



Forrest Claypool  
Chief Executive Officer

March 29, 2016

Dear CPS Families,

The Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) leadership voted to go on strike this Friday, April 1, 2016. As we wrote to you last week: though there are teachers who have told us they will be in their classrooms on April 1, due to the undetermined number of staff absences occurring because of this one-day action, CPS will not be operating as we would on a regular school day.

Instead, on Friday we will be working with partners to operate more than 250 contingency sites throughout the city. These sites will be supported by trained staff, and will ensure students in attendance are safe, fed, and engaged and will be available for families who are unable to keep their student(s) at home on April 1.

If you are unable to keep your child at home or secure alternate care, you can find more information about your options for Friday by using our Student Site Locator, which can be found at [cps.edu/April1](http://cps.edu/April1):

- By entering your address, you'll receive an elementary and high school option for your child, as well as a Chicago Park District and Chicago Public Library site within a similar area.
- Of the options provided, simply select the site that works best for you. If you choose a CPS school site, please make sure to register your student(s) for the day using the form provided, and to choose the school that matches your child's grade level.

All sites will provide online learning opportunities, as well as physical education and arts & crafts programming, and all students who attend will receive free breakfast and lunch. To further support families, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) will provide free service to all students on April 1.

More information on student sites, including hours of operation and resources to plan student travel on public transportation, can be found on [cps.edu/April1](http://cps.edu/April1). For additional assistance with site location and registration please call 311 (the City of Chicago's information hotline). You can also sign up for regular updates from CPS sent directly to you at [cps.edu/signup](http://cps.edu/signup).

This decision to strike on Friday is not only extremely disappointing, but it is against the law. This one-day strike driven by CTU leadership disregards the terms of our continued negotiations with them, and directly interferes with the instructional time that our teachers want to provide, and that our students need to succeed.

We know that April 1 presents an inconvenience for our families, and hope that once it's behind us, the focus can return to reaching a final contract agreement and speaking to our leaders in Springfield with one voice, demanding that they provide Chicago's children with the equal funding they deserve.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to minimize challenges to all of our students.

Sincerely,

Forrest Claypool  
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Janice K. Jackson  
Chief Education Officer

