



Forrest Claypool  
Chief Executive Officer

March 24, 2016

Dear CPS Families,

Last week we wrote to you with preliminary information about Friday, April 1, 2016 - a "Day of Action," planned by CTU leadership. Unfortunately, a majority of the CTU's House of Delegates voted to turn this Day of Action into an illegal one-day strike. Today, we're writing with an update on what this means for your family on April 1, 2016.

While our priority is always to provide a structured learning environment for our students, this one-day strike challenges our ability to do that.

If you have the option of keeping your student(s) at home or attending a non-CPS facility on Friday, April 1, we encourage you to do so.

If that is not possible for your family, CPS will provide an assigned contingency site for students where they will be safe, fed and engaged.

There will be more than 250 sites throughout the city, using a combination of CPS schools, Chicago Park District buildings, and Chicago Public Library branches where students will be supervised by trained staff. Additionally, the Chicago Transit Authority will provide free transportation to all students on April 1. Contingency sites will provide online learning opportunities, as well as physical education and arts and crafts programming, and all students who attend will be provided with free breakfast and lunch.

We will provide a full list of contingency sites and related information on Tuesday, March 29, 2016. For regular updates please sign up for our new mailing list at [cps.edu/signup](http://cps.edu/signup).

Because April 1, 2016 will not be a normal school day, no absence penalties for students will be incurred.

We know this is more than an inconvenience for you, and for the many teachers who simply want to do their job. We do not take lightly what it will mean for your children. However, while we appreciate that some teachers have committed to being in their classrooms, there will be an unknown number of staff absences April 1, which means we cannot operate as we would on a regular school day.

Though this course of action is disappointing, it will not change our commitment to reaching a final contract with CTU leadership. Having already reached a tentative contract agreement in January with CTU leadership, we believe that a final deal is possible -- and that all of our school communities are counting on both sides to come together in a meaningful way for the future of our district.

Thank you for your continued patience and support, and we'll be in touch on Tuesday.

Sincerely,

Forrest Claypool  
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Janice K. Jackson  
Chief Education Officer

