

MPS Walkout FAQ for Parents and Guardians

1. How does the walkout affect testing?

Every school district is required to test students in certain grades as directed by state and federal mandates. These tests must be administered during the set testing window. Following is a complete list of the required tests:

- **ACT:** The ACT is the test that was selected by MPS as the state test for all juniors. This paper pencil test was administered on Tuesday, April 3rd at each of our high schools. Over 92% of our juniors tested on that date. There is a make-up date on April 24th for those who missed the original date.
- **3rd – 5th grade tests:** The testing window is April 2nd through April 27th. We will administer the required tests on the following days:
 - 3rd Grade Reading Test – Tuesday, April 10
 - 3rd Grade Math Test – Thursday, April 12
 - 4th and 5th Grade ELA – Wednesday, April 11
 - 4th and 5th Grade Math – Friday, April 13Regular transportation routes will run for students who need bus services on these dates.
Cafeteria Services will resume as normal during testing at all sites for those students testing.
 - **There will be no repercussions to students who cannot attend the tests dates mentioned above. We will make up tests when we return to school if we are still within the testing window.**
 - **Additional information will be coming to parents later this morning regarding the test schedule above.**Normal school day hours will apply for those who are testing.
- **6th – 8th grade tests:** The testing window is April 2nd through May 4th. If the walkout continues through this week (April 9th – April 13th), plans will be developed to meet the testing deadline.
- **11th grade science test:** The testing window is April 2nd through May 4th. If the walkout continues through this week (April 9th – April 13th), plans will be developed to meet the testing deadline.
- **11th grade history test:** This test can be administered in class when school resumes. There is no deadline for this test.
- **Advanced Placement (AP) tests:** AP testing begins the first week in May. Plans will be made to accommodate this series of tests.

Even though the testing window has been extended by the State Department of Education by one week, the district has decided that we will continue with the testing

schedule above. Considering that the walkout is a teacher led initiative, there is no way of knowing when this will come to an end. Federal law requires states to assess 95 percent of the student population on certain tests. If not, state/school districts possibly jeopardize federal funding.

2. How will the school district make up the days that have been missed due to the teacher walkout?

There are multiple ways that a school district can make up hours that are lost due to school closures. Once we determine that the walkout has ended, we will review the number of hours missed and develop a plan to make them up. Here are the options that district administration will be considering:

- Add more minutes to the final days of school
- Make May 25th the last day of school (currently the last day is May 23rd)
- Hold school on a Saturday(s)

3. How will the make-up days affect finals at the end of the year (secondary students)?

- Our intent is to keep all finals on the current schedule.

4. Has prom been rescheduled?

- No. All three proms will be held as scheduled.
 - Moore High School April 21st Embassy Suites/Norman
 - Southmoore High School April 28th Westminster Events Center/OKC
 - Westmoore High School May 5th Bricktown Chevy Center/OKC

5. Has senior graduation been rescheduled?

- No. All three graduations will be held as scheduled.
 - Moore High School May 26th (9:00 am) Cox Convention Center
 - Westmoore High School May 26th (2:00 pm) Cox Convention Center
 - Southmoore High School May 26th 6:30 pm) Cox Convention Center

6. Are MPS teachers being paid while they are out of the classroom?

- Teachers are being paid with the salary money they have earned up to the point of the walkout. No new funds are being issued on their behalf for time not worked. When/if teachers complete their contract the total amount of pay for the school year will be the same. Depending on the date the walkout ends, amounts they receive potentially could change.

7. Are the support employees being paid while the teachers are out of the classroom?
 - Yes. They are working their contracted hours. Most are performing their normal duties. Those that normally work in the classrooms are assisting as test monitors and in other areas.

8. Why is the district allowing extra-curricular activities if school is not in session?
 - After careful review and discussion with other school districts across the State, it was determined to continue extra-curricular activities since academic classes can be made up (as referenced in number 2 above). Most extra-curricular activities (e.g. academic competitions, student association competitions, Special Olympics, band, choir, speech and debate competitions, athletics, etc.) cannot be rescheduled. Scheduling conflicts, rental agreements, and the number of activities going on during this time make them impossible to reschedule.

9. Several elementary sites are scheduled to attend Camp Classen later this month. Will they still be attending?
 - Yes.

10. How is the Child Nutrition Department of MPS utilizing the food that was purchased before the walkout occurred?
 - Many of our sites are continuing to feed students. The Federal government allowed the school district to continue feeding students on the "seamless" student lunch program. MPS is reimbursed for the food during this time.

11. Is the District paying for buses, gas, and insurance to transport groups of teachers to the Capitol?
 - No. community members have donated the funds necessary to transport some groups of teachers. Costs are figured on a mileage rate which covers the gas, maintenance, and insurance for the buses used. Most of our teachers, patrons, and students, however, are providing their own transportation.

12. Why aren't district bond funds being used to help fund teacher salaries and reduce class size?

- Bond funds can only be used on textbooks, technology, non-consumable supplies for classrooms, land purchases, transportation (vehicles), capital improvements, and new structures (e.g. storm shelters, classroom additions, media centers, gymnasiums, school sites, general construction, etc.)

13. Is the district using bond funds to purchase textbooks and furniture for students and classroom use?

- Yes. The district has purchased new textbooks on each yearly adoption cycle (adoption cycle created by the State Department of Education). Teachers are given the option to keep older textbooks as a supplement if they choose.

14. Teachers received a pay raise because of the walkout. Why are they choosing to go back to the Capitol each day?

- Yes, a pay raise was included in the most recent education bill and signed off by the Governor. The teachers are now focused on additional funding for the classroom (e.g. monies to hire additional teachers so that class size can be reduced).