

POLICY GUIDE

RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPERATIONS

Page 1 of 2
8470 Response to Concerted Job Action

8470 RESPONSE TO CONCERTED JOB ACTION

Strikes by public employees are illegal. The Board of Education opposes the use of strikes by district employees as a tactic to pressure the Board to make concessions for settlement of a collective bargaining contract.

The Board believes that school employee strikes are harmful to the public interest; are coercive in nature; are attempts to achieve immediate material gains for employees by depriving pupils of the education to which they are entitled; and have a long term negative impact on the perception by the pupils of the professionalism and dedication of the district's staff, and on the relationships between the Board and the striking employees, and between the administration and the striking employees.

In the event that a strike is under consideration by any district employee organization, all staff are requested not to permit any discussions with pupils regarding a strike to interfere with carrying out their regular teaching responsibilities. If pupils raise questions regarding any potential strike, staff is instructed to deal with the questions in accordance with the district's controversial issues policy.

Staff are prohibited from requesting pupils to carry messages, oral or printed, to their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that promote the position or carry an explanation of any employee organization that is engaged in or contemplating a strike.

It is the intention and resolve of the board of education to keep the school open during any strike in the interest of the pupils and the public, so long as the safety and welfare of the pupils and the security of district property is maintained.

The Superintendent is directed to develop a plan for the safe operation of the district school in the event of a strike, and shall annually review and update this plan, if needed.

In the event of a strike, including a partial strike, a coordinated, mass use of sick leave, or other concerted refusal by staff to perform their assigned duties, the Superintendent is authorized to take whatever emergency steps are deemed necessary for the safety of pupils, reporting staff, and

district property. Such steps shall be reported to the Board of Education as soon thereafter as administratively possible.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

First Reading: April 8, 2014
Revised: April 29, 2014