolled in their Out of School Care program. The YMCA will send communication regarding the details of school-aged care plans with families registered in out of school care. For questions or support, please contact Susan, Before & After School Program Manager at 403.594.0961 or your child's Site Supervisor:

- Leasah - 403.928.6079 (River Heights, Vincent Massey, Southview Community, Herald)
- Maddyson - 403.928.7743 (Ken Sauer Fine Arts, Crestwood STEM, Dr. Roy Wilson Learning Centre, George Davison)
- Monica - 403.580.6273 (Ross Glen, Webster Niblock, École Connaught)

Government of Alberta | The education and childcare minister announced on September 30 that learning supports and a payment program (for children 12 and under) will be offered to parents. This information will be available at the [Government of Alberta website](#).

Root Cellar food support | Families are encouraged to contact the [root cellar](#) for support with food during the strike.

Communication | School staff will not communicate with families during the strike. All communications will come from MHPSD, through email and then posted to [mhpsd.ca](#). Information will not be shared through social media. Email us with your questions communications@sd76.ab.ca, we will update our [Strike FAQ page](#) as more questions come in.

We know that a strike affects students, families and the community, it is our priority to continue operating with our support staff and to maintain clear and timely communication. Once a resolution is reached and a collective agreement is in place, together we will continue to deliver high quality public education for students.

Thank you for your continued trust, patience, and partnership. Your understanding and support is appreciated as we navigate this together.

Sincerely,

Catherine Wilson, Board Chair
Medicine Hat Public School Division | Board of Trustees

Tracy Hensel, Superintendent
Medicine Hat Public School Division